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## This Week

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# Bible mavens tested on Yom Ha'atzmaut

**Israel's 49th annual International Bible Contest (Chidon Hatanach) was held on Yom Ha'atzmaut in Jerusalem last week. Organized by the Israel Defence Forces' (IDF) chief education officer and the IDF Rabbinate, the Defence Ministry, Education Ministry, the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund, teenagers from more than 22 countries vied for top honours. Elchanan Bloch of Netivot, Israel, won the competition, while two Canadians, Toronto's Aaron Goldberg of the Anne & Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and Charlie Friedman of Montreal's Hebrew Academy, placed fourth and ninth respectively.** *[Israel Sun photo]*

# *Is Egypt-Israel peace 'dead and buried'?*

**Zvi Bar'el**
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

**JERUSALEM** — The leading candidate in Egypt's presidential race said Sunday that the Camp David Accords should be consigned to history, describing the agreement as "dead and buried."

At a mass rally in southern Egypt, Amr Moussa, the former secretary general of the Arab League who is currently ahead in Egypt's race for president, spoke of the 1978 peace talks between Israel and Egypt, saying that "the Camp David Accords are a historical document whose place is on the shelves of history, as its articles talk about the fact that the aim of the agreement is to establish an independent Palestinian state."

Moussa went on to say that there is "no such thing" as the Camp David agreement.

"This agreement is dead and buried. There is an agreement between Israel and Egypt that we will honour as long as Israel honours it. The document that defines relations between Israel and the Arabs is an Arab initiative from 2002 whose advancement should be bilateral: step for step, progress for progress."

**Continued on page 35**

**Amr Moussa**

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**Benzion Netanyahu dies at age 102 – please see page 34**

## CANADA

### New E-book

TORONTO — The story of Hana's suitcase continues its march into the digital age. Second Story Press recently announced the launch of the *Hana's Suitcase Anniversary Album* enhanced e-book, a downloadable version of the book available at the iBookstore. The e-book gives parents, educators and kids another way to access the story of Hana Brady, the company said. Published on the 10th anniversary of Karen Levine's original book, the e-book includes clips from the award-winning documentary *Inside Hana's Suitcase*, as well as images not available in the print edition, interactive content and educational pop-ups. It also features a song composed to Hana, children's art, and stage and screen versions.

### Optometrist Dies

MONTREAL — Reginald Lewis, one of Montreal's first Jewish optometrists, a jazz musician and the man believed to be the oldest living member of B'nai Brith Canada, died March 27 at age 98. More than 600 people attended the funeral for Lewis, an accomplished jazz pianist who performed with jazz greats such as Oscar Peterson and Maynard Ferguson, as well as for Queen Elizabeth.

## WORLD

### Trial Moved

BALTIMORE — Lawyers for two Baltimore Jewish brothers accused of beating a black teen withdrew a request to move the trial out of the city and requested a bench trial. The brothers had requested a change of venue because of perceived similarities between the case and the death of Trayvon Martin, a black Florida teen who was shot by a white neighbourhood watch patrolman now facing second-degree murder charges in a case that has received national attention. Avi and Eliyahu Werdesheim are accused of beating a 15-year-old boy in November 2010. Eliyahu Werdesheim, now 24, was a member of Shomrim, a Jewish neighbourhood watch group, at the time. The trial will continue in Baltimore in front of a judge with no jury. Both men have pleaded not guilty to charges of second-degree assault, false imprisonment and carrying a deadly weapon. They face up to 13 years in jail. According to police, Eliyahu Werdesheim told the black teen, "You don't belong around here," while his brother, now 21, threw the boy to the ground. Local black leaders have linked the case with the death of Martin.

## Canadian Aboriginal Leaders Visit Israel

Ron Evans

WINNIPEG — Thirty young aboriginal leaders from Manitoba are in Israel to study culture and society in the Jewish state. The Youth Leadership Development Mission to Israel is running from April 29 to May 6.

Under the auspices of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) and the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, the aboriginal leaders are visiting Christian and Jewish holy sites, studying Israeli immigrant absorption and skating at Israel's only full-sized hockey rink, at the Canada Centre in Metulla.

They're also meeting with the Galilee branch of Kav Hazinuk (the Starting Line), a youth leadership development program funded by the Winnipeg federation.

"The objective... is to help develop leaders among First Nations youth," said trip leader Ron Evans, chief of Manitoba's Norway House Cree Nation. "I visited Israel for the first time last year, and I was overwhelmingly inspired. The Jewish People are the historic, indigenous people of Israel. For Canada's First Nations, Israel's story demonstrates how an ancient people can maintain their heritage while embracing the modern world, and in so doing, achieve self-determination."

Shelley Faintuch, community relations director for the Winnipeg federation and a CIJA associate director, said that "these highly motivated youths will return to their communities empowered with additional knowledge and leadership tools."

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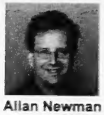
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# Community remembers, then celebrates

## Yom Hazikaron
## Yom Ha'atzmaut

**Vicky Tobianah**
Special to The CJN

Israel's fallen were remembered on Yom Hazikaron, Israel Remembrance Day, and on the same evening, the 64th birthday of the Jewish state was celebrated in honour of Yom Ha'atzmaut.

"Suffering and redemption are inseparable for the Jewish People. We cannot have light without darkness, joy without sadness, comfort with bereavement, and if that is the story of our people, then it is the key to our survival," said Rabbi Daniel Korobkin of the Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue of Toronto Synagogue (BAYT), where over 400 people gathered for the ceremony.

The April 25 event was hosted by Mizrachi Canada, in partnership with Emunah Women of Toronto.

The evening began with a tribute to Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror. "Although we are not in Israel, as lovers of Zion, we are duty bound to commemorate Yom Hazikaron," event chair Jack Samuel said. "To appreciate the incredible miracle and the joy of the Jewish state, we have to be mindful of those who paid the ultimate price to create, defend and sustain that state." Over 20,000 Israelis have been killed in combat since 1948.

**Continued on page 12**

**Toronto Councillor James Pasternak, second from left, hosted the first Israeli flag-raising ceremony at Toronto City Hall in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut. Pictured with him, from left, are Coun. Joe Mihevc, B'nai Brith Canada director Pearl Gladman, Coun. David Shiner, B'nai Brith Canada director Ruth Klein, Coun. Josh Colle, Coun. Karen Stintz, former councillor Mike Feldman, and Israeli Consul General Amir Gissin.**

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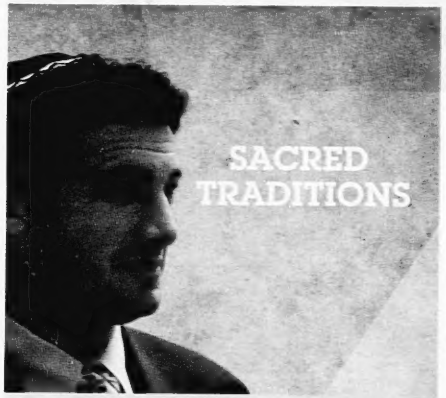


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# Perlman's violin lifts the soul

Even before he had stroked one note on his slight but mighty violin, Yitzhak Perlman received a loud, effusive ovation from the audience that filled Roy Thomson Hall last week in Toronto.

That the renowned artist-musician was performing in Toronto on Yom Ha'atzmaut was a providential serendipity for some in the audience. For it added immensely to the personal celebration of the special day. At the age of 67, how many more visits to Canada lay ahead for the Israeli-born violinist? It was a rare opportunity to see and hear this exceptional individual, perhaps one of the most beloved and respected musicians in the world.

*From the editor's desk...*

Playing alongside his student, Toronto Symphony Orchestra conductor Peter Oundjian, Perlman performed Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 61.

Beethoven was already past the mid-point of his short life when he composed the concerto. And though it was written during a more mature period in the composer's life, it holds true to so much of the tempestuous, moody composer's music: rising tides of emotion, boldly expressed feelings, large, broad themes frequently contrasted by gentle lyricism and tender phrases.

Beethoven's music, this violin concerto included, is as deeply embedded into the canon of western music as the western horizon is to sunset. In both cases, one cannot conceive of the latter without the presence of the former.

As he awaited his cue from the score, Perlman sat patiently, looking out into the audience, violin resting securely between chin and shoulder, his hands not on the precious instrument but indifferently clasped together in his lap. His familiar full head of wavy, curly black hair is indeed still wavy and curly, but the black is now silver grey.

And then it happens.

Some three minutes into the allegro, the first movement of the concerto, Perlman brings the bow to the strings and music flows from the instrument like pixie dust pours from the magician's chalice in the old Walt Disney cartoons, lifting the listener's soul in ever-ascending arcs of sparkle and light.

As he plays, Perlman communicates with us, his expressions, his movements and the ever delightful sounds of his music an invitation to travel with him to faraway places of the heart. And if it is true, as Beethoven's younger contemporary Robert Schumann wrote, "Music's lofty mission is to shed light on the depths of the human heart," then the remarkable Perlman is a precious human flashlight shining gold and silver light into the many mysterious corners of the human heart's profundity.

During Perlman's solos, the more than 50 other musicians on the stage listened and watched with the intensity of students listening to their master. At one heavenly solo in the first movement, Perlman beckoned their re-entry into the music with delicate trilling by his left pinky. The many "dialogues" throughout the music between solo violin and other solo instruments or full orchestra were like tender-hearted conversations between lovers.

We cannot simply speak of Perlman's grasp of music because that suggests "mere" mastery of technique and technical requirements. Nor can we simply speak of his searing interpretations of music because that suggests "mere" expertise brought by constant repetition and routine.

Rather, there is very evidently something more, something additional, to Perlman. To be sure, he obviously does grasp the material and he obviously does bring insightful, moving interpretations to music.

In a way, Perlman himself becomes the instrument. And the violin "plays" him. In his hands, it draws out of this unique virtuoso ideas and suggestions, approaches and discoveries that bring us standing fully within what is important, elegant and beautiful in the music. And in so doing, he and his violin, also bring us more closely to the edge of seeing what may be important, elegant and beautiful in our own lives.

When the concerto ended, the audience was on its feet immediately shouting and clapping their thanks to Perlman. They stood without interruption in lusty applause for 10 minutes. Perlman returned to the stage two more times after he had concluded playing.

After the performance, two young people were overheard saying it had been a "privilege" to see and hear the grand maestro. An older individual, apparently more familiar with Perlman, said of the maestro that "he was in the zone tonight." Reflecting further, he added with a small nod of the head and a wistful smile, "It makes you believe in God."

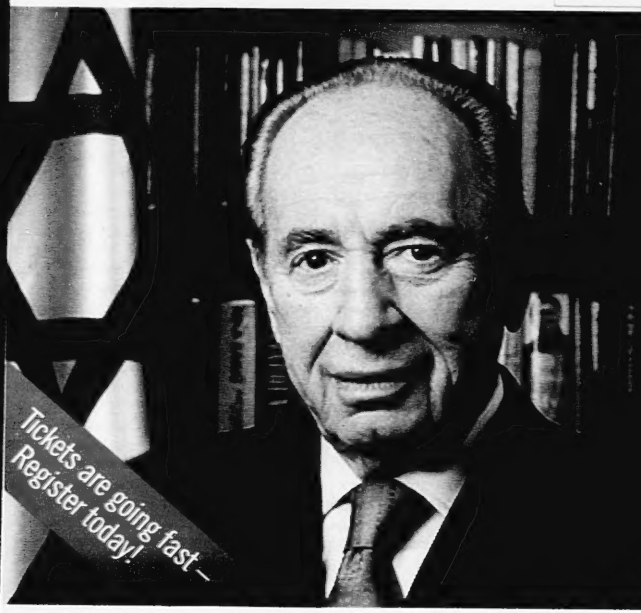
*– MBD*

## SeeJN

### Israeli flag flies over Queen's Park

**Ontario celebrated the 64th anniversary of Israel's independence with a flag-raising ceremony on the front lawn of Queen's Park on Yom Ha'atzmaut last week. Pictured are, from left, Jared Hyde, Carly Stern, and Jared Ash, Grade 8 students at Associated Hebrew Day Schools, who joined hundreds of other students from Associated, Montessori Jewish Day School and Bnei Akiva School's Ulpanat Orot carrying flags and signs, and joyfully singing Hebrew songs to celebrate the occasion. Prime Minister Stephen Harper also noted the occasion in an April 25 statement from Ottawa. "On this anniversary, we remember all that Israel and its citizens overcame to achieve statehood and we celebrate all that it has accomplished in the past six decades," Harper said.**

*[Andy Levy-Azjenkopf photo]*

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# Police fine Eitz Chaim stalker for trespassing

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

An Israeli man who had been trespassing at Eitz Chaim Day School on Patricia Avenue was sent to hospital last week to be evaluated for "mental health issues," Toronto police said.

Eitz Chaim staff and parents have been on high alert since April 19 when a man showed up at the all-boys branch of the school and began playing soccer with some of the kids during recess, said Rabbi Isser Pliner, dean of Eitz Chaim.

When the teachers asked him to leave the campus, he reluctantly complied.

"The next day, he came back at around 1:15 p.m. and he was asked to leave again, and he was a little more belligerent and it took a little more to get him to leave again."

Rabbi Pliner said when he confronted him, the man challenged him about why he had to leave school property.

"In the meantime, I was involved with Doron Horowitz, [director of national security infrastructure for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs], right from the get-go for some advice, and I involved the police right from the get-go," he said.

"He came back two hours later, and was again upset about the fact that the police had visited his house."

Rabbi Pliner sent two detailed e-mails to Eitz Chaim parents, describing what the man looked like and how his staff was handling the unfolding situation.

"The man is around 30 years of age and medium in size. He appears to be an Israeli Jew. He wears tzitzitis, but goes with a bare head. He lives on Patricia Avenue. He has made no attempt to be physical in any way," Rabbi Pliner wrote in an April 23 e-mail.

On April 24, the situation escalated when the man returned to the campus at dismissal time, taking pictures of the students and their parents' cars.

"He stirred a lot of attention," Rabbi Pliner said.

"The cops went to his house again and that is when they issued the trespass violation and fined him... He promised not to come back, but he's not necessarily all there... He promised, but no one is feeling that he may live up to that."

Det. Scott McKay of 32 Division confirmed that police gave the man a $65 trespassing ticket, but he was not formally charged with trespassing, which is a criminal offence.

He explained the process involved in having someone charged with trespassing. He said following a verbal warning by the property owners, the trespasser is then warned in writing.

"Once that is done, the police have to be authorized personally by giving us a letter saying that we're authorized to enforce a trespass to property act," McKay said.

"He was at the point where he had been notified in writing not to be on the property, and we had been authorized to exercise the trespass to property act," McKay said.

"If the trespassing continues, we can arrest them under the trespass to property act and hold them before a justice of the peace."

McKay said there is no set number of times a person has to trespass before he can be arrested.

"It comes down to discretion and what is happening in that particular case."

In the latest confrontation on April 26, the man returned to the Eitz Chaim campus. The police were called, and after assessing the situation, officers on the scene decided that "there were some mental health issues, and he has since been taken to the hospital," McKay said.

"It wasn't a concerning issue with the children or anything, I think he's more of a conspiracy-theory type. I think... he's not happy with the rabbis and the administration at the school."

> *Israeli man to be evaluated for 'mental health issues'*

Rabbi Pliner agreed, suspecting that the man "seems to be a person who has a problem with Eitz Chaim."

The rabbi said the school hired a security guard last week for an indeterminate amount of time, but said if the need for security remains, parents will be asked to cover the cost.

Alison Finkelstein, a parent of a student who attends Eitz Chaim, said she's comforted by the actions being taken by the school's staff and police.

"As a parent, I feel the school is doing everything they can to keep this person away from our kids, and keeping our kids safe," she said.

"It makes me nervous, though, that despite police involvement, this guy keeps coming back to the school. Hopefully now with security guards being hired, he will get the hint and stay away."

Late last year, Eitz Chaim was involved in a similar situation involving a different man whom Rabbi Pliner described to *The CJN* at the time as dressing in "a frum manner."

In that incident, the rabbi warned parents via e-mail that "a man who was raised in the Toronto Torah community... has recently tried to lure teenagers from our neighbourhoods and our schools into inappropriate relationships and situations."

Rabbi Pliner added that the man later left for a treatment facility in the southwestern United States.

# OAS changes could harm older workers: prof

## *Government move also 'puts monetary pressure on employers'*

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

Increasing the eligibility age for Canada's Old Age Security Pension (OAS) to 67 could harm older workers, says a Nipissing University sociology professor.

"Forcing older workers to remain in the workforce longer may serve to heighten the discrimination they already face," Ellie Berger, 38, said in a recent interview.

Berger, currently on a year-long sabbatical from the North Bay university, added that the change is good in that it gives people the choice to work longer, "but it puts monetary pressure on employers. They will have to pay benefits for two more years."

Ellie Berger

The change will be hardest for low-income Canadians or those in poor health who anticipated retiring and receiving benefits at age 65, she said.

Berger recently co-wrote a brief published by the Population Change and Lifecourse Strategic Knowledge Cluster, which found that when it comes to age discrimination and paid work, there are many areas that require improvement.

Ageism exists, the brief states, in employer attitudes, which is evident when older workers are unemployed and seeking work – "when they're on the outside trying to get in."

Berger, who is currently writing a book about ageism in the workplace, said older women looking for work are particularly discriminated against.

"After age 45, they begin to feel discrimination, and if the job is physically demanding, the age discrimination is felt earlier."

In her interviews for the book, she's spoken to employers who had positive things to say about older workers, "but discrimination comes out in day-to-day [hiring] practices," she said.

"They'll say they want a younger person behind a counter, or claim that the organization's culture is more junior. [Such ageism] is illegal, but it's difficult to prove."

In reality, Berger said, research shows that older workers are more loyal than their younger counterparts. They're also more positive, have more knowledge and learn new skills just as quickly.

Employers need to be educated about ageist attitudes and practices, particularly as they relate to the hiring, training and retention of older workers, she said.

Berger was a judge on a recent panel that awarded four companies across Canada a "Best Employers Award for 50-plus Canadians." The judging took place during the seventh annual Summit on the Mature Workplace.

The winners were AltaGas, Seven Oaks General Hospital in Winnipeg, Walmart Canada and Bethany Care Society, one of western Canada's largest not-for-profit providers of health, housing and support for seniors and people with disabilities.

"In our judging, we looked at organizational practices that encourage the hiring and retention of older workers. Too few companies have ageist-free policies."

These policies include a mentoring program in which older and younger workers are paired up, she said.

Berger, who took a gerontology course while an undergraduate at McMaster University, said her interest in the subject came from her close relationship with her grandparents. "That bond pulled me in this direction."


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# Cause for concern

Last week, on the eve of Yom Ha'atzmaut, when discussing Israel's key security challenges, IDF Chief of Staff Benny Gantz mentioned the political instability in Egypt and Syria as being as currently worrisome for the Jewish state as the uncertainty surrounding Iran's nuclear program.

Gantz's concerns regarding Egypt were brought into sharp, infuriating focus three days earlier by the decision of Egypt's national gas company, EGAS, to unilaterally cancel its agreement to deliver natural gas to Israel.

The unjustified, vindictive behaviour by the gas company was shameful. But worse than that, it was illegal, a clear violation of the terms of the Egypt-Israel peace treaty of 1979, from which the gas delivery agreement stemmed. The peace treaty had obligated Egypt to supply Israel with oil. But this obligation was subsequently changed to the supply of natural gas.

The government of Israel rushed to recharacterize the Egyptian move as a business, rather than political, decision.

"We don't see this cutoff of the gas as something that is born out of political developments. It's actually a business dispute between the Israeli company and the Egyptian company," the prime minister's office said the day following EGAS' announcement. Indeed, EGAS used similar "business" terminology to describe the cancellation.

But no one was fooled.

The abrogation of the agreement was about politics and nothing else.

Israel had long ago stopped relying on its Egyptian supplier. Gas had long ago stopped flowing to Israel from Egypt. Since the ouster of former president Hosni Mubarak, the pipeline in the Sinai that supplied the gas to Israel has been attacked 14 times. No arrests have ever been made in any of the attacks. In deigning to seek compensation from EGAS for the massive unbudgeted expense of finding alternate gas supplies, the Israel Electric Company upset its erstwhile Egyptian supplier.

Moreover, the frequency of the sabotage of the pipeline and the clear immunity from punishment of the saboteurs point to the lawlessness and anarchy that have taken root in the Sinai. One senses too, alas, that anarchy and lawlessness are encroaching into the very heart of Egypt itself.

The early idealists of Tahrir Square have been cast aside. Their idealism has been betrayed. Their hopes for a liberal democratic society have been trampled to dust under the marching triumphalism of the opportunistic Islamists. The unilateral cancellation of the gas delivery contract is of a piece in Egypt with the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood and the frenzied, mob attack some months ago on Israel's embassy.

Egyptian presidential elections are imminent. The political situation is fluid. And the tide of concern rises in Israel.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

In an event before 75,000 people in Cologne, West Germany, Pope John Paul II beatified Edith Stein, a Jewish-born nun who was gassed at Auschwitz, and praised her for sacrificing her life for her Jewish brethren. Jewish groups criticized the move, saying Stein, a convert, died because of her Jewish heritage, not her Catholic faith. The SS seized her from her Carmelite convent in Holland in 1942.

*Editorial Advisory Board:* **Maurice Benzacar, Michael Brown, Donald Carr, Rabbi Michael Dolgin, Jake Goldstein, Jeffrey Kopstein, Keith Landy, Lou Ronson, Alan Sandler, Rabbi Philip Scheim, Mike Shriqui, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, Ehud Telem, Nelson Wiseman.**

## A future without survivors

The horror of those who suffered through the Shoah can best be described by those who lived through it. The Holocaust has been chronicled in various media, including movies and plays that try to simulate reality, but it is actually seeing and hearing the survivors' tales that makes the largest impact on the listener. The article "Contemplating a future without survivors" (April 19) concludes that the best way to honour those who will no longer be able to share their eyewitness account, would be by "introducing a new ritual establishing an interactive and educational seder to be observed on Yom Hashoah."

In Toronto, Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue initiated just such an event starting in 2003 called Megillat Hashoah – the Scroll of the Holocaust – a liturgical Megillah that is meant to be a unifying structure for the holiday and enable Jewish communities to observe Yom Hashoah in a more spiritual way. Alex Eisen, a Holocaust survivor and member of Beth David, pioneered the Megillat Hashoah, along with Rabbi Philip Scheim, and both men should be commended for their efforts to keep the memories alive.

**Sheryl P. Lipton**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Anti-Israel activists at Ben-Gurion (1)

Kudos to the Israeli governmental office that wrote the succinct and beautifully worded letter to those who descended on Israel to protest Israeli government policies in its conflict with the Palestinians ("Anti-Israel activists land at Ben-Gurion," April 19). I have waited a long time for Israel to not only speak up for itself, but also to snub its nose at those who blindly condemn just about everything Israel does and yet support heinous crimes of terrorism. So glad to see they sent back some of it. Hope to see more of it!

**Rhona Samsonovitch**
**Montreal**

* * *

## Anti-Israel activists at Ben-Gurion (2)

I am more than a little dismayed that you would label the letter handed to the anti-Israel activists as "sarcastic" ("Anti-Israel activists land at Ben-Gurion," April 19). Perhaps a better adjective would be "informative."

### *LET THEM GO...*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

I think instead of sending the activists back to their countries of origin, the better idea would have been to let them in, transport them to southern Israel, and have them dodge the rockets fired by Hamas in Gaza. Maybe then they would have a greater appreciation of Israel. I wonder who financed their trip and what their itinerary was? They wouldn't go to Syria, Iran or even Gaza, as they might be killed or jailed. Israel, the only true democracy in the Middle East, was safe.

**Paul S. Levin**
**Concord, Ont.**

* * *

## Anti-Israel activists at Ben-Gurion (3)

I refer to the article "Anti-Israel activists land at Ben-Gurion" (April 19), and the Israeli government response as defined by its letter to the activists. First, it does not behoove any government to use sarcasm, for as Oscar Wilde noted, sarcasm is the lowest form of wit. To say that because Israel is a democracy it should be exempt from criticism is ridiculous. If Israel was really secure in its policies and its democracy, the actions of 43 activists would not count for much. No one questions the brutality of the current regimes in Syria and Iran or suggests they are democratic, but that does not and should not excuse Israel from scrutiny in respect to its own policies.

**Peter Silverman**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Looking for Krakow visitors

This year, Krakow, Poland, hosts its 22nd annual Yiddish Festival, starting on June 29 with a cantorial concert and ending on July 8 with a klezmer concert in the Jewish Kazimierz section of the city. My wife and I will be arriving in Warsaw on June 25 for a two- to three-day stay, then will visit the Lublin area and then head to Krakow for the festival. We are looking to meet fellow Canadians who will be there as well, to perhaps co-ordinate tours in the region to other Jewish places of interest. We have been to Poland twice before and have visited almost every major Polish city and more than 50 shtetls. I can be contacted via e-mail at info@judaicasales.com or by telephone at 450-687-0632.

**Issie Baum**
**Chomedey, Laval, Que.**

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# Presidential vote raises concerns for French Jews

**Richard Prasquier**
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The challenge is daunting for Nicolas Sarkozy. The second round of the French presidential elections on May 6 will be decided by the transfer of votes. Will Nicolas Sarkozy be able to attract to his candidacy the vast majority of the voters of both the Centre Party and the National Front, who have different views on about everything except a common dislike for his personal style of government?

For the French Jewish community, appalled by the recent murders in the Jewish school in Toulouse, one of the key issues is how willing each candidate is to fight the new antisemitism that has developed under the mask of anti-Zionism.

There is no question that both contenders strongly reject any manifestation of antisemitism. Sarkozy has developed strong links with the French Jewish community. He has a deep knowledge of Israel and a deep sympathy for this country, which he uses sometimes for chiding the Israeli government. France has become the major supporter of Israel in advocating a firm stance against Iran.

Socialist François Hollande's feelings toward Israel have always been clearly friendly, although they have not been highlighted so much, and his stance towards the Iranian threat remains to be tested. The two candidates share similar views regarding the major issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

*The main question is influence of socialist leaders with negative views toward Israel*

The question arises: how will the need to think about future political coalition-building, future governing circles, affect the two men's positions, and how will the results of the first round change the outlook?

In the rather unlikely case of the re-election of the incumbent president, there's no reason to think that he might change his policies. He might become more skeptical about the Arab Spring, and less optimistic about the ongoing process of radicalization in the Muslim world and its dangers for French society.

As for the high number of votes obtained by Marine Le Pen, representing the far-right National Front, founded by her father, who held antisemitic views, they're not expected to exert any influence on policies toward Jews in France. The Muslim community and immigration issues were at the forefront of their campaign.

Indeed, Marine Le Pen even tried to attract Jewish voters, as if the past of the National Front and/or the view of some of its still-influential leaders had not been known. The National Front has old scores to settle with Sarkozy's party, and there's no possibility of a political agreement between them. It's clear however that, whatever the results of the election, the important issue of secularity will lead to difficulties in the legal adjustments to religious practices such as shchitah.

The main question that arises for the Jewish community, if Hollande becomes president of France, is the influence that might be exerted by those socialist leaders who have negative views toward Israel's policies. Beyond the socialists, but still in Hollande's camp, are the leftist parties and the Greens, who express a deep hostility toward Israel and are at the forefront of every anti-Israel demonstration, declaration and petition.

The fact that Jean Luc Melenchon, the charismatic leader of the renewed Communist party, only managed a disappointing 11 per cent result, might well reduce its impact on French foreign policy, but I expect a surge in leftist and Communist manifestations of anti-Zionism.

Regardless of its political leanings, the French Jewish community, which is very close to Israel, will need to face these new challenges.

*Richard Prasquier is president of CRIF, the representative Council of French Jewish Institutions, the umbrella group representing the French Jewish community.*

**French President Nicolas Sarkozy**

# Right's rise in Europe spells darker times

**Denis MacShane**
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

After 1945, it was the Communist Party of France that denounced internationalism and the European Union, and was openly protectionist and often racist. Now Marine Le Pen has shown that the politics of anti-modernity cloaked in nationalist populism continue to resonate.

Some perspective is needed.

Her father, the more overtly antisemitic Jean Marie Le Pen, got close to his daughter's percentage of the vote 10 years ago. In the intervening decade, three developments have kept the far right alive.

First, the wealth gap in France has widened so that the white working class, without qualifications or well-paid jobs, feels more and more bitter, and more ignored by elite politicians.

Second, the European Union has lost its hold as a necessary project for France.

Third, the volume and visibility of immigrants from Muslim and black Africa has increased sharply.

For the elites of France of both right and left, Europe is seen as a good thing, and cheap immigrant labour provides the cleaners, nannies and unseen workers who hold down prices.

Marine Le Pen has sought to detoxify her party by rejecting the more vulgar antisemitism of her papa. But that is on a par with the right elsewhere in Europe, where Holocaust denial has been replaced by Holocaust devaluation – the argument that what Hitler did was bad, but no worse than Stalin's crimes, and that Auschwitz, like the Armenian massacres, was just another of Europe's many genocides.

It was no accident that the fanatically anti-European *Daily Mail* in London said the French should vote for Madame Le Pen. She wants France to quit the euro and return to a French franc, with its devaluations and erratic yo-yoing on currency markets. She wants protection for French goods.

Her advisers said she was being too economic and insufficiently anti-Islam. She made a campaign video saying that ritually slaughtered meat products were responsible for killing babies. The senior French political journalist Claude Askolovitch noted that this allegation was a throwback to the Middle Ages accusation that Jews poisoned wells to kill Christians. So although she claims to have laid to rest the anti-Jewish obsession of her father, some of the old Adam is there. She will now aim to win a block of seats in the National Assembly election and become the "official opposition."

The desire to just say "No" – to foreigners, to any external source of authority, to social solidarity – now dominates western politics from the Tea Party in America to the Swiss People's Party, with its referendum on minarets, as if religious architecture was the most central 21st-century political issue.

Like Gert Wilders, who recently brought down the conservative-liberal Dutch government, or Britain's anti-EU UKIP party, which has overtaken the coalition-member Liberal Democrats in the polls, France now has a major party that rejects much of the recent political, economic and multicultural late-20th-century settlement. It and its sister parties in Europe will not win power, but they will change European politics in the direction of darker themes and times.

*British Labour MP Denis MacShane is a former Europe minister under prime minister Tony Blair. He writes widely on European politics and is author of* Globalising Hatred: The New Anti-Semitism, *which he is now updating.*

# This year, let's truly celebrate Israel

On Erev Yom Ha'atzmaut, I addressed hundreds of Canadian students who attended the March of the Living program. They had come from Poland, marched to the concentration camps during Holocaust Remembrance Day and were now in Israel, at a huge Canadian-Israeli celebration marking that difficult transition from Israel's Memorial Day to its Independence Day.

What could I tell them that they didn't already know? Did I need to tell them how lucky they are to be living as Canadians in 2012 and not as European Jews in the 1940s? Did I need to tell them that, as Liberal MP Irwin Cotler's parents told him, there are some things in Jewish history that are unimaginable but not unendurable, because they actually happened to us? Did I need to tell them that Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel is correct – following such evil, all we really can do is be silent, yet we must never be silenced, because we can never forget what was done to us, to our people and to humanity?

I decided to start with a personal message – and a challenge. I said that while I had heard about the trip's great success, I was skeptical. Was the trip a success? Like most operations, it takes time to see lasting impact.

The trip's success would not be determined by the experiences or emotions or friendships of the moment. The success would emerge next month, next semester and next year. Was this just another trip, just another photo album, just another series of moments to post on your Facebook page? Or was this experience life-changing? Did it make anyone more moral, more concerned with their own personal behaviour? Did it make anyone more community-oriented, more committed to making their own slice of the world better, more just or more caring? Did it make anyone more committed to Judaism, the Jewish People, Canadian values or humanity?

*Gil Troy*

*in Montreal*

None of these questions could be answered glibly, immediately. The answer has to be etched out, moment by moment, mitzvah by mitzvah, value by value. The answer would come gradually over the short term and the long term, by the kinds of people they choose to be, the kinds of deeds they choose to do, the kinds of ideas they choose to champion and the kinds of morals they choose to uphold.

Meanwhile, I said, as those thoughts and values percolate – let's celebrate. Let's celebrate a free, proud Israel. And let's celebrate Israel with all five senses.

Let's rejoice in the sounds of Israel, from the medley of happy, healthy kids shouting as they play in Jerusalem's playgrounds – which include the Old City's ancient alleyways – to the awestruck quiet on Yom Kippur, when through custom not compulsion, few Israelis drive.

Let's delight in the smells of Israel, with the Galilee and Negev in full bloom after a winter of real rain, and that drooping purple plant, the wisteria, entrancing with its sweet fragrance as we wander Jerusalem's streets.

Let's celebrate the sights of Israel, particularly the juxtaposition of old and new that I witnessed as I ran the Jerusalem half-marathon this year with thousands of others, starting with the symbols of modern Israeli statesmanship – the Knesset, the Supreme Court, the Foreign Ministry – and then cutting through the Old City on the way up to the new neighbourhoods of Arnona – and back!

Let's appreciate the tastes of Israel, particularly the flavours I savour just by waltzing down Jerusalem's Emek Refaim – from Joy's modern fusion to Kaffit's creative choices to Marvad Haksamim's Sephardi delicacies to Buffalo Steak House's entrecote to Sushi Rehavia's Sushi, and to my new discovery, thanks to my daughter, the eclectic 54HaMoshava. And all are kosher!

And let's toast the soft touch of Israel – it feels right to be a part of the Hebrew revolution, in which pigs-in-blankets (mini hotdogs in buns) become *Moshe be-teva*, Moses in a basket. It feels good to be in a place committed to building an idealistic Zionist "us," not just indulging the never-satisfied "me." It feels grand to contribute to an experiment in nurturing a liberal democracy with a Jewish sensibility, a modern country proud of its ancient past, a start-up nation that's also a values nation.

And in that celebration of this extraordinary country, we can also celebrate our own rebirths, our own commitment to take our new experiences and stretch, becoming the best people we can be.

# *Do we really love Ruth?*

"She's a convert, you know, but so active in the shul – even more than her Jewish husband!" The words were whispered conspiratorially to me at a bar mitzvah luncheon, as if this information was crucial for me to know. The woman in question had converted more than 25 years ago, had raised two Jewish kids, chants Torah and continually takes Jewish adult education.

"Actually, she's a Jew," I whisper back.

It's true, and I'm not afraid to say it: converts make the best Jews. It doesn't come naturally to them in the beginning. They work hard at it and want to perfect it. If they're going to radically change their lives, they believe they ought to do it with purpose and intention. And once they pass the beit din, they don't feel they're finished, like a 13-year-old at his bar mitzvah – "Phew! That's over!"

I'll never forget the mother-in-law who told her newly Jewish daughter-in-law at the conversion mikvah, "Good! Now that you are officially Jewish you can stop practising, like the rest of us." What a welcome. What does that say about how much we born Jews appreciate our own heritage?

I spent an interesting and challenging week at a special conference for Latin American Jews this past winter. Gathered there were representatives of Jewish congregations throughout South and Central America. The synagogues shared many common interests and difficulties: small size, isolation, finding Spanish resources and Spanish-speaking rabbis, ignorance, antisemitism and anti-Zionism in their respective countries.

But what they also shared was more surprising: having to deal with an influx of Latinos who want to convert. Indigenous Guatemalans such as my congregation who grew disillusioned with both the Catholic Church of their youth and the new coercive passion of the evangelicals. Native tribesmen from the hills of Ecuador who claim they are one of the 10 lost Hebrew tribes. Those who trace their ancestry to the Mayans, but are drawn to Judaism. And those who believe they're descendants of *anusim*, Jews forced out of Judaism during the terrible era of the Inquisition.

Often brown-skinned, often working class, these folks represent a new kind of convert who challenges all stereotypes: not white, not having grown up in a Jewish neighbourhood, not familiar with Yiddishisms from TV, not "marrying in," and often coming in complete family groups.

They will surely change the public face of the small, mostly white, upper class, nominally Orthodox Jewish communities in these parts. Some people welcome that change and have no fear of "dilution." But some people have trepidation that their hard-earned peace and hard-won recognition will somehow be challenged by welcoming these new "others," that somehow changing the public face of Judaism will existentially threaten Judaism, too. They're not like us. It's true. Are we the only "us" to be defined as Jewish?

*Rabbi Elyse Goldstein*

*in Toronto*

I've heard people say that although someone converts, they will never really, truly "be" Jewish. They don't really feel it in their *kishkes* the way "we" do. In the vast majority of cases, this is utterly false. In the vast majority of cases, it's the passion, interest, skill, knowledge and commitment of the Jew-by-choice that threatens us to the core. It threatens our complacency. It threatens our jaded boredom with our own heritage. It threatens our smug sense of "I am a good Jew even though I don't do a Jewish thing, ever." It threatens our security when our kids cease being interested in anything Jewish. It threatens our romanticized picture of who we are as Jews.

On the one hand, we seem to love the "exotic" nature of Chinese Jews, black Jews, and people from various indigenous tribes around the world who practise eighth-day circumcision and don't eat pork so they must somehow be Jewish. Do you mean that Asian beauty or that Irish boxer you married is also Jewish? How lucky can you get? But on the other hand, we're downright scared of their taking us – our books, our holidays, our fragile Jewish existence – on.

At the end of this month, we'll celebrate Shavuot, and we'll read the Book of Ruth. We boast that this story is about welcoming the stranger, about the pure intent of the Jew-by-choice, about the love for Judaism a convert has. We tease our converted daughters-in-law that they are like Ruth – better Jews than us.

But do we *really* love Ruth?

# Terror out of Egypt's Sinai hits Israel

Remote and spectacularly scenic, with rugged mountains, rolling desert vistas, enchanting oases and inviting sandy beaches, the Sinai Peninsula is a dream destination. Inhabited by Bedouin tribes whose respect for borders is at best minimal, it was little more than a strategic buffer after the 1956 Arab-Israeli war. But, with its capture by Israel in the 1967 Six Day War, the Sinai soon found a place in the sun as a tourist mecca.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

Israel developed it in methodical fashion, prompting a torrent of Israelis to take advantage of its beauty. They continued to pour into the Sinai even after Israel gave it up after signing a peace treaty with Egypt in 1979.

But in the past eight years, and particularly since Israel's unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and Hosni Mubarak's ouster as president in 2011, the Sinai has morphed into a "terror zone," according to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

With the erosion of Egyptian sovereignty there and the resultant power vacuum, the Sinai has degenerated into a haven for terrorists and common criminals – who have used it as a platform to attack tourists and infrastructure – and a virtual no-go zone for tourists.

Recently, Israel's Counterterrorism Bureau urged Israeli travellers to leave the Sinai immediately, citing plots by terrorist organizations to wreak mayhem and bloodshed. While the head of Israeli military intelligence, Gen. Aviv Kochavi, disclosed that Israel has foiled more than 11 plots in the Sinai in the past two months and that terrorists are "strengthening their hold" there.

Kochavi delivered his analysis shortly after rockets launched from the Sinai hit Eilat, landing harmlessly near a residential neighbourhood.

Channel 10, an Israeli television station, claimed they had been smuggled out of post-Gadhafi Libya and were fired by the Gaza-based Popular Resistance Committees, a Palestinian group that participated in the kidnapping of Gilad Schalit in 2006.

Lamentably, the targeting of Eilat was a case of déjà vu. Two years ago, rockets hit Eilat and the adjacent Jordanian town of Aqaba, killing one person and wounding four.

The most recent incident in Eilat was the gravest one of its kind in southern Israel since Aug. 18, 2011, when gunmen from Sinai staged brazen cross-border attacks in which eight Israelis were slain and 31 were injured. In hot pursuit, Israel killed some of the attackers, but in the crossfire five Egyptian policemen were fatally shot.

The battle elicited a sharp response from Egypt and triggered mob violence in Cairo that resulted in the sacking of Israel's embassy, an unprecedented and worrisome development in Israel's pivotal bilateral relationship with Egypt, the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with the Jewish state.

The treaty ushered in a period of calm and stability along Israel's 240-kilometre frontier with Egypt, but in the Sinai, the tranquility was violently and ominously broken.

On Oct. 5, 1965, an Egyptian soldier, Sulayman Khatir, machine-gunned a party of vacationers in Ras Burqa, a Red Sea beach resort, killing seven Israelis, including four children. Khatir, deemed mentally ill, was sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labour. Ten days after the verdict was handed down, he was found dead in his cell.

On Oct. 7, 2004, Palestinian terrorists drove a bomb-laden truck into the lobby of the Hilton Hotel in Taba, just south of Eilat, killing 31 guests, including 12 from Israel, and wounding 159 others. On the same day, a car bomb killed two Israelis at Ras al-Shitan, near Nuweiba.

Egypt arrested 2,400 suspects, primarily Bedouins, whose relations with Cairo tend to be poor.

On July 23, 2005, the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, an organization supposedly linked to Al Qaeda, killed 88 people and wounded more than 200, the majority of them Egyptians, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egyptian authorities erected a barrier around the town, cutting it off from Bedouin encampments.

On April 24, 2006, three bomb explosions in Dahab killed 23 tourists and wounded 80, mostly Egyptian nationals. Egyptian security officials claimed the bombings were the work of a radical Islamic outfit, Jamat al-Tawhid.

Since Israel's pullout from Gaza and its imposition of a naval blockade around Gaza, the Sinai has become something of a no-man's land, notwithstanding efforts by Egypt to secure it.

Weapons and munitions are smuggled into Gaza via a maze of tunnels in the Sinai. During the 2008-09 war in Gaza, Israeli aircraft bombed the tunnels, but with the end of hostilities, smuggling operations resumed with a vengeance.

This is not Israel's only problem.

The multimillion-dollar pipeline in the Sinai that supplies Israel with about 40 per cent of its natural gas has been bombed no less than 14 times since the signing of a commercial agreement between Israel and Egypt in 2005.

Ten days ago, a month and a half after the Islamist-dominated Egyptian parliament voted to stop the export of gas to Israel, the Egyptian state-owned company that ships it to Israel announced that further supplies would no longer be sent to Israel due to an unresolved commercial dispute with its Israeli partner.

But the following day, an Egyptian cabinet minister said that Israel could negotiate a new contract at a higher price, suggesting that the cutoff, a disquieting moment in Israeli-Egyptian relations, was a shameless gambit on Egypt's part.

**Western tourists walk up a sand dune in the Sinai Peninsula.** *[Sheldon Kirshner photo]*

The lawlessness that has descended on the Sinai has forced the Israeli government to bolster security in a region of Israel that has generally been quiet.

The road that runs parallel to Egypt's frontier has been moved eastward by 750 metres. Israel has significantly built up its forces along the Egyptian border and is co-operating with Egypt to keep terrorists out of the Sinai. Since 2008, in contravention of the peace treaty, Israel has permitted Egypt to deploy thousands of troops in the Sinai.

Work on a $350-million barrier from Eilat to Gaza, originally designed to keep out African refugees, has been accelerated and will be ready soon.

In a sense, however, Israel's hands are tied. Given the political uncertainties in post-Mubarak Egypt, Israel may have no alternative but to exercise restraint in response to future terrorist attacks emanating from the Sinai, fearing that retaliatory strikes may jeopardize the peace treaty, a cornerstone of its security.


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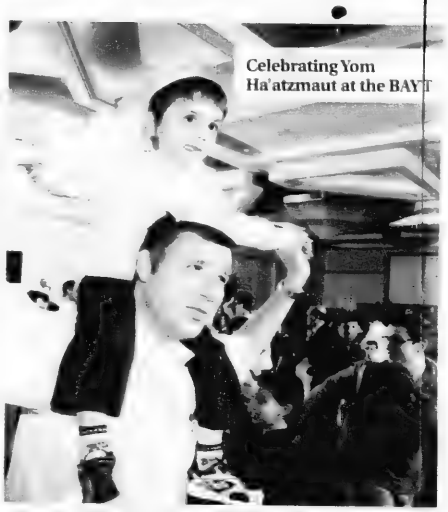
# Am Yisrael Chai!

**Jewish families braved grey skies and blustering winds to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's 64th birthday, on April 26 at an outdoor party at the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan. The event, organized by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Schwartz/Reisman Centre, featured food, bouncy castles, live music, face-painting and more.**

*[Sheri Shefa photos]*



**Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut at the BAYT**

# Israeli flag raised at the BAYT

**Continued from page 3**

Yehudit Dasberg spoke for Israel's terror victims. Her daughter, Effie, and son-in-law, Yaron, were shot and killed by Hamas terrorists in 1996 while driving home from a wedding, leaving Dasberg and her husband to raise their two infant sons.

"I understood that from this moment on, I was responsible for the happiness of these two babies, and that they would not suffer from the loss of their parents. Before I even started to grieve for the loss of my daughter, I right away got a new task… and this saved my life," Dasberg said.

Effie's death was also a loss in other ways, her mother said. Dasberg was wearing a necklace designed by her daughter, a graphic artist who was starting to get recognition for her work and whose illustrations were published posthumously in a series of popular Israeli children's books.

## *From loss to independence*

Rabbi Korobkin led the ceremony's transition into a celebration of Israel's independence.

Then in a video, Joseph Warner explained how he volunteered to travel to Israel in 1948 and join the Machal brigade, an acronym for *Mitnadvei Chutz La'aretz*, overseas volunteers who fought with the Israeli forces in the War of Independence, hoping to use his Canadian navy experience in Israel.

Warner was in the audience and saluted the brigade by raising the Israeli flag.

As the evening shifted from sombre remembrance to celebration of Israel's accomplishments, Mizrachi Canada honoured the outgoing consul general of Israel in Toronto, Amir Gissin, who will move back to Israel this summer after five years in Canada.

"My goal was to create among all Jews of Toronto a pride for the State of Israel, for this combination between grief and sorrow, and at the same time, tremendous strength, resilience and pride. Having a country of our own is costly… but we are strong, and we understand our reality, and we are proud of what we achieved in the State of Israel," Gissin said.

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Your Annual Campaign gift goes directly to projects for Children, Healthcare and Women in Israel and Canada - read a few stories from our beneficiaries, below.

**Because of CHW supporters, like you, Ben and his family receive 'a bit more' to ensure that they flourish.**

Ben, an affectionate toddler attends a CHW Daycare Centre in Israel. Recently, it was discovered that Ben suffers from a degenerative eye disease, which will lead to his eventual blindness. Because of this, Ben receives one-on-one assistance so that he can participate in activities with the other children; he also receives guidance to help him with his disability. As Ben's family suffers financially, the daycare staff sends home leftover food, bread and vegetables; also advocating for the family when needed.

**Because of CHW supporters, like you, Rachel received same-day testing, faster treatment and care.**

Rachel, a 40-year-old, who recently arrived to Israel from Ethiopia, came to the CHW M. Fanny Breast Care Institute at Assaf Harofeh Medical Center after discovering a skin lesion on her breast. Biopsy results revealed that Rachel had Paget's Disease, a malignant condition. Further imaging found ductal carcinoma. In this instance, the only course was a mastectomy. Rachel was informed of her condition, and after consultation with her family and doctors, she decided to proceed with surgery, and breast reconstruction. Rachel is recovering well and is hopeful for an improved life with her family.

**Because of CHW supporters, like you, Maya receives counselling, ensuring that she and her child thrive.**

Maya, mother of 3-year-old Ora, noticed that her daughter was becoming increasingly aggressive, physically acting out, and talking back. Worried, Maya turned to the director at Ora's daycare centre, who suggested the WIZO Parental Hotline. Maya called and as she spoke with a volunteer, Idit, it was discovered that Maya's recent job loss and other stresses were affecting Ora. Idit suggested parenting techniques, such as setting boundaries and encouraged Maya to call back in a few weeks to discuss their progress, which she did.

# Yom Hazikaron ceremony draws record crowd

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

The Yom Hazikaron ceremony at Toronto's Beth Tzedec synagogue last week had the largest attendance of any commemorative event of its kind outside of Israel.

Nearly 5,000 members of Toronto's Jewish community packed the shul's main auditorium for a sombre, emotive service in memory of the 22,993 men and women who have died defending the Jewish state, and the 2,457 victims of terrorism who have perished since 1948.

With a solitary yizkor candle burning in front of the bimah, a lone trumpeter sounded a dirge as the Israeli flag was lowered to half-mast.

The evening highlighted the daily struggle Israeli parents and families experience, balancing the fear of losing a loved one and the pride felt in knowing they are serving to protect their country.

The ceremony's MCs were community activists Robert Sarner and Nehama Isaak.

"Without the IDF [Israel Defence Forces], there would be no Israel," Sarner said at the start of the evening.

Organized by the Israeli Consulate in Toronto, the event featured poems recited by bereaved families of fallen soldiers; a video of a father and son, Maj. Maoz Poraz and Capt. Nir Poraz respectively, who both lost their lives in IDF service separated by a generation; a children's choir from the Kachol Lavan school; and performances by three of the city's major chazzanim, Beth Tzedec Congregation's Simon Spiro, Holy Blossom Temple's Benjamin Maissner, and Marshall Loomer of the Beth David synagogue.

Throughout the hour-long ceremony, sniffling, crying and quiet groans of anguish could be heard from various points in the hall, as loved ones were remembered and missed.

In an address to the audience, Ami Gissin, Israel's outgoing consul genera to Toronto and Western Canada, thanke the members of the local Israeli commu nity for coming and encouraging thei non-Israeli Jewish friends to participate i the ceremony.

Outside the synagogue's main hall displays about victims of terror and fall en soldiers were set up and volunteer handed out "yizkor" lapel stickers to thos walking into the synagogue.

According to Gissin, the event was success in that it helped gather more non Israelis than ever before to experience Yom Hazikaron, and hopefully helped them develop more of a cultural connection with the Israeli community.

The ceremony concluded with a reading of a prayer for the well-being of Israe by former Conservative MP Stockwell Day, followed by the Israeli national anthem sung by Toronto jazz singer Sophie Milman.

**On Yom Ha'atzmaut last week, the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto honoured several individuals and organizations in recognition of their roles as bridge-builders between the Jewish community and other ethnic communities. They include the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University of Jerusalem; JVS Toronto; Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee; Sidney Greenberg, vice-president of Astral Media, and Aubrey Zidenberg, international vice-president of B'nai Brith Canada. On stage, from left, are Amir Gissin, Israeli consul general for Toronto and Western Canada; Natalie Weed, director of communications and public affairs for the consulate, and Simone Blankstein, director of cultural affairs for the consulate.** *[Shlomi Amiga photo]*


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# Students interview survivors, war veterans

## *Oral History Project held at Crestwood*

**Michelle Bitran**
Special to The CJN

Crestwood Preparatory College held its third annual Oral History Project Breakfast last week.

The school's cafeteria was abuzz with students, their grandparents and members of the community enjoying waffles, eggs and live music performed by the school's students and staff.

For Scott Masters, the head of Crestwood's social studies department, this yearly breakfast is one of the most important events of the school year. Masters organized the get-together as a way to thank and to keep in touch with the many Holocaust survivors and World War II veterans who participate in his students' Oral History Project.

**Katherine Charness, right, a Grade 11 student at Crestwood Preparatory College, interviewed Holocaust survivor Irene Csillag.** *[Michelle Bitran photo]*

For the project, which has been ongoing in some form for about the last 10 years, high school students interview family members or other community members about their experiences in the Holocaust and World War II.

In the last few years, the students have been recording the interviews, collecting photographs and video footage, and creating multimedia DVDs for each veteran or survivor they speak to.

"I had the idea about five years ago to take the video-taping approach," said Masters, who has archived the video interviews, now totalling about 200, on the school's website. He explained that recording his students' interviews is the best way to preserve the important memories, especially as survivors and veterans continue to age.

Masters, who greeted many guests at the breakfast by name, said that over the years he has gotten to know a lot of the interviewees as they return regularly to talk to the students about their experiences. For the students, this opportunity to bring history class to life has been invaluable. "Some kids are really fascinated with history, and it really resonates with them," Masters said.

His words ring true as grades 11 and 12 students continue to participate in the Oral History Project voluntarily, after doing it as a mandatory part of the Grade 10 history curriculum.

Katherine Charness, a Jewish student in Grade 11, did the project for the second time this year. In Grade 10, she interviewed her grandfather, a veteran, and this year she interviewed Irene Csillag, a Holocaust survivor.

"Everyone has a different story to tell, and I think there's something unique about every story," Charness said, adding that she thinks it is important to encourage people to share their experiences and memories.

For Csillag and her daughter, Judy, who attended the breakfast for the first time this year, it was a heart-warming experience. "It's very nice that people are still remembering," said Csillag.

Masters, who won the prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence last year, is happy to see this important history project thriving, as students and members of the community get together to learn about the past. "It's been a great project. It's totally rejuvenated me."

To see the Oral History Project interviews done by Crestwood students, visit www.crestwood.on.ca.

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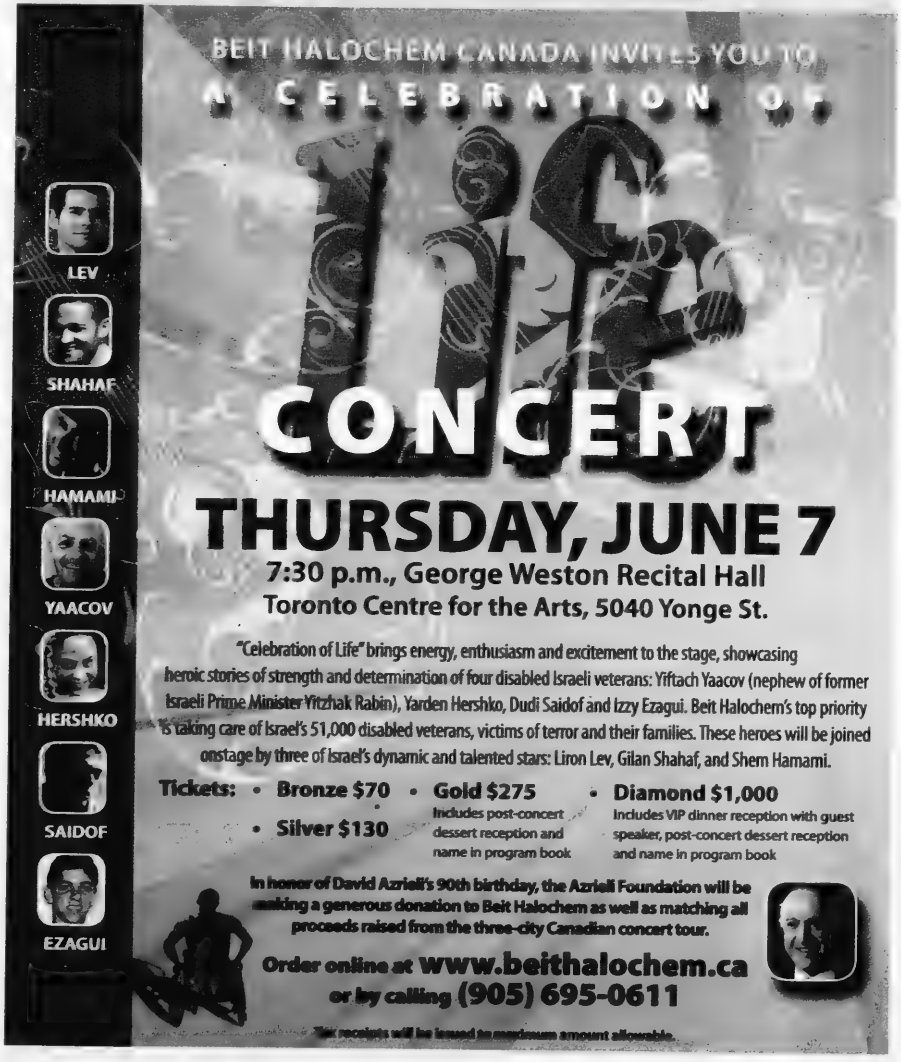
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# Slowly counting the Omer

*Midrashic Moments*

*Rachael Turkienicz*

While the holiday of Pesach is still being celebrated, we also begin to count the days of the Omer. The counting of the Omer will ultimately result in counting seven weeks until the holiday of Shavuot.

In biblical times, this period of counting was one of great anticipation and joy. The climax of the counting, Shavuot, was one of the three pilgrimage festivals and the beginning of one of the harvests. The whole nation was on the move, and the resulting marketplace and national unity celebration is probably unimaginable to us.

Today, we signify Shavuot as the celebration of the giving and the receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. It's a time that the Jewish nation stood together and announced with one voice that we wholeheartedly receive the Torah. The fact that we all agreed on something is cause enough for celebration, but agreeing on the Torah is truly an essential cause to celebrate.

When we look at the two holidays, Pesach and Shavuot, it's interesting that they both speak of redemption, but in very different ways. On Pesach, we were redeemed from slavery in Egypt, and at Mount Sinai we are redeemed through receiving the Torah. The first is a physical redemption, while the second is a spiritual redemption.

And yet both of these events take time and are hardly instantaneous. The process of leaving Egypt is lengthy, as evidenced by the 10 plagues. We arrive at Mount Sinai and spend at least two years hearing the laws and studying the vision for our new society.

In today's world, we are very accustomed to instant gratification. If our phone takes more than 10 seconds to turn on we become frustrated. The Internet had better load the page we're looking for quickly, or we'll click on another link. And Facebook will upload the pictures of our lives in the blink of an eye. It's no wonder we expect our redemptive moments to be quick and instant.

But we know that anything of value must take its time. Counting the weeks of the Omer allows us to value time itself. We recognize that we're leading toward something worthwhile, and we anticipate the advent of the holiday. Each day we count is a day that brings us closer. As well, counting is a countercultural act, in that it slows things down, while during the rest of our day, we use technology to speed things up.

The Torah represents our spiritual redemption. A beautiful midrash in the Jerusalem Talmud emphasizes these lessons when two sages are walking at daybreak. They see the light of dawn through the darkness, and one Sage remarks, "My friend, behold how the dawn grows stronger and stronger. So shall our Redemption be: at first, a little, then more and more."

*Rachael Turkienicz is director of rachaelscentre.org.*

# Migration in the Mediterranean

*Past Forward*

*Alex Gropper*

The Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies at St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, along with the Institute for Hellenistic Studies at the University of Waterloo and the Royal Ontario Museum, is planning a major international conference on the topic of Migration in the Mediterranean: from Alexander the Great to Suleiman the Magnificent.

For much of recorded history, the Mediterranean has been one large highway that facilitated the movement of peoples, goods and ideas. It is an activity in which we Jews have been important participants.

Migration has played a major role in our history. One could say that our ancestor Abraham began this history when he migrated from Ur of the Chaldees to the land of Canaan on the shores of the eastern Mediterranean. Abraham also briefly sojourned in Egypt, a place that would figure prominently in our story for thousands of years.

Abraham's grandson, Jacob, and Jacob's son, Joseph, were responsible for a migration to Egypt that would last for hundreds of years and lead to the defining event in our early history – the Exodus and the theophany at Sinai

Historically and archeologically, scholars at one time linked us and our initial stay in Egypt with a group called the Hyksos, who took over the country from about 1700 to 1500 BCE. These people came from Canaan and spoke a language related to Hebrew. However, for about the last few decades, most scholars no longer accept this theory.

More often than not, our migrations were forced upon us. Such was the case in 722 BCE when we experienced the trauma of the destruction of the kingdom of Israel by the mighty Assyrian Empire and the expulsion of its people that led to the legend of the Ten Lost Tribes. A hundred and twenty-five years later, the same fate would befall the southern kingdom of Judah when the Babylonians destroyed the First Temple, put Jerusalem to the torch and exiled its people "by the waters of Babylon."

Archeology has borne vivid testimony to this destruction. It was something that I saw first-hand in the late 1970s and early 1980s when I was involved in the excavations of the City of David led by Yigal Shiloh of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Institute of Archaeology.

By the middle part of the first millennium BCE, migrations had become common in the Mediterranean. Between the eighth and sixth centuries BCE, the Greeks led a mass migration around the Mediterranean when they established numerous colonies along its shores, spreading their language and culture in the process. Their new cities became magnets for settlement, especially Alexandria, which was established at the mouth of the Nile River by Alexander the Great. Jews flocked to this city in large numbers, and it is estimated that at one time we made up 25 per cent of its population.

The Greeks also gave us the word "diaspora." It is a word that has defined much of our history for the last 2,500 years.

# Making the mundane holy

**Rabbi Ilan Emanuel**

"You shall be holy, for I, the Eternal your God, am holy." These are the words that introduce Leviticus 19, one of the most powerful and uplifting chapters in the Torah. In it, we're not only commanded by God to "be holy" but, helpfully, we're provided with an exhaustive list of activities that define holiness.

What's remarkable about this list is the sheer range of human activity it encompasses. There are commandments about Shabbat and sacrifices, and against idolatry. There are commandments to leave the corners of your fields for the poor, to love the stranger, and to rise before the aged, and there are prohibitions against stealing, insulting the deaf, showing favour to either the poor or the rich, bearing a grudge, and falsifying weights.

What is particularly interesting about this list is how it sheds light on what it means to be holy in Judaism. On one hand, holiness is about separation, setting aside what is holy from what is profane and mundane. To be holy means to make an effort to separate ourselves from the everyday and usual and set time aside in our lives to focus on the spiritual. Thus we set aside Shabbat, sanctifying it to God and creating a space in our lives to be holy, away from the distractions of our daily lives.

But in Judaism, as reflected in this list, holiness is also part of how we interact with the world. It's about how we relate to others, how we conduct business, how we deal with our employees. Judaism is famously not just a religion but "a

*Rabbinic Reflections*

way of life," a tradition that deals with all aspects of existence, no matter how mundane.

Thus Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel argues: "Judaism is a theology of the common deed, of the trivialities of life, dealing not so much with training for the exceptional as with the management of the trivial." We're commanded to be part of the world, involved in its minutiae, finding holiness in the everyday. Thus when we help a person overcome an obstacle in their lives, we're being holy. When we give tzedakah or volunteer to help those less fortunate than ourselves, we're being holy. And when we act in ways that foster tolerance and understanding between people, we're being holy.

While these two concepts of holiness may seem radically different – separation from the world versus being part of it – they are, in many ways, two sides of the same coin.

Finding holiness in the everyday is not about making more moments mundane but about raising more of the everyday to be holy. It is about recognizing that moments we might otherwise think of as mundane and insignificant can and should be made holy and special. In every interaction we have in life, we have the opportunity not just to *find* holiness but to *make* holiness, setting aside that moment and sanctifying it. And every time we do we make ourselves and the world a little more holy.

*Rabbi Ilan Emanuel is a rabbi at Temple Sinai Congregation of Toronto.*

# The ketubah: a document of devotion

It's not too often that you find a legal document that can also be a stunning work of art illustrating love and commitment.

The ketubah, the Jewish marriage contract, has for thousands of years detailed a husband's obligations to his wife during marriage and his responsibilities in the case of divorce. Beyond that, the ketubah has become a prized piece of Judaica that artists have elevated to become a document of devotion.

If it's time to choose the design for your own ketubah, mazel tov on your engagement! And even if you're *not* getting married, you still can enjoy a tour of one of Judaism's most interesting and beautiful documents.

According to the Ohr Somayach site, "this contract is ordained by Mishnaic law (circa 170 CE, and according to some authorities dates back to biblical times. The ketubah, written in Aramaic, details the husband's obligations to his wife: food, clothing, dwelling and pleasure. It also creates a lien on all his property to pay her a sum of money and support (200 zuz and 200 silver pieces, should he divorce her, or predecease her." **[http://bit.ly/ketuba1]**

In the Value and Significance of the Ketubah, Rabbi Michael Broyde and Jonathan Reiss investigate whether a ketubah can be legally enforced in the United States. In short: probably not. **[http://bit.ly/ketuba8]**

Most ketubot in recent centuries have conformed to a standardized text but as Eliezer Segal points out, some ancient ketubot addressed the termination of the marriage at the initiative of the husband and even the wife. Here's an excerpt from the oldest existing ketubah, dating from the fifth century BCE and originating on the island of Elephantine in the Nile. "If at some time, Ananiah should stand up before the assembly and declare: 'I reject my wife, Jehoshama. She shall not be my wife!' then he is obligated to pay divorce

*Jewish & Digital*

*Mark Mietkiewicz*

money… And if Jehoshama should reject her husband, Ananiah, and declare before him, 'I reject you and will not be your wife!' then she shall be obliged to pay the 'divorce money.'" **[http://bit.ly/ketuba5]**

For more on the history of the ketubah, visit the entry at the Jewish Encyclopedia. **[http://bit.ly/ketuba6]**

The traditional ketubah is written in Aramaic, the language of the Babylonian Jews.

Many modern variations – Conservative, Reform, egalitarian, etc. – have been crafted recently. **[http://bit.ly/ketuba2]** For example, the Conservative ketubah includes the "Lieberman clause," which was added to allow either the man or the woman to initiate a divorce. Check with your rabbi before selecting your text. **[http://bit.ly/ketuba3]**

As well, another site advises, "For those couples intending to make aliyah to Israel, it is preferable to choose the Orthodox ketubah text… so there will be no problems concerning its validity before the Israeli bet din." **[http://bit.ly/ketuba4]**

Although the ketubah is essentially a legal document, the adornment of this document is a cherished tradition. As Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library eloquently puts it: "These decorations transform the ketubah from a dry legal document into a work of art, and a window into the world and culture of the Jewish communities that produced them." **[http://bit.ly/ketuba7]**

Next time, online ketubah galleries – classic and modern – and tips for creating your own.

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## Jewish Teens and Parental Divorce

A study out of the University of Western Ontario is looking to explore the life of Toronto Jewish teens whose parents are separated or divorced. The study requires 3 sessions of interview and art-based participation. For additional information contact Laura at 519-639-9806 or lhartma@uwo.ca

## Reena in the News

Reena

### Phil Lepofsky receives UJA Federation's Shem Tov Award

**Phil Lepofsky**, an individual supported by Reena, has been chosen to receive the United Jewish Appeal of Greater Toronto's *Shem Tov Award.**

Phil has much to be proud of. He became a member of the Reena 'family' in 1981 and initially lived in a group home setting. It wasn't long before his ability to live in a supported independent setting was recognized and Phil moved into his own apartment in 1985. Phil took advantage of the support he received and his natural enthusiasm to ask questions and to learn provided a platform for him to develop his life-skills and, more important, to develop a sense of self within the community.

Phil is deeply attached to his Jewish heritage and the values that enrich his life. He is observant and rarely misses services at the Pride of Israel Synagogue. He looks forward to all of the Jewish holidays with eager anticipation and takes pride in discussing what those holidays mean to him and how he is preparing for those holidays.

Phil is very proud of his many achievements in the workplace. He was employed at Mr. Leonards for 11 years and was presented with an award for " Employee of the Year" in 1994 for his services. He worked at Allwood Products and Rainy Products for approximately one year. He is currently employed by Teknion Furniture in the mailroom where he has worked for six years.

Phil has been a member in good standing on several committees at Reena. He served as a member of the Continuous Quality Improvement Committee of the Reena Board for two terms; he has been a member on the Reena Board and recently became a member on Reena's Holocaust Education Committee. Phil says that he enjoys volunteering his time because this provides an opportunity for him to engage in discussions about what is important to him and also allows him to share his unique perspective.

Phil has a supportive family that he socializes with throughout the year and has a circle of friends that are very important to him. He enjoys stamp collecting and politics. Phil is never too shy to tell you that politics is by far his favourite hobby and enjoys political debates both Canadian and American. Phil uses every media tool available and enjoys engaging in discussions on a one to one basis while visiting his home.

"I like to volunteer because it is important to me", Phil says. "I like to think about others and not just about myself".

Phil lives, participates and enjoys life in his community. The Shem Tov Award is well deserved, Congratulations Phil!

*The UJA Federation Shem Tov Award is presented in recognition of exemplary volunteers with at least five years of voluntary activity at a leadership level. It is one of the most prestigious acknowledgements that our community can bestow.

**www.reena.org**

From left, Norrin Ripsman, Sally Zerker, Aurel Braun, Frederick Krantz (not shown Harold Waller) *[Reva Kaiser photo]*

# Conference examines threats to Israel's security

**Reva Kaiser**
Special to The CJN

The Canadian Institute for Jewish Research (CIJR) launched its Toronto chapter last month with a locally hosted national conference about Israel's security.

CIJR is an independent Israel- and Jewish-issues-centred think-tank focused on Middle East foreign policy and international relations.

The conference, titled "Israel's Security: Failed 'Arab Spring,' Iranian Bomb, U.S. Foreign Policy," focused on Russia's meddling in the Middle East and U.S. President Barack Obama's passivity, as well as the possibility of Iranian nuclear warfare and the failed Arab Springs uprisings.

CIJR founder Prof. Frederick Krantz, a professor of history at Concordia University, spoke about the failed Arab Springs. He emphasized the political weakening and economic decline of the countries that experienced these uprisings, factors that have contributed to prolonged political instability in those regions and a resulting decrease in conflict with Israel. With such internal unrest, "these entities are not a military threat to Israel," Krantz said.

But Israel is facing a perfect storm, said Aurel Braun, a professor of international relations and political science at the University of Toronto. While he focused on Russia's involvement in the Middle East, he summarized the threats contributing to Israel's political unease – a Russian policy that is mischief, an Iranian policy that is malice and an American foreign policy that is misunderstanding.

Braun reminded the audience that Russia, while not the superpower the Soviet Union once was, has the ambition to be one, so it intervenes politically where it doesn't have the capacity to do so.

In Russia's attempt to undermine the United States and enhance it own political power, it supports Middle East states, particularly Syria, one of the largest purchasers of Russian armaments, which then frequently find their way to Iran. "Russia is not an anti-Israeli state," said Braun, "but [President Vladimir] Putin is reckless with Israel's safety."

Harold Waller, a professor of political science at McGill University, examined U.S. foreign policy on Iran. Epitomized in Obama's approach of "leading from behind," the current U.S. foreign policy does not take a leadership role, said Waller, but prefers to work with other countries – a different approach from previous administrations.

Obama is desperate to avoid a military option, Waller said, which is increasing tensions between Israel and the United States. The United States continues to delay decision-making, but Israel has a more compelling need to decide sooner, rather than later.

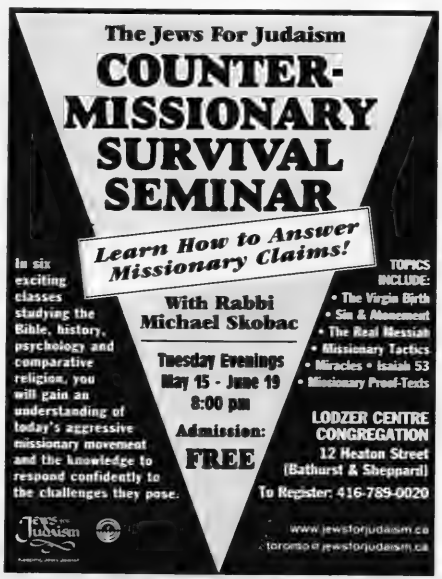
Once Iran has nuclear weapons, said Waller, Israel's strategic situation is profoundly altered. Without U.S. involvement, Israel will need to decide whether to act on its own, which could result in uncertain consequences, Waller said.

According to Norrin Ripsman, a professor of political science at Concordia University, Israeli intelligence believes that Iran is developing nuclear capabilities. However, he doesn't think that Israel currently has the capacity to strike preemptively. "Since a failed strike is worse than no strike at all, I can't imagine that Israeli leaders would be very sanguine about initiating such a risky strike," he said.

With Israel's insufficient capacity to strike Iran and Obama's clear disinterest in doing so, especially before the November U.S. elections, Ripsman said the ideal scenario would be for Israel to sabotage Iran's nuclear facilities through technology, as it did with the Stuxnet worm. "Israel might have to hope that it can deter a nuclear Iran," Ripsman said.

Sally Zerker, a professor of economics at York University, examined a political threat to Israel that is internal: the proliferation of Jewish anti-Zionists.

She said that anti-Zionists espouse the ideology that the State of Israel should not exist and actively promote measures that contribute to Israel's destabilization. A growing number of academics teaching at Israeli universities are Jewish anti-Zionists, she said, and because of their considerable influence on the developing political beliefs of their students, they are dangerous.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# New CFHU exec urges investment in 'human resources'

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Elan Divon, the newly appointed executive director of Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's (CFHU) Toronto chapter, said he hopes to communicate that an investment in Hebrew U is an investment in Israel's future.

"I'm trying to mobilize people's love and passion for Israel toward investing in a place that is, in many ways, a big part of Israel's success as a country," said Divon, who follows Jenifer Lev into his new role with CFHU, a non-profit organization that raises awareness and funds for the university.

Divon comes to CFHU from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, where he served as a senior campaign consultant.

The experience he gained elevating UJA's profile and raising funds translates well to his new position.

"What I'd like to do is try to make the connection in terms of how we brand the university," Divon said.

"What separates Israel from our neighbours is certainly not our natural resources, it's our human resources. And to invest in human resources, you have to invest in universities, and there's no better way to do that than to invest in Israel's number 1 academic institution."

Elan Divon

Hebrew U, founded in 1918 by some of the greatest Jewish minds of the 20th century, ranks as one of the world's leading research universities. Eight Nobel Prizes have been awarded to Hebrew U faculty.

Although Divon is not a Hebrew U grad himself – he obtained master's degrees from Brandeis University and Harvard University – he does have a very personal connection to the institution.

"I wouldn't be sitting here today, literally, if it wasn't for Hebrew University because my parents met there. They're both alumni," he said.

"They had met before then. My dad was injured in the army – he got a bullet in his leg – and my mother was a nurse, but they lost contact and they met again at a Hebrew University discotheque about a year later."

Divon added that his grandfather also taught in the faculty of medicine at the university.

As an accomplished scholar himself, Divon said he is proud of the importance Hebrew U places on higher learning, innovation and thinking outside the box.

He hopes he'll be successful in relating that message to Jewish young professionals in Toronto.

In fact, the first major event running under Divon's leadership, featuring entrepreneur Ben Casnocha, is geared specifically to Jews between the ages of 20 and 40.

The May 16 event, titled The Start-Up of You!, will be led by Casnocha, a technology entrepreneur who founded his first startup when he was just 14 years old and has been named by *Business Week* as "one of America's top young entrepreneurs."

His lecture will be based on a new book he co-authored with LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman, titled *The Start-Up of You: Adapt to the Future, Invest in Yourself, and Transform Your Career.*

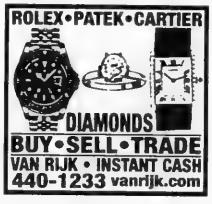
"He's a young guy, a young entrepreneur... I think he'll talk about how to get people to think like an entrepreneur," Divon said.

"This is really catered to young professionals. We want to do more events and programs that are going to bring value to young professionals and tie into what Hebrew University is about."

Divon said he also has ambitions to foster more ties between educational institutions and other Canadian agencies, such as the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation.

"There is a lot of great research and development and innovation that is happening in Canada, and we think that if we can bring together some of the great minds that we've got here in Toronto together with the great work going on at Hebrew University, we can really take things further and do even greater things."

For more information, visit www.cfhu.org.

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# Anne Frank's diary reaches 70th anniversary

**Riva Gold**
Special to The CJN

This summer marks 70 years since Anne Frank received a red-checkered notebook for her 13th birthday.

On April 22, experts spoke at York University about the diary that has become the most widely read piece of Holocaust literature in the world.

Professors Jeffrey Shandler and Edna Nahshon discussed the history and legacy of Anne Frank's journal as a cultural artifact in a lecture series sponsored by York's Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies.

Originally a collection of notebooks and loose pages, *The Diary of a Young Girl* has been printed in more than 60 languages and sold more than 31 million copies worldwide.

Shandler, a professor of Jewish studies at Rutgers University, described the evolving forms of the diary from its first printing in 1947 to its place in today's world.

"By publishing, reading, and using the diary to produce new works, many people believe they are honouring Anne's wish to go on living even after death," he said.

**Professors Edna Nahshon and Jeffrey Shandler discussed Frank's legacy.** *[Riva Gold photo]*

Shandler discussed the multiple ways people have tried to understand and connect with Frank, from the creation of the Anne Frank Museum in Amsterdam to the Anne Frank chestnut trees planted at Ground Zero.

Following Shandler's presentation, Nahshon, a professor of Hebrew at the Jewish Theological Seminary, shed light on the popular Broadway adaptation of Frank's story. *The Diary of Anne Frank* made its debut in 1955 after years of work and debate.

"The idea of a stage adaptation was initially considered inappropriate," Nahshon said, noting that Otto Frank, Anne's father, who'd survived the war, initially could not picture it when he was approached about the idea.

Nahshon said it was incredibly rare for diaries to be successfully adapted into plays, because of their lack of linear plot, their focus on the author's inner qualities, and their fragmentary, everyday nature.

"I think [the diary] succeeded because of the audience's awareness of the ending – the tension, irony of knowing what the characters did not. As [*New York Times* theatre critic] Ben Brantley described it, 'The effect is more like watching a vibrant, exquisite fawn seen through the lens of a hunter's rifle.'"

The producers faced an uphill battle, she said, trying to reconcile the quest for an authentic, genuine replica of life in the annex where Frank's family hid while establishing a non-sectarian message that would gain universal appeal.

The latter was particularly emphasized by Otto Frank, who was reportedly eager to emphasize the universality of his daughter's message and her keen interest in human rights.

Over the years, "each generation creates its own Anne and its own interpretation of the play," Nahshon said.

Shandler and Nahshon are both working on an upcoming collection called *Anne Frank Unbound: Media, Imagination, and Memory.*

# Supporting fertility preservation

Compiled by CJN Staff

Future, a non-profit organization that provides fertility preservation and information support services to cancer patients and oncology professionals, is holding its first Toronto fundraising event, An Evening of Hope, May 10 at Hart House.

The organization, which was founded four years ago, has been raising funds and awareness about young cancer survivors who are made infertile through chemotherapy, radiation or surgery.

Many, if not made aware of their options, find themselves unable to have children of their own.

Fertile Future's programs include Power of Hope, which helps subsidize the cost of fertility preservation for men and women before their treatments.

Andrea Unikowsky, co-chair of An Evening of Hope, said that "when 20- and 30-somethings are diagnosed with cancer, they are swept into a world that is often geared for patients double or triple their age and who have already had families.

"Oncologists may not always have the resources to address the needs of this group, and patients may not have the financial or emotional resources to do so," she said.

Fertile Future helps by supporting patients and oncology professionals and, in many cases, helps to offset the financial costs of fertility preservation.

Unikowsky said that Fertile Future has developed a network of medical professionals within hospitals and communities that discuss fertility-preservation options with patients.

For information or tickets, call 416-944-9957 or visit http://fertilefuture.ca.

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# Agriculture, Judaism blend at Kavanah Garden

**Meir Shenhav**
Special to The CJN

Risa Alyson Cooper, director of Shoresh Jewish Environmental Programs, welcomes me to the organization's Kavanah Garden, with her trademark smile.

The organic, educational garden near the Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan, Ont., was featured in the 2011-2012 *Slingshot: A Resource Guide to Jewish Innovation*, an annual compilation of the 50 most inspiring and innovative projects and programs in the North American Jewish community. It was the only Canadian project listed.

**CJN:** *Is it really possible to mention agriculture and Judaism in the same breath?*

**Cooper:** Absolutely. Judaism has an incredibly rich agricultural tradition. Our ancestors were farmers, and many of the Jewish holidays reflect this deep connection with the land and its seasons. For example, Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot are all harvest festivals celebrating the earth's abundance. They sustained our ancestors and their communities. As well, many of Judaism's social justice ethics are agriculturally rooted. The law of *pe'ah* [leaving the edges of your fields untouched so that people in need can come and harvest for themselves] is a form of tzedakah that directly relates to agriculture.

**CJN:** *Do you find that the Halachahs agricultural rules are relevant today?*

**Cooper:** The majority of the agricultural laws outlined in the Torah are only applicable to biblical Israel. But, I believe the lessons inherent in these laws are incredibly relevant to our contemporary North American community. These laws demonstrate a strong tradition of a Jewish food justice – of ensuring that everyone in our community has access to healthy and nourishing food. It is incredibly important that we remember that food justice is a Jewish ethic, and that we have a responsibility to ensure equal and fair access to food and life resources in our community.

Risa Alyson Cooper

We start by taking Jewish holidays, rituals and prayers and thinking of how we can use the garden as a setting to teach about these parts of our tradition in a way that is hands-on and meaningful.

**CJN:** *What kind of programs do you run?*

**Cooper:** Shoresh runs a number of different programs. At Kavanah Garden, we run field trips for schools, synagogues and camps. We also host a weekly free family drop-in program [beginning in June] and the Kavanah Kids summer program.

We host an organic gardening workshop for adults and offer volunteer opportunities for bar mitzvah students. As well, we host a weekly Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program in partnership with a young Jewish farmer, where members receive weekly shares of fresh, local, organic produce.

We also host gardening and environmental workshops across the GTA and seniors programs at Baycrest. We're currently developing community events for Shoresh's Bela Farm, our new 115-acre farm, just an hour outside of Toronto.

**CJN:** *Can you draw a profile of your volunteers? What are your other resources?*

**Cooper:** Our volunteers are a diverse group from high school students to seniors, master gardeners to folks who have just planted their first tomato. Our funding comes from grants, individual donors and fee-for-service programs such as our school field trips and CSA memberships.

**CJN:** *What do you grow and what do you do with the harvest?*

**Cooper:** We grow over 100 varieties of organic vegetables, herbs and native wildflowers. Each year, we harvest more than 500 pounds of fresh, organic produce, which is donated to Ve'ahavta. They prepare the vegetables into delicious and nourishing soups and stews for community members in need.

**CJN:** *What is your vision for the future?*

**Cooper:** This is our last year at our current location. Next year we will relocate the garden to a permanent location on UJA of Greater Toronto's Lebovic Campus. The UJA has supported us from the beginning by giving us access to land and helping us develop our young organization. Our vision is to grow, not only our harvest, but our community of friends who see the garden as an integral feature of Vaughan's Jewish landscape.

For more information on Shoresh programs, visit www.shoresh.ca.

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# Teen urges peers to volunteer

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Shane Feldman, a teen who is no stranger to the concept of tikkun olam, hopes the Count Me In Conference he founded will inspire his peers to "get off their butts" and give back.

It may be hard to believe that the 17-year-old Westmount Collegiate senior has experience in this area, but Feldman's May 1 event, held at the Living Arts Centre, was his second attempt at inspiring members of his generation to volunteer and promote positive change.

Last year, Feldman led a one-day event called the World Youth Conference that attracted some 400 Ontario students and teachers.

"Last year was a pilot event to test the water," Feldman said, adding that he decided to rebrand the initiative with a new name: Count Me In Conference (CMIC).

"We've grown from about 400 youths from certain areas in Ontario to over 1,000 from all over Ontario, and it's growing into a national event over the next few years, so we're looking at some exciting things ahead. The Ontario Ministry of Education supports our endeavours, so that's also really exciting for us."

Some of the speakers and performers at the four-hour event included *Shut Up and Dance* singer Victoria Duffield, *Life With Derek* actress Ashley Leggat, 11-year-old dancer and semifinalist on *Canada's Got Talent* Shale Wagman, as well as Ontario Education Minister Laurel Broten, and motivational speaker Andy Thibodeau.

"The other part of the event is an hour-long charity marketplace, which is essentially a trade show with nonprofits and NGOs and charities from all over the province with the aim of getting students to sign up and volunteer," Feldman said.

Shane Feldman

"A lot of times you'll get that motivational speech, and then you go on your way, but we actually hold their hand through the process and make sure there is that tangible way for them to take this inspiration to get involved and actually do it."

He said more than 30 charities and NGOs made up the marketplace, including the Jewish National Fund.

"Everything comes down to getting kids off their butts and involve them in whatever way they want to."

He added that this event is about getting your hands dirty, not donating money.

"We're trying to get away from the mentality of putting money in a jar, versus using your two hands and getting involved in the community," said Feldman, who volunteers with a number of NGOs, including Pencils of Promise and Invisible Children.

The event, run entirely by student volunteers and sponsored in part by TD Bank and Fabricland, has also partnered with WoW Living TV to air an hour-long webcast featuring highlights from the conference and backstage footage.

The webcast will go live on May 8 at 8 p.m. at www.cmiMovement.com.


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***יידישע שפריכווערטער***

**זעלטן איידל, אַלעמאָל שאַרף**

פֿיל פֿון אונדזערע לייענער בעטן אַז מיר זאָלן אָפּדרוקן מער יידישע שפּריכווערטער אין יידיש, אין ענגלישׁ אוּן אין יידיש-פֿאָנעטיק. חיינט האָבן מיר אויסגעקליבן אַ גרופּע וואָס אין זייער אינהאַלט זײַנען זײ גישט איידל. אייניקע פֿון אַיך וועלן אפֿשר האַלטן אַז זיי זײַנען ווולגאַר אָדער אומאיידל. צו דעם קען איך בלויז זאָגן אַז זיי שפּיגלען אָפּ דעם אמת וואָס ליגט אין די פּינצטערסטע ווינקלען פֿון יעדער יידנס זיין.

**קיין עין-הרע זאָל אים ניט אויסמיידן!**
Keyn eyn-hore zol im nit oysmayden
Let no evil eye avoid him

**אַלע ציין זאָלן דיר אַרויספֿאַלן, נאָר איינער זאָל דיר בלײַבן אויף צאָנווײַטיק.**
Ale tesyn zoln dir aroysfaln, nor eyner zol dir blayben af tsonveytik.
*May all your teeth fall out except one, and may that one give you a toothache.*

**אַ גרינג געשעפֿט זאָל ער האָבן מיט סחורה;**
**וואָס ער האָט זאָל מען בײַ אים ניט פֿרעגן,**
**אוּן וואָס מען פֿרעגט זאָל ער ניט האָבן.**
A groyse gesheft zol er hobn mit skhoyre;
Vos ert hot zol men bay im nit fregn,
Un vos men fregt zol er nit hobn.
*May he have a big store full of goods:*
*May people not ask for what he has,*
*And may he not have what they ask for.*

**גאָט זאָל אויף אים אָנשיקן פֿון די צען מכּות די בעסטע.**
got zol oyf m onshikn fun tsen makes di beste.
*God should visit upon him the best of the ten plagues.*

**מגולגל זאָל ער ווערן אין אַ הענגלײַכטער:**
**בײַטאָג זאָל ער הענגען אוּן בײַנאַכט זאָל ער ברענען.**
Megulgl zol er vern in a henglaykhter;
Bay tog zol er hengen un baynakht zol er brenen.
*He should turn into a chandelier, so he'll hang by day and burn by night.*

איר וועט קענען שפּאַן מער געלעכטער פֿון דעם קוואַל פֿון יידישע שפּריכווערטער דורך דער בליקפּאָסט
Yiddishwit.com

פֿון דער רעדאַקציע: אויב איר האָט געדאַנקען וועגן אותדערזעך וויקל לאָזט וויסן, דורך פּאָסט אדער בליקפּאָסט: cjninfo@gmail.com

**INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS:** From left, Judah, Sammy and Yonatan, Grade 8 students at Netivot HaTorah Day School, perform in the annual Israel play that is presented to students, alumni and parents as part of day-long Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations.

**CELEBRATING ISRAEL:** Dillon Brown and Gabriella Etienne, preschool students at Associated Hebrew Schools' Kamin Education Centre in Thornhill, celebrate Israel's 64th birthday.

**DEBATE CHAMPS:** Robbins Hebrew Academy hosted the second annual Jewish Schools Debate Tournament. Debating teams from four middle schools took part. The Robbins team, coached by Donnie Friedman, took both first and second place honours. First place went to Dana Davis and teammate Sam Brooks, second from left, while second place went to Julia Fine, second from right and teammate Jillian Weisleder, right.

# Mazel Tov

## מזל טוב

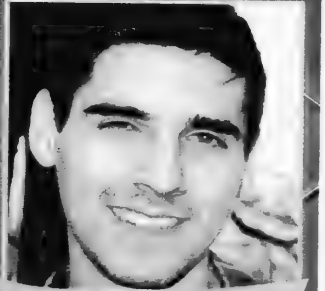
**Focsaneanu/Mail**

Dalia & Jason are thrilled to announce the arrival of their son, Ezra Cole, born on April 10, 2012 weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz. Ecstatic grandparents are Renee & Dinu and Helen & Henry. Joining in the excitement are Uncle Eli & Aunt Mandy, and Uncle David. Cousin Brody can't wait to play with Ezra.

Happy 107th birthday to Clare Berman on May 6, a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. With love, the Carrs, Goulds, Soils, Turks and Youngs.

A joyous simchah, the 60th anniversary of Paula & Jack Kadaner. All our love, Irwin, Debbie, Humphrey & Mandy, Bailey, Reesa & Duddy, Shawn, Robyn

Mazel tov on the engagement of Melanie, daughter of Arlene & Leonard Krochmalnek, to Michael, son of Henny & Herbie Greenspoon.



Happy 17th birthday Josh, April 23. Your laughter is infectious but you're Still not getting keys to the car. Love, Maureen & Jonathan

Email your digital photos to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click the "Family Moments"

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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

Social Networking @ The Canadian Jewish News
for the :-) generation

**Deadline reminder: May 7 is the deadline for the issue of May 17. May 14 is the deadline for the issue of May 24. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, May 3

**YIDDISH VINKL**

**Shirley Kumove** discusses her new publication, *Ordinary Jews*, noon at the Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $18 includes buffet lunch. RSVP to: yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca.

**LOVE IN TRANSLATION**

**Adrienne Gold** speaks about "The Torah's Teaching on the Male/Female Divide," to National Council of Jewish Women, 1:30 p.m, 4700 Bathurst St. RSVP 416-633-5100.

## Saturday, May 5

**CITY SHUL SAMPLE**

Experience the new City Shul's services, 9 a.m., Wolfond Centre, 36 Harbord St. RSVP 647-799-3557 or gottabe@cityshul.com.

**BINGO FUNDRAISER**

Camp Shomria-Hashomer Hatzair holds a bingo fundraiser, 6 p.m., 4700 Bathurst St. 416-736-1339 or e-mail to: mail@camp-shomria.ca.

## Sunday, May 6

**BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES**

Ballroom dance classes will be held at Beth Radom Synagogue, 18 Reiner Rd., tonight and June 24, 7:30 p.m. 416-636-3451.

**OUR SHTETL TRIP**

**Mel** and **Deana Fishman** discuss "Our Shtetl Trip to Poland," 7:30 p.m., Shaar Shalom Synagogue. 905-889-4975.

**FIXING HEALTH CARE**

**Dr. Brian Goldman** discusses "Fixing the Health Care System," 7 p.m., The Lodzer Synagogue, 12 Heaton St. 416-636-6665.

**ORAYNU OPEN HOUSE**

Oraynu Children's School holds an open house, 10:15 a.m., St. Andrew's Junior High School, 131 Fenn Ave. RSVP 416-385-3910 or roby@oraynu.org.

**AIDS IN AFRICA**

Temple Sinai reviews the book *28 Stories of AIDS in Africa*, 10 a.m., 210 Wilson Ave.

The synagogue is also touring Evergreen Brick Works on Sunday. Call 416-487-3281 or education@templesinai.net.

**SOCCERATHON**

Canadian Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro holds a soccerathon, 5-8 p.m. at Astra SportsPlex, 839 Rutherford Rd. Call 289-597-0500 or gilad.epstein@lorexcorp.com or cfobis@rogers.com.

**RUN WITH YACHAD**

Yachad Canada, an organization for Jewish youth and adults with special needs, invites everyone to join them in a 5-km. run/walk at Toronto Marathon. Call **Galya**, 416-638-6235.

**POMEGRANATE GUILD**

The Pomegranate Guild celebrates its 30th anniversary with an exhibit and sale at Club Beersheba-Na'amat's fundraiser in Richmond Hill. 416-489-3558.

**Continued on page 25**

THE GERALD SCHWARTZ / HEATHER REISMAN CENTRE FOR JEWISH LEARNING AT HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

**Blanche and Harry Posen Memorial Lecture**

*The Politics of Social Change in Israel*

**Professor Gabi Ben Dor**

Professor Gabi Ben Dor of Haifa University, Academic Adviser at Israel's National Defense College, whose mission is to develop excellence and professional skills on the strategic level for those who are designated to occupy senior positions in the IDF and the governmental establishment.

**Tuesday, May 8 and Wednesday, May 9 at 8:00 p.m.**

**May 8: The Struggle For Mastery In The Middle East**
**May 9: The Politics Of Social Change In Israel**

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Baycrest

*Do you or a loved one have a fear of falling?*

*Learn how to prevent a fall by registering for the Falls Prevention Program at Baycrest.*

This eight week program begins on Monday, May 14, and runs Monday and Wednesday mornings for older adults who live in the community, and who have had one or more falls, or have a fear of falling.

**Register today by calling 416-785-2488.**

For more information, visit us online at **www.baycrest.org/FallsPreventionProgram**

This program is covered by OHIP.

Continued from page 24

*THE CHOICE IS YOURS*

*The Choice Is Yours*, a documentary on the life of **Viktor Frankl**, will be shown at 10:45 a.m., Kehillat Shaarei Torah, 2640 Bayview Ave. RSVP 416-229-2600, ext. 3.

SECRETS OF THE SISTERHOOD

Join the Chabad Women of Markham for high tea, 3-5 p.m. Keynote speaker **Goldie Plotkin** and 3 rotating seminars. $45. RSVP 905-886-0420, ext. 221.

## Monday, May 7

VISION IMPAIRED

The Jewish Club for the Vision Impaired meets for an entertaining evening at the Prosserman JCC 7:30 p.m. Call **Bess**, 905-508-2892.

THE END OF LIBERALISM

**Cliff van der Linden** speaks on the topic "The Dynamics of Multiculturalism in Western Europe," to the Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, 7 p.m., 18 Wynford Dr., 416-385-3910.

SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Art historian **Francis Broun** discusses "The Impressionists: Daring to be Different," 2 p.m., Temple Emanu-El. To register, 416-449-3880.

THE EXODUS

**Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses "Exodus: The Ship That Launched a Nation," 7:30 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

## Tuesday, May 8

STUDYING ISAAC

Join Mekorot for "Sacrificing Isaac: The Akedah in the Medieval Imagination," with **Dianna Roberts Zauderer**, May 8-22, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. 416-877-2050 or mekorottorahstudy@gmail.com.

LUNCH AND LEARN

**Tarek Fatah**, author of *The Jew Is Not My Enemy*, is the guest speaker at Beth Tikvah's lunch and learn, 12:15 p.m. By reservation only: 416-221-3433, ext. 352 or helen@bethtikvahtoronto.org.

ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

**Rabbi Howard Markose**, **Dr. Gary Levy** and **Ronnie Gavsie** discuss organ and tissue donations, 8 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

DIABETES EDUCATION

**Dr. J. Silverberg** discusses "Diabetes: What You Need to Know," 8 p.m., Beth David Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Rd.

## Wednesday, May 9

CYBER SAFETY AND KIDS

Temple Kol Ami presents a workshop on "Cyber Safety and Your Child," 5:30 p.m., RSVP narnold@yorku.ca by May 7.

## Thursday, May 10

LAUGH WITH ELON GOLD

Join Temple Har Zion for "An Evening of Laughter with Elon Gold," 7:30 p.m., 7360 Bayview Ave. Tickets $72. Call 905-889-2252 or barbarabarnett@templeharzion.com.

MEET AND GREET

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism hosts a Meet and Greet, 7 p.m. at Pauper's Pub, 539 Bloor St. W. 416-854-0133 or dhandlar@yorku.ca.

## Other News

THEATRE TRIPS

Temple Sinai Seniors Club is seeing *Ragtime* on July 3. Deadline for reservations is May 9. 416-487-3281.

HONOUR YOUR MOTHER

This Mother's Day honour a special woman by donating to Act to End Violence Against Women (formerly Jewish Women International of Canada). For a $25 donation, a woman living in a shelter will receive flowers, and a card will be sent to the donor. Call 905-695-5372.

## JF&CS GROUPS

All programs require pre-registration and are open to all members of the community. To register, call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or www.jfandcs.com. All classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St., unless otherwise noted.

Life Skills for Today's Woman: A 6-session group for women wanting to make a change in their lives. Starts May 2, 7 p.m., Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

The Challenge of Anger for Women: A 6-session group to learn how to express anger in an assertive, non-aggressive way. Starts May 2, 7:30 p.m., 35 Madison Ave.

Living With Teens: A 6-session group for parenting your adolescent without losing your cool. Starts May 3, 7:30 p.m., Promenade Mall, Suite #313.

Effective Parenting: A 4-session group for parents of children aged 2-11. Starts May 3.

When you're About to Separate, What to Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents, May 10, 9:30 a.m.

Understanding ADHD at Home and School: A workshop for parents and professionals May 22, 7 p.m.

High-Conflict Divorce: A workshop for parents in a high-conflict situation. Not for individuals in an abusive situation. May 24, 6:30 p.m., Promenade Mall, Suite #313.

Let's Be Blunt: A forum on teen drug use, May 24, 7 p.m., William Lyon MacKenzie Collegiate, 20 Tillplain Rd.

BEREAVED PARENTS

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. On June 10, the group is attending a fundraising performance of *Lost in Yonkers*, St. Lawrence Theatre for the Arts. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF & CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Seniors Social Club** presents **Rudy and Ester**, May 6, 7 p.m., Earl Bales Community Centre. RSVP **Sandy**, 416-736-8073.

**Association of Jewish Seniors** meets May 17, Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 9:30 a.m. **Natalie Mehra**, director of the Ontario Health Coalition speaks. RSVP **Tammy**, 416-635-2900.

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. Dance with live music, May 27, 7 p.m. Casino Rama, May 16. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, duplicate bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Spousal Support Group.** A group for caregivers over 55 examines coping strategies and burnout. Starts May 15 at Bernard Betel Centre, call Circle of Care, 416-635-2860.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Beth Tzedec Haverim.** Tasting and learning in preparation for Shavuot, May 7, 1:30 p.m. 416-781-3514, ext. 232.

**Bernard Betel Centre** 416-225-2112. May 8, **Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses "Exodus: The Ship That Launched a Nation," 10 a.m. May 8, denture clinic, call ext. 126 for an appointment. May 10, pharmacist **James Buttoo** discusses immunization, 1:30 p.m.

**Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. Jewish genealogy, learn how to research your family history, May 3, 1:30 p.m.

The film *Tony Curtis: Driven to Stardom* will be shown, followed by refreshments and discussion, May 10, 12:15 p.m.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

Fit For Life is led by **Edna Levitt**, May 8, 7:30 p.m.

**Rabbi Jay Kelman** discusses business ethics, May 10, 1:30 p.m.

Girls Day In, featuring acupuncture, massage, nutrition advice is May 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The film *Munich* will be shown May 14, 12:45 p.m; Book review of *Great House*, May 15, 1:30 p.m.

**Iain Scott** teaches a course on Mozart's opera, starting May 23, 7 p.m. **Kevin Courrier** teaches a course on gangster films, starting May 23, 1 p.m.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

**Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner** discusses Jewish teachings from the Talmud on exotic subjects, Thursdays 8 p.m. starting May 3. Ext. 154.

Jewish and Muslim scholars discuss Eve, the first woman, May 6, 2 p.m. University of Toronto Multi-Faith Centre. www.multifaith.utoronto.ca.

Film critic **Adam Nayman** discusses the films of **Stanley Kubrick**, May 7, *Lolita/Dr. Strangelove* 7 p.m. Ext. 606.

**Dan Mendlesohn Aviv** launches his book *End of the Jews: Radical Breaks, Remakes and What Comes Next*, at a panel discussion on "The Next Jew: Where Do We Go From Here," May 10, 7 p.m.

Leil Tikkun Shavuot, all-night Torah study and more, May 26, 9 p.m.-6 a.m. Ext. 154.

Summer Institute for Creative Adults offers classes for adult singers, July 16-20. Ext. 250.

Adult daytime choir meets Tuesdays, 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

*Spark: Igniting with Photography*, a collection of portraits by youth in the Jane-Finch community is in the Al Green Gallery until May 29.

***SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 28***

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# McMaster JSA director retires after 14 years

Sheri Shefa
Staff Reporter

When Judy Schwartz walked into McMaster University's Jewish Students' Association (JSA) office to report for her first day of work as the new director in 1998, she was greeted by an empty desk and a rotary phone.

"I thought to myself, 'Now, what do I do?'" she recalled.

Schwartz spent the next 14 years building JSA's presence at McMaster, providing students with a safe place to hang out, fostering pride in their Jewish identities, and advocating on their behalf.

This past school year, which wound down last month, was Schwartz's last as JSA's director.

Schwartz, 65, decided to retire from a position she never saw as merely a job.

"I have learned more and accomplished more because of the amazing students that I worked with, met and enjoyed. My life has been enriched beyond belief. This to me is not a job. It's a vocation. I loved my job and I'm going to miss it, but my time has come."

Schwartz explained that she was offered the position in 1998 to replace the late Sheila Freedman, who was battling cancer.

As a Jewish community volunteer for many years, Schwartz was eager to take on a new challenge.

Judy Schwartz

"But I accepted the job not knowing anything about it. And because Sheila was so ill, I really had no way of talking to her," she said.

"In the beginning of my tenure, I had no idea what a computer looked like. I didn't know how to use one."

So she bought a computer and took a course to learn how to use one.

"Now I had a desk, a rotary phone and a computer," she said with a laugh.

Schwartz was initially hired to come in for just five hours, once a week, but quickly realized that wouldn't suffice, so she increased her hours to three times a week.

"Most of the students are living away from home. I would say without knowing for sure, that 95 to 99 per cent of our students [come from] outside of Hamilton. It really is not a commuter school... I knew that we needed something more on campus than just the five hours a week," she said.

"We wanted McMaster to have an amazing Jewish experience, and we wanted to provide all students with what they needed on our campus," Schwartz said.

When she first started at McMaster, Schwartz served her 80 or so members with social events and programming that promoted Jewish traditions.

"Then all of a sudden, the Second Intifadah happened [in 2000], and these new groups on campus were formulated, like Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights, and they were a major adversary."

She said the initifadah changed life on campus forever.

"The antisemitism that I could never imagine existing at this point happened at our campus."

On a number of occasions, swastikas were drawn on the JSA office door and a sign that welcomed students to the JSA was routinely taken or knocked down.

"I had hate mail sent and I actually had to get the hate crimes unit involved to track the hate mail... That's when I think the community started to realize... the importance of Jewish identity, the importance of Israel identity, pride in our faith and pride in our heritage [on campus]," Schwartz said.

"I also knew it was important for me to network, and so I got to work on campus learning who the chaplains were, who the human rights equity officer was, and so on," she added.

She said the focus of the JSA had to shift to accommodate the challenges faced by Jewish students.

"I learned at the time that when you stand up for Israel, you have to know who you are. We tried to bring to campus learning and pride in our Jewish roots."

She said things took a turn for the better later in 2000, when she learned about a new initiative that was sending young Jews on free trips to Israel.

"I get a phone call one day and someone is screaming in my ear, 'We're going to Israel! We're going to Israel!' I said, 'What are you talking about?' That was the first time I had ever heard the words Taglit Birthright," she said, adding that the program was "the best thing to happen for the Jewish people."

Today, Schwartz estimates that there are about 800 Jews at McMaster, and JSA membership has jumped from about 80 students in 1998 to about 375 members today.

Until the very end, Schwartz advocated on behalf of her students and maintained relationships with faculty and administrators on campus.

"I was very fortunate to be part of PACBIC, the president's advisory committee on building an inclusive community. I sat on the council, and I brought what's important to the Jewish students on campus to these meetings."

Adira Winegust, outgoing JSA vice-president, who has known Schwartz for four years, admired her for being such a strong advocate for Jewish students.

"She was often the one who would go to the administration with student concerns. This year, for example, there were scheduling problems with the mid-terms and the chagim," Winegust said.

"She was also very supportive of students' initiatives. This year I organized an all-women Megillah reading [on Purim] for the first time at Mac, and she was very supportive of that."

But Winegust, who is originally from Toronto, saw Schwartz as more than just a Jewish community professional. She was also a mother figure.

"When I was in second year, I contracted swine flu. I came into the JSA office early one morning saying, 'I'm not feeling well,' and Judy says to me, 'If you end up in the hospital, call me and I'll come.'"

Winegust said that by the time she got home, she had a 40-degree fever. Her roommate rushed her to the emergency room, but it would be nearly two hours before her parents would arrive in Hamilton from Toronto.

"I did end up calling Judy, and she ended up staying with me in the emergency room until my family came."

Winegust said most of all, she'll miss Schwartz's warmth and her ability to make anyone, Jewish or not, feel welcome in the JSA office.

"We're really going to miss Judy."

And Schwartz said she's really going to miss them.

"Working with students, seeing them grow, seeing them mature, become good citizens of the university – every day it was a joy to see that. I'm going to miss it."

# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

### Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Shiller, Polina | April 9/12 | Private |
| Meltz, Flora | April 11/12 | 6200 Bathurst St |
| Buim, Barbara | April 14/12 | 121 Brighton Ave |
| Lodish, Ida Shirley | April 13/12 | 41 Elsa Vineway |
| Krausmine, Harry | April 13/12 | 127 Searle Ave |
| Bacevich, Leonid | April 16/12 | 40 Waterhouse Way |
| Rybunsky, Igor | April 16/12 | 7811 Yonge St |
| Star, Rose | April 17/12 | 4300 Bathurst St |
| Benlolo, Simon | April 13/12 | 111 Mill Arbour Lane |
| Hecht, Albert | April 18/12 | Private |
| Stulberg, Lillian | April 18/12 | 15 Westgate Cres |
| Brot, Manfred Irving | April 18/12 | 5935 Bathurst St |
| Pila, Pola | April 20/12 | 199 Clanton Park Rd |
| Spring, Phyllis | April 20/12 | Private |
| Shepherd, Doris Eva | April 20/12 | |
| Steinhart, Gertrude Fanny | April 20/12 | 4300 Bathurst St |
| Himmel, Helen | April 21/12 | Private |
| Goldlist, Molly | April 22/12 | 3900 Yonge St |
| Robbins, Gloria | April 17/12 | Private |
| Voikhansky, Lev | April 9/12 | Private |
| Freedman, Janice | April 14/12 | 180 Glenmanor Way |

### BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Frank Altman | Apr 13/12 | 3181 Bayview Avenue |
| Ester Billet | Apr 13/12 | 5950 Bathurst Street |
| Joseph Lasry | Apr 12/12 | 3000 Bathurst Street |
| Yona Mueller | Apr 14/12 | 398 Eglinton Avenue |
| Martin Korda | Apr 14/12 | 314 Hillhurst Blvd. |
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# Sisters-in-law shake up salad dressing biz

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Sher Kopman always adored the green salads her sister-in-law Michelle Cass whipped up. "They were simple but incredibly delicious," she said.

Like everyone else who had ever tried Cass's salads, Kopman was impressed by their perfect balance of tantalizing tastes.

Cass's salads were perennially popular, largely because of her dressings. Concocted from scratch, they were a meld of olive oil, vinegar and maple syrup.

Michelle Cass

Sher Kopman

Cass had always stayed clear of commercial dressings, considering them unhealthy and less than tasty or nutritious because they contained fillers, preservatives and refined oil and sugar.

Although Cass was something of a magician in the kitchen, it never occurred to her that marketing her dressings might launch a business career.

It was left to Kopman to suggest that the dressings might appeal to the public. It was one of those eureka moments that can change lives.

"I imagined that a healthy version of a traditional salad dressing would sell," Kopman said.

Cass, who has a background in holistic nutrition, was initially not impressed. Boring, she thought. "But as the idea stewed in my mind, I got more excited," she recalled. "We both share a passion for healthy, great-tasting food."

Acting on this deceptively daring concept, they conducted intensive research and testing, during which they refined their product.

Cass and Kopman launched RawFoodz Inc. in October 2010, starting with a modest line of kosher-certified salad dressings, all of which are organic, vegan, and nut- and gluten-free.

The first four dressings, French Fusion, Glorious Greek, Purely Poppy and Sea-zar Serenity, were followed by Japanese and Italian dressings.

Some of the kosher salad dressings being made by Raw Foodz

Their newest one, Ranch Revival, is due to be unveiled soon. Another dressing, Pomegranate Passion, may hit shop shelves one day soon.

Containing such high-quality ingredients as antioxidants, vitamins, minerals and essential fatty acids, the dressings can be used not only in green salads but in pasta dishes as well.

RawFoodz dressings can be purchased in major supermarkets including some Loblaws and Sobeys stores, and in gourmet and health food stores in Ontario and Nova Scotia.

They can be ordered online, too.

In the near future, the dressings are expected to be distributed in western Canada and there are plans to distribute them in the United States.

Sales were slow at first. "It was very hard at the beginning," Kopman said.

"But we were always confident of success," Cass said, noting that their company is now profitable and on an upward climb.

Their products are made in a 2,700-square-foot facility in the north end of Toronto. Cass, 39, is in charge of blending and manufacturing, while Kopman, a 37-year-old graphic artist by profession, handles such tasks as labelling, packaging, administration and public relations.

They are assisted by one employee.

Now that their salad dressings have gained acceptance among consumers, Cass and Kopman are hard at work perfecting a line of dips and marinades.

"We want to give people healthy and convenient alternatives," Cass said.

Kopman sounded a similar theme: "Our intention is to make it convenient for everyone to enjoy healthy, delicious and nutrient-rich foods."

# *Kosher, eco-friendly not exclusive: panel*

**Jodie Shupac**
Special to The CJN

Rabbis, farmers, foodies, academics and activists – plus 110 attendees across the denominational spectrum – participated in the second annual food conference hosted by Shoresh Jewish Environmental Programs and University of Toronto's centre for Jewish studies in an afternoon of panel discussions.

From a lesson in backyard chicken farming to a "*benching* from the heart" workshop, the 11 talks were dynamic and diverse.

Aaron Gross, CEO of Farm Forward, an animal welfare non-profit group, and Jonathan Abrahams, executive chef and director of operations at The Healthy Butcher, which specializes in certified organic meats, looked at the question of reconciling kashrut with contemporary ethics related to animal slaughter.

Gross spoke of what he called "big kosher's complicity" with the injustices of factory farming, referring to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' (PETA) 2004 exposure of animal cruelty at AgriProcessors – the former Iowa-based, glatt kosher slaughterhouse giant.

Reports that about 20 per cent of cattle were conscious during tracheal and esophagus extraction did not stop the Orthodox Union from saying it was still kosher, Gross said.

To read complete story, go to cjnews.com

# Kosher curds come to food conference

**Jennifer M. MacLeod**
Special to the CJN

For most of us, the phrase "curds and whey" doesn't mean much, but for Ruth Klahsen of Monforte Dairy, curds and whey are a way (whey?) of life.

At the Shoresh Food Conference this winter, Klahsen joined Rabbi Aaron Levy and Andrea Most for a panel on "Kosher Curds," which looked at the ramifications of kosher cheesemaking.

Klahsen, of Mennonite origin and knowing little about kashrut, offered historical insights, while Rabbi Levy, a graduate of the Orthodox Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, presented halachic and traditional Jewish viewpoints. Most, associate professor of American literature and Jewish studies at the University of Toronto, moderated and fielded questions.

Cheese is made by coagulating the milk, then separating the solid proteins (curds) from the watery liquid in which they're usually suspended (whey).

The easiest way to make cheese, Klahsen said, is to leave the milk overnight. It will acidify itself naturally, curdling to produce soft, fresh cheeses like chèvre. But for a solid cheese that stays fresh all winter, you need a higher concentration of protein, which calls for a coagulant, usually rennet, an enzyme complex historically found in calf stomachs, although a vegetarian version is now available.

This is where where kashrut comes in, and Rabbi Levy explained the Halachah behind the derivation of rennet, presenting a series of sections from the Mishnah and *Shulchan Aruch* explaining permitted and forbidden sources of rennet.

To read complete story, go to cjnews.com

# High Court refuses to hear case involving neo-Nazi

Compiled by CJN Staff

**OTTAWA** — The Supreme Court of Canada has declined to hear a challenge to a contempt of court ruling brought by the head of Canada's National-Socialist Party.

The High Court gave no reasons for its decision, leaving intact a Federal Court of Appeal ruling that found Terry Tremaine in contempt of court.

Tremaine, a former math lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan, was ruled in contempt when he refused to comply with a ruling of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, which found he had promoted hate through Internet postings that attacked Jews, black and Aboriginals. The tribunal had ordered him to stop posting the comments and fined him $4,000.

Quasi-judicial bodies such as the Human Rights Tribunal can impose fines and make orders, but these are enforceable only when registered with the courts.

In November 2011, the Federal Court of Appeal ruled Tremaine in contempt. At that point, failure to comply could be enforced as contempt of court. The maximum penalty is five years in prison and a fine.

Tremaine posted on extremist forums under the name "mathdoktor99," and the National-Socialist website, which is decorated with a swastika and features a picture of Adolf Hitler, as well as crude antisemitic propaganda accusing Jews of running secret cabals aimed at world government.

Tremaine was first brought before the Human Rights Commission in April 2005 by Ottawa lawyer and former Commission employee Richard Warman.

The tribunal ruled in February 2007 that Tremaine had "engaged in a discriminatory practice on the ground of religion, national or ethnic origin, race and colour, in a matter related to the usage of a telecommunication undertaking."

## Former Nazi's past to be re-examined

**OTTAWA** — The federal government will re-examine the case of a Nazi collaborator living near Montreal, two senior cabinet ministers told a meeting with Holocaust survivors last week.

The survivors were brought to Ottawa by the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre to urge Justice Minister Rob Nicholson and Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney to take action against Vladimir Katriuk after new evidence surfaced implicating the 90-year-old Quebecer in a wartime massacre of villagers in Eastern Europe.

Watch for full story, coming to cjnews.com

# Pizza Bagel *explores mixed dating*

**Susan Minuk**
Special to The CJN

*Pizza Bagel* is a short comedic film that looks at mixed dating.

It's the story of a traditional Italian father who has the task of preparing a kosher dinner for his son Tommy's Jewish girlfriend, Rebecca.

"Our aim was to make the film centre around the cultural similarities and differences of the Italian and Jewish people, as opposed to the religious differences," said director Joe Mari, 28, who's also the co-writer for and founder of the production company Roulette Pictures.

"This approach allowed us to hone in on two of Italy and Israel's greatest passions – food and soccer."

Alona Metzer, the Jewish actor who plays Rebecca in *Pizza Bagel*, said that from the moment she met Mari, the similarities between the Jewish and Italian cultures, among them food and large families, seemed to be almost all they could talk about.

"I was happy that our conversations were used as the inspiration for this film, because I feel it sends out a great bottom line," she said.

"We're not as different as we may think if we look past the preconceptions and stereotypes and really get to know each other."

Mari's made his directorial debut in 2011 with the short *Stealin' Home*, which he intended to screen at the Grindhouse and B-Movie film festivals, but to his surprise, it ended up being accepted by the Cannes Film Festival. It was also shown at the Toronto Independent Film Festival, where it won the award for best sci-fi short.

**Italian and Jewish cultures collide in *Pizza Bagel*.**

Another surprise for Mari was that the storyline of *Stealin' Home* featured gangs versus aliens and two major movies came out that same year with similar premises – *Cowboys and Aliens* and *Attack the Block*.

"Knowing ideas similar to mine were worthy of millions of production dollars to studios around the world was a huge vote of confidence," Mari said.

Mari attended York University and completed an honours degree in criminology, all the while filling his electives with as many film courses as possible.

He got a job at one of Canada's largest film production and distribution house, where he met Bruce MacDonald and Paul Haggis, two filmmakers who inspired him.

Mari decided to start his own company and tell his own stories. "It wasn't easy, given the fact that I had no real prior experience in filmmaking. However, I didn't let this stop me," he said.

"I made self-education and networking my two main objectives over the first year. I read as many university film-course texts as I could get my hands on, and held countless interviews with cinematographers, writers, actors and animators."

Mari co-wrote *Pizza Bagel* with Michael Pillarella, who plays Tommy in the film and is an executive producer at Roulette Pictures. The two spent a fair bit of time together at Toronto's Columbus Centre, a community centre whose membership is primarily Italian and Jewish.

"We couldn't help but notice the interaction between the two faiths," Mari said.

*Pizza Bagel* also stars award-winning comedian, actor, TV host and writer Carla Collins, who worked with Mari on his previous film. "I admire his vision, enthusiasm and sense of humour and look forward to working with him again," she said. "I like to joke that I am the Uma Thurman to his Quentin Tarantino!"

Mari plans to develop *Pizza Bagel* into a full-length feature film. For more information, visit www.pizzabagelmovie.com.

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# *Wider Mideast focus puts Israel in perspective*

On the occasion of Israel's 64th anniversary, let's begin on an optimistic note: it's worth pointing out that, as a result of other factors, recent coverage of the region has generally shown less negativity toward Israel.

First, for more than a year, the media have been far less fixated on Israel than at any time in recent memory. No doubt, important developments in the broader region, from Libya to Yemen – foremost the "Arab Spring" and its fallout – have seized the media's attention. Indeed, this has been true to such a degree that many correspondents who are normally based in Israel have spent a large amount of time elsewhere, including Egypt, Turkey, Lebanon, and even Bahrain.

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

While very few journalists have been able to enter Syria to report on President Bashar Assad's ongoing violence against his own people, they have done so from neighbouring countries, including Israel. Russian, Chinese, and Iranian support for a regime widely condemned in the West for its atrocities (which are continuing, even under the UN "peace plan") has only added to the sustained media focus on Syria.

**Israelis in Jerusalem celebrate the country's 64th Independence Day** ***[Flash90 photo]***

Second, regional upheavals have raised all sorts of questions that have invited much speculation but no definite answers. For instance, will the Arab Spring lead to real democracy? Or will Islamists, who have dominated election results, especially in Egypt, establish yet another form of patriarchal authoritarian rule? Or, as some analysts have predicted, will the Muslim Brotherhood "moderate" toward pragmatism and show tolerance for women and religious minorities?

Third, the apparent failure of American-led NATO forces in Afghanistan to stabilize that country against the Taliban, who continue to create havoc from bases in Pakistan, has added another dimension to regional media coverage. When Pakistan's nuclear arms are taken into account, the high stakes of uncertainty in that turbulent theatre become impossible to ignore.

Fourth, there's Turkey's rise as a dominant economic, military, and diplomatic force. In particular, it should not be missed that Turkey has broken with its former ally Syria and now maintains, at best, a highly ambivalent relationship with Iran (whose regional influence is being challenged and diminished).

Fifth, Iran's continued defiance of the international community as it pursues an illicit nuclear program has dominated the media's radar. It's become clear to all in the region that Iran, having taken steps toward the development of a nuclear weapon, poses a threat not only to Israel, but also to various Arab states, foremost Saudi Arabia. The Saudis have been urging strong U.S. action against Iran and are (reportedly) quietly looking to Israel to also take a lead in this effort. There's no doubt, however, that the Saudis are playing an important behind-the-scenes role in what is developing into an unusual alliance.

The list could go on. The overall point of the issues mentioned above is that they have put an unprecedented burden on the media to cover and analyze. As many journalists and editors will tell you, this has in fact become an exhausting task, as ever-quickening developments sweep across the broader Arab and Muslim worlds. As a result, Israeli issues that, in the past would have seen critical focus have been largely passed over.

To be sure, there are still some who remain fixated upon the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as *the* cause célèbre, the crux of the region's problems, and Israel's sole responsibility to solve. But they're declining in number. There are also those who would depict Israel, stripped of all context, as the aggressor against Iran – but, again, they belong to a distinct minority.

Today, with the camera's lens opened onto the region as a whole, many journalists who comprehend the swirling forces of internal Muslim conflict (Islamists versus moderates, Sunni versus Shia, Hamas and Islamic Jihad versus nationalists, etc.) understand that the burden to resolve the Israel-Palestinian impasse cannot fall to Israel alone.

They also know that the rejectionism Israel has faced extends beyond the Palestinians, encompassing deeply held attitudes across the Middle East.

*Paul Michaels is director of research and media relations with the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

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# CFHU names scholarship for elder statesman

**Myron Love**
Prairies Correspondent

**WINNIPEG** — Yude Henteleff and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have enjoyed a fruitful relationship going back 40 years, and now the relationship is bearing fruit in a new way.

Yude Henteleff

On April 30, the Winnipeg chapter of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University (CFHU) held a reception at the Fort Garry Hotel in honour of the Winnipeg lawyer, human rights advocate and philanthropist. Henteleff was awarded the Bronfman Medal for Meritorious Service, with proceeds from the evening going toward the new Yude Henteleff Mishpatim Scholarship Fund.

"We wanted to honour Yude for all the work he has done for the Hebrew University locally, nationally and internationally," said CFHU president Faith Kaplan. "With Yude's background in law and in promoting education, we thought that the Mishpatim program was an obvious fit."

The Mishpatim program was started in 2011 by Bryan Schwartz, the Asper Professor of International Business and Trade Law at the University of Manitoba. Immediately after the Henteleff tribute evening, 22 U of M law students and two business students left for Jerusalem for a whirlwind trip consisting of lectures by some of Israel's most prominent legal scholars on promoting human rights and democracy, as well as field trips aimed at acquainting the students with the workings of the Israeli legal system.

"It's exciting to me to have Canadian law students learning about Israeli social conditions and human rights in Israel," Henteleff said.

The honoree – a co-founding partner of Buchwald Asper Henteleff along with the late community and CFHU leaders Israel Asper and Harold Buchwald – was introduced to the CFHU by the late Samuel Freedman, the first Jewish chief justice of Manitoba's highest court.

Over the years, Henteleff has served as chair of CFHU Winnipeg, as vice-president of its board of directors and as an associate governor of Hebrew U's board of governors.

He has also delivered lectures in Israel on human rights, most recently to Hebrew U's faculties of social work and education under the auspices of the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies.

He said the Mishpatim program is the latest in a number of joint ventures connecting Hebrew U with universities and government in Manitoba.

As examples, he pointed to joint initiatives in water, land use and aboriginal rights that have linked experts from Hebrew U with their counterparts in Manitoba and Canada.

He added that Israeli constitutional experts are holding ongoing meetings with their Canadian counterparts on the subject of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Liberties. (Israel does not have a constitution.)


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**CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S BIRTHDAY**

**Vancouver's celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, last week drew 1,500 to The Centre in Vancouver for Performing Arts, where Israeli singer Marina Maximilian Blumin entertained the crowd. The runner-up in Israel's *Kochav Nolad*, an Israeli reality TV show, Blumin is a Ukrainian-born artist who made aliyah as a child and has performed in festivals across Israel since the age of 10. Seen with Blumin are Sarah, left, and Amy Aginsky.**

# *Community professionals honoured*

**Myron Love**
Prairies Correspondent

**WINNIPEG** — Gerry Daien and Judah Smolack have been cantors in Winnipeg for more than 50 years.

Shlomo Benarroch and Sol Fink served together as the community's shochets for roughly 35 and 25 years respectively. Fink's wife, Rachel, and Gerry Cohen were principals in the Jewish school system in Winnipeg for 16 and 17 years respectively.

Izzy Peltz served for 17 years as the first executive director of the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, as well concurrently as executive director of the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council for 12 years.

Les Marks was the executive director of the YMHA Jewish Community Centre for 30 years.

These community professionals, who, with the exception of Daien and Smolack, are retired, will be honoured during an evening to be hosted by the Herzlia Adas Yeshurun Synagogue on May 17.

The supper – at the historic Fort Garry Hotel – is intended to kick off an ambitious fundraising drive for Winnipeg's largest Orthodox congregation, with the funds earmarked to pay outstanding debts as well as to cover the cost of refurbishing the nearly 60-year-old south Winnipeg shul building.

"This will be our first major fundraiser in a number of years," said Earl Hershfield, the congregation's president. "We were trying to think of what we could do. At the same time, we wanted to reach out to the larger community. There are a number of annual community awards that recognize volunteers but not so much that honour those individuals who have worked in leadership roles in the community for long periods of time."

Faith Kaplan, the shul's fundraising campaign co-ordinator, said that the honorees represent the community's collective past at the same time that the congregation – which is celebrating its 105th birthday this year – looks to the future.

As with all existing Winnipeg synagogues, the Adas Yeshurun Congregation started in the north end. In 1955, the Adas Yeshurun congregants merged their synagogue with Herzlia Academy, a Jewish school that had opened in south Winnipeg the year before. The renamed Herzlia Adas Yeshurun Synagogue became the first and, for many years, the only Othodox shul to relocate to south Winnipeg, where many north enders were beginning to move. Up until Chabad opened a storefront in south Winnipeg in the late 1990s – and subsequently its own building in the fall of 2010 – the Herzlia was the only Orthodox option in south Winnipeg.

Hershfield adds that the Herzlia is the only Orthodox congregation in Winnipeg, other than Chabad, with a full-time rabbi – Rabbi Ari Ellis.

Hershfield said that the congregation leadership hopes to raise $1.5 to $2 million.

While different options are being considered for the building, Kaplan said that the shul at the least has very old mechanical systems that need replacing.

"We also want to improve the acoustics and make the building more energy efficient and more accessible to the very young and older people with physical disabilities," she said.

The first order of business, though, is to pay off a mortgage incurred for an earlier refurbishment of the building in the early 1990s, Kaplan said. "We would like to pay down all of our debt so that we can address our future needs with a clear slate."

The Herzlia has a membership of 130 families, a regular Shabbat attendance of between 60 and 90 and a yom tov attendance of about 350.

"We have daily minyans and offer a variety of programs throughout the year for all ages," Hershfield said. "Our membership is continually to grow slowly. We have new members joining us from many different parts of the world.

"My family and I believe that Winnipeg needs a strong Orthodox shul, and we want the Herzlia to be that shul."

# *Exercise can help prevent dementia*

***Fitness Corner***

***Felyce Zomparelli***

Dementia is on the rise and will affect 1.1 million Canadians in the next 25 years.

Dementia is the loss of brain function. It affects memory, thinking, language judgment and behaviour. Although it's very common in seniors, dementia isn't a normal part of aging.

Recently the World Health Organization estimated that 35.6 million people are living with dementia today. With a new case being diagnosed every four seconds around the world, that number is expected to double by the year 2030.

A new study has found that keeping active may help protect the brain against dementia. Seniors who were most active were less likely to develop dementia compared to those seniors who were less active. Exercise has been found to significantly increase both mental activity and stability by boosting neuron function in the brain, while decreasing depression and behavioural problems.

Enhanced neuron function means better communication within the brain, causing improvement of symptoms such as confusion, memory loss and comprehension. Specific balance and flexibility training helps to improve mobility by increasing range of motion, which creates independence, which in turn increases quality of life. Improving standing and sitting balance reduces the risk of falls and fractures.

People who exercise regularly are known to have higher levels of cognitive function than sedentary people. Exercise programs for seniors should focus on building endurance, muscle strength, balance and flexibility. Regular physical activity helps to reduce the severity of the symptoms of dementia, even with the progression of the disease.

Aerobic exercise improves cardiovascular health throughout the body, including the brain. Just 30 minutes a day of moderate aerobic activity can improve cognitive function by decreasing disruption between the neurons.

Strength training helps combat the muscle loss associated with aging. By increasing muscle mass, daily tasks such as getting out of a chair or climbing a flight of stairs becomes easier, allowing for more independence.

When learning a new exercise program always check with your doctor and enlist the help of a professional such as a personal trainer or physiotherapist to prevent injury.

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# Parents lead in fundraising for research on IBD

**Susan Minuk**
Special to The CJN

The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada (CCFC), a leading funder of research into inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in the country, began with a group of parent volunteers.

Its latest fundraising event is planned for May 8.

"When my son David was about nine years old, he became extremely ill. He went from a strapping, oversized child to an emaciated, sickly boy, and nobody could tell us what was wrong with him. We thought he was going to die," recalled Marilyn Finkelstein, who, with her late husband, Albert, founded CCFC in 1974.

**Marilyn Finkelstein**

Some three years after David became ill, still without a diagnosis for his condition, Finkelstein heard of Crohn's disease, a term she had never before heard, she said in an interview in her home.

At the medical library at University of Toronto, she found a paragraph by Dr. John E. Lennard-Jones of England, describing the symptoms of Crohn's disease. The instant she read this, she knew: "That's what David's got."

It was 1973 and David was diagnosed shortly afterward.

IBD encompasses two similar yet distinct conditions, one called Crohn's disease, the other, ulcerative colitis. IBD is a chronic and debilitating disease affecting more than 200,000 Canadian men, women and children, according to CCFC. Just over half of have Crohn's disease and the rest have ulcerative colitis. Babies can be born with Crohn's disease, but anyone can present symptoms at any age.

Canada has one of the highest incidence and prevalence rates of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in the world, with one in every 160 Canadians having IBD.

Dr. Richard Hamilton, a gastroenterologist at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) was instrumental in getting his patients together with others across Canada in order to raise money for research.

"At that time, there was no Privacy Act, and Dr. Hamilton was able to provide me a list of his patients at SickKids Hospital. I sat down and wrote a letter with the understanding that I didn't know these families and had no idea how they would respond," Finkelstein said.

"Sixty-four parents showed up in the basement of our home. We saw we were not alone – we were going to make something happen!" Finkelstein remembered with pride.

At that initial meeting was Dr. Fred Saibil, a gastroenterologist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, who, Finkelstein said, has been an invaluable partner in the mission to find the cure for IBD.

"Dedicated, determined, brave, smart, persistent, resourceful – these are words that come to mind when I think of Marilyn," Saibil told *The CJN* in a telephone interview. "A mother with a sick child, and ultimately with more than one sick child [another son was later diagnosed with a different form of IBD], worked tirelessly to build this new organization and make it grow," he said.

"We received $5,000 from Sick Kids Hospital Foundation through Dr. Hamilton, which was our seed money, and $500 from one of the parents from the first meeting. This is how we began," Finkelstein said.

Education is CCFC's driving force. "We knew if we brought awareness to Canadians..., we could offer individuals and their families the opportunity to form unique networks with others sharing similar experiences.

"Albert and I would criss-cross the country providing educational seminars... and we opened chapters that still exist today," she said.

"In 1975 we raised $20,000 by holding draws, selling tickets, raffling a car for the purpose of research."

A medical advisory board was established with Saibil and Hamilton playing key roles as leaders.

CCFC's work led to the creation of a national charity that has raised more than $71 million for research, the best hope for finding a cure.

"The future is bright because research is very intensive in this field and the numbers of treatments and the kinds of treatments keep increasing and improving," Saibil said.

Mimi Greenspoon, chair of the All That Glitters Gala has been involved with the foundation for over 23 years and certainly understands the importance of research.

"We lost our son, Lee, to IBD in November 2010. Lee fought hard, since he was diagnosed with Crohn's disease when he was 16. He had multiple surgeries, was on every medical cocktail imaginable for years to ease the pain. Our Lee suffered for more than half his short life," Greenspoon said in a phone interview. "We are having this Gala for the families, all the families, so that in the future, our children and our children's children do not have to go through the pain and suffering that Lee and our family went through."

The All That Glitters Gala will be held May 8 at the Allstream Centre in Exhibition Place, from 6-11 p.m. For tickets and further information, visit www.ccfc.ca.

# *May is Melanoma Awareness Month*

Compiled by CJN Staff

To kick off Melanoma Awareness Month, the David Cornfield Melanoma Fund (DCMF) is hosting its annual fundraiser at the Liberty Grand in Toronto on May 7.

Fresh off an exciting year since the launch of the video *Dear 16-Year-Old Me*, which became a viral sensation, this event is a celebration of the video's success, with the goal of raising funds to continue the work DCMF does to generate melanoma awareness, as well as aid in funding research of this deadly disease

*Dear 16-Year-Old Me* was launched online on May 2, 2011, and within the first two weeks had been viewed on YouTube by more than one million people world-wide. Since its debut, it has been seen by over 5.5 million people, was the seventh most shared video in 2011 and was translated (due to overwhelming request) into five languages. The video has been viewed in some 150 countries around the world. The David Cornfield Melanoma Fund, established in 2007, aims to save lives by promoting awareness of this potentially deadly disease. It is the most common cancer in the 25-to-29 age group and second most common in the 15-to-29 age group, and its incidence is increasing at alarming rates while the incidence of other cancers is decreasing.

The May 7 celebration takes place in the Liberty Grand Artifacts Room at 25 British Columbia Rd. at Exhibition Place from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets are $125, with all proceeds going to DCMF. Guests are encouraged to wear black, the melanoma awareness colour. To see the video *Dear 16-Year-Old Me*, visit http://youtube.com/DCMFCanada. For tickets to the fundraiser, visit www.dcmf.ca or e-mail *contact@dcmf.com*.

# *In difficult economic times, how can we best help the needy?*

## Jobs are priority

Due to constraints in the allotted space, allow me simply to set the stage for some of the government action that will be required in the years ahead.

The latest recession and the resulting spike in unemployment temporarily hid from Canadians the true challenge of the future: we're going to have a labour shortage over the decades ahead. As the baby boomer generation begins to retire, our population as a whole will continue to age. Twenty years from now, the ratio of available workers to retirees will fall from 5 to 1 to 2 to 1. This represents a challenge, but also a tremendous opportunity, if we emerge from the resulting restructuring of the global economy on solid ground.

Zach Paikin

Although it may seem counter-intuitive, this labour shortage could be coupled with stable unemployment, due to the fact that many potential workers won't have skills that are in demand. Helping the most needy gain independence (e.g., a job) must be a government priority. I'd urge Canada's different levels of government to pursue three policies.

First, create incentives for universities to direct more funds toward departments that are of greater use to Canada's economy. Second, increase accessibility to post-secondary education while noting that the principal barriers to university education are largely social and not fiscal.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, remove barriers to labour and capital mobility within and between provinces – this is both a social and fiscal issue.

During the last recession, we had to bail out the auto industry largely because its employees weren't capable of working in different jobs. We won't be able to afford that again, due to skyrocketing costs of government services – especially health care – as a result of the upcoming demographic shift discussed above and the need to direct funds toward combating and preparing for environmental and geopolitical change.

*Zach Paikin is a Liberal columnist and political commentator and contributes research on international affairs to several Washington-based think-tanks and institutes.*

## Maintain programs

During difficult economic times, we have no choice but to maintain, and even expand, our programs to assist the needy and most vulnerable people in our community.

We cannot use the excuse that the economy is experiencing a downturn or difficult times, because it is during these times that the needs of this group in our community become even greater.

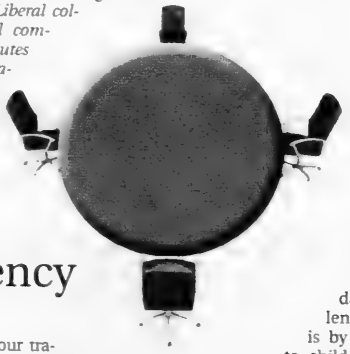
Lou Greenbaum

Every so often, a community, like any enterprise, must look inward to audit its communal organizations and agencies to look for ways to enhance efficiencies and streamline operations, in order to find the financial means to maintain, support and expand priority programs – be it for seniors living below the poverty line (including Holocaust survivors among us), new immigrants, children and young adults with special needs, expanded education subsidies and many other worthy and necessary endeavours.

Toronto's Jewish community has a well-deserved reputation for being a compassionate and caring community, and it has been, and continues to be a model community for fundraising.

We must ensure that our vulnerable and needy are able to live Jewishly, and with dignity.

*Lou Greenbaum is a principal with the Vogue Development Group and serves on a number of community boards and organizations.*



**An Occasional Feature**

## Champion caring

As a mandated children's aid society, Jewish Family & Child (JF&CS) is very much aware of the dramatic risks associated with today's economic challenges. Our community is by no means immune to child abuse and neglect, violence against women and significant mental health problems. We recognize that economic hardship is predictive of and related to a host of difficulties. Indeed, acute financial stress often represents a tipping point, sending individuals and families into crisis. Sadly, tough economic times also predict funding constraints, as government and other funders tighten their own budgets. It is thus imperative that we skilfully apply limited resources to solving problems effectively.

Richard Cummings

How do we respond to individuals and families in need with compassion, concern and competence? JF&CS' work with needy individuals and families allows us to intervene in this complex and often tragic cycle of risk. UJA Federation of Greater Toronto generously provides direct financial assistance funding through which JF&CS is able to address and reduce the impact of poverty on individuals and families. What makes JF&CS unique is that we wrap a comprehensive array of counselling, mental health, employment and advocacy services around clients who receive monthly or emergency financial assistance. And we ensure that our decision-making and practices are informed by the best available scientific evidence.

Let us be mindful of key imperatives that serve us well in tough times and increase the resilience of our community. First, as a community we must invest in services that are effective and provide a strong safety net. Second, individuals and families suffering the impact of poverty must be treated with dignity. Third, those of us who are able to respond generously to these challenges must do so.

More than ever, we must champion a caring and connected community.

*Richard Cummings is executive director of Jewish Family & Child.*

## Freedom from dependency

Jewish tradition calls on all Jews to help those in need, a requirement that is even more pressing in difficult economic periods.

The goal, however, is not only to help people get through their immediate difficulties, but to do so in a way that helps them eventually acquire self-sufficiency. In this way, the dignity of the receiver is preserved. Hence, as has often been noted, our word for charity, tzedakah, is best translated as righteousness, which is an essential condition of a decent common life together. Giving to others should not entail humiliating the receiver, but raising him up and providing a way to help him participate in the life of society, as the medieval Jewish thinker Maimonides taught in his eight levels of charity.

Kenneth Hart Green

Much has changed in our modern era of big public and private agencies, which often perform these tasks for us. And yet our tradition says we are not allowed to leave it for "them," for someone else, to handle it. Jews, whether in the most generous or the most destitute societies, have always maintained their own ways of helping those in need, both through individual efforts and volunteer organizations. Perhaps sharing one's time and expertise, or even one's business acumen, in helping others find work may be just as important as monetary donations.

The Jewish way, as Maimonides insisted, is to do what has to be done to alleviate human suffering. But even as the immediate need must be filled, it must also be done so as to help the person who receives it to achieve self-sufficiency and freedom from economic dependency.

*Kenneth Hart Green teaches in the department for the study of religion at the University of Toronto.*

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# Diskin harms his own cause

**Ari Shavit**
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Last Friday, former Shin Bet chief Yuval Diskin committed three grave acts: he knowingly hampered Israel's Iran strategy; he made a simplistic, incomplete and misleading statement about the nuclear threat, and he violated the norms in any western democracy on the loyalty of senior civil servants.

Speaking about Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Ehud Barak, Diskin said they've been acting out of "messianistic" impulses and have been misleading the public about the Iranian challenge, and that he has no faith in their ability to launch a war on Iran.

Certain army and police commanders think they know more than democratically elected leaders, so they don't hesitate to lay political bombshells at the leaders' doors. They're not afraid to carry out targeted media attacks. Even though our security technocrats' political acumen isn't always the sharpest, they act as if they've been entrusted by Divine Providence to save the country from its elected government.

Diskin is an Israeli who has earned his keep. He was an outstanding head of the Shin Bet security service who worked day and night in defence of the country and its people. But Diskin is also an aggressive man who acted brutally when he detained national security adviser Uzi Arad and when he pursued *Ha'aretz* journalist Uri Blau. This time, however, the aggressiveness of our former No. 1 secret police officer was particularly foolish – it harmed the cause he was seeking to advance.

In his speech in Kfar Sava on Friday, Diskin tried to empty the ammunition from the Israeli gun threatening Iran with a military strike. But it's the presence of that loaded gun that has made the international community impose a diplomatic and economic siege on Iran. So by trying to neutralize the military-option gun, Diskin actually increased the risk that the gun will be fired in the near future. Rather than making the prospect of an Israeli assault on Iran's Natanz nuclear facility more remote, he did the opposite.

Diskin, however, did stress a key issue in his speech: the alleged messianism of the key government decision-makers.

Yet Netanyahu and Barak are not messianic, despite what Diskin said.

Quite the contrary. The two men are, however, dogmatically focused on a military solution to the Iranian nuclear challenge. They minimize the risks inherent in carrying out such an operation, and they haven't properly considered alternative solutions.

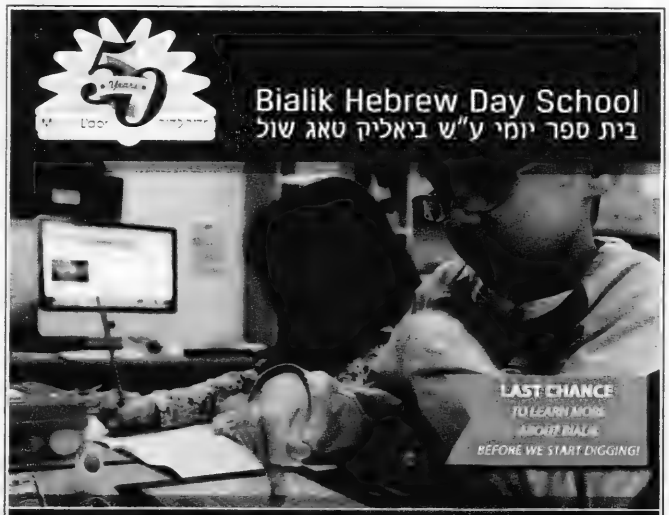
They give the impression they're locked in on a single course of action, which they're promoting while excluding all others. Such dogmatism should be a matter of debate and criticism. Yes, the critical question raised by Diskin should be addressed, but using a different approach. Netanyahu and Barak must prove they're not being short-sighted on the Iran issue and that they're thoroughly considering all the options.

Netanyahu and Barak are paying the price for their own past mistakes. Anyone who really understood the challenge posed by Iran would have taken three key steps over the past three years. He would have set up a national unity government, he would have launched a diplomatic initiative to give Israel diplomatic legitimacy abroad and national cohesion at home, and he would have prepared the home front and public opinion for the historic moment of truth.

Netanyahu and Barak did none of this. They are approaching this fateful junction as Israel is confused, fragmented and isolated. They are approaching the summer of a lifetime with a yawning gap between their conception of reality and the conception held by the international community, the Israeli military establishment and the Israeli public.

That's why people like Diskin are speaking out.

Watch for our
No Place Like Home
Feature
in next week's edition



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# Benzion Netanyahu dies at 102

JTA

**JERUSALEM** — Benzion Netanyahu, a noted Jewish historian and Zionist thinker, and father of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has died.

Netanyahu died early Monday morning at his home in Jerusalem. He was 102. Benjamin Netanyahu visited his father for the last time on Sunday evening, a statement issued Monday from the Prime Minister's Office said.

Netanyahu was born Benzion Mileikowsky in Warsaw in 1910, and immigrated to Mandatory Palestine in 1920. He studied at the David Yellin Teachers' College and later at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His research focused on the history of the medieval Spanish Jewish community and the history of Zionism. Among his books are a biography of Don Isaac Abravanel, a history of the Spanish Marranos, and his major work, *The Origins of the Inquisition in Fifteenth Century Spain*.

He also authored *The Founding Fathers of Zionism*, about the lives of the founders of political Zionism – Leon Pinsker, Theodor Herzl, Max Nordau, Israel Zangwill and Ze'ev Jabotinsky. Netanyahu was the editor-in-chief of the *Hebrew Encyclopedia* for over a decade beginning in the 1950s. He served as professor of Jewish studies at various universities in the United States and concluded his academic career as professor emeritus at Cornell University.

From his time as a student in Jerusalem, he was involved in public Zionist activities. He was a supporter of Ze'ev Jabotinsky and edited a newspaper that also featured Prof. Joseph Klausner and poet Uri Tzvi Greenberg on its staff.

In 1939, Netanyahu travelled to London and persuaded Jabotinsky to relocate to the United States and from there, to mobilize support for the Jewish state. Jabotinsky died shortly after their arrival in the United States, and Netanyahu continued to raise support for the Jewish state throughout the war and afterward.

In this context, he met with many U.S. Jewish leaders of the period, as well as with senators, congressmen, authors, poets and leaders. Upon the establishment of the State of Israel, he returned from the United States and moved with his young family to Jerusalem's Talpiot neighbourhood.

Many people believe that Benzion Netanyahu will also be remembered for his influence on the worldview of his son, Benjamin. The prime minister frequently mentions his father in speeches, speaking of what he has learned from his father.

The prime minister has recounted that the greatest trauma in his father's life was the death of the Benjamin's older brother, Yoni, during the 1976 Entebbe operation in Uganda. Netanyahu has spoken of how he travelled to deliver the news of his brother's death after he received the news from his brother Ido, when he and his parents were living in the United States.

"It was the longest, most difficult journey of my life," Netanyahu said.

**Benzion Netanyahu, left, and his son Benjamin attend a memorial service for Yonatan Netanyahu, the eldest Netanyahu son who was killed at the Entebbe rescue operation in Uganda in 1976.** ***[Israel Sun photo]***

Speaking about that eight-hour journey from Boston to Cornell University, where his father taught, Netanyahu said, "After that difficult journey, I reached the path leading to the house, and I saw my father walking in the living room. He looked out the window, our gazes met and a look of surprise was on his face. When I entered the house, he asked: 'Bibi, what are you doing here?' A second later he understood and cried out in pain. His cry was followed by that of my mother – I will not forget those cries."

Netanyahu has said the most important lesson he learned from his father is that "whoever doesn't know his past, can't understand his present, and therefore can't plan for his future. He predicted the attacks on the Twin Towers back in the early '90s. He also predicted the threat of tyrannical Islamist regimes attempting to attain nuclear weapons," Netanyahu said.

The elder Netanyahu always denied he had any influence on his son's decisions.

Benzion Netanyahu was married to his wife, Tzila, for over 50 years. She died in 2000. He was predeceased by son Yonatan, who was killed at Entebbe, and is survived by sons Benjamin and Ido, a doctor, author and playwright.

*–With files from* Ha'aretz

CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET

*Congregation Dorshei Emet extends its deepest condolences to Sheba Goldstein and family on the loss of their beloved husband, father and grandfather*

Herbert Goldstein z"l
Past-President

*May you be consoled among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.*

*Sara Saber-Freedman* President *Rabbi Ron Aigen*

# *Toronto woman implicated in Holocaust fraud case*

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

A Toronto woman has been charged in New York with making false compensation claims on behalf of Holocaust victims.

Luba Kramrish was named in U.S. court documents as part of a much broader conspiracy to defraud the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, an organization established to distribute funds provided by the government of Germany for eligible Holocaust victims.

Nine individuals have pleaded guilty to participating in the scheme and another 10 have been indicted, the court documents, which date to September 2011, state.

Following a pretrial hearing in New York Federal Court last week, a trial was set for Jan. 14, 2013.

According to information provided by FBI investigator Carrie Fisher and alleged in the documents, Kramrish conspired with employees of the Claims Conference to submit false applications for compensation. Once approved, the Claims Conference would allocate pension funds to the claimants. Kramrish would be paid out of the funds, and Claims Conference employees would take a cut as well.

The Claims Conference administers several compensation funds for victims of the Nazis, including a "Hardship Fund" and an "Article 2 Fund."

The Hardship Fund makes a lump sum payment of about $3,500 to those made refugees by the Nazis. The Article 2 Fund makes pension-like monthly payments of around $400 to people who lived under Nazi occupation, in hiding, in ghettoes, in forced labour camps or in concentration camps. Only those earning less than $16,000 a year are eligible.

According to Fisher, the conspirators "used and submitted falsified identification documents, with false dates and places of birth… In addition, documents were fraudulently altered to make it appear that the applicant's persecution history was verified by outside sources."

Some conspiracy participants were "recruiters" who "collected identification documents of people primarily in the Russian Jewish community so that the identification document would be used in support of a fraudulent application to the Article 2 Fund."

According to the court documents, Kramrish's involvement in the plot began when she filled out an application for her mother. Although her mother's persecution history could not be verified, a Claims employee falsified information so that it was ultimately approved. Afterward, "Kramrish began providing documents for other individuals looking to receive payment from the Article 2 Fund." A co-operative witness "estimates that Kramrish provided documents for approximately 20-25 different cases. [The co-operative witness] helped falsify these applications so that they would be approved."

In one case cited in the court documents, Kramrish charged an applicant more than $5,000 for filling out the paperwork for the claim.

Adeena Lungen, a Winnipeg social worker who assists Holocaust survivors with applications to the Claims Conference (and the writer's sister), said the onus placed on applicants seeking compensation from the Claims Conference has gotten "very heavy" in recent years.

"People used to write their narrative and there was checking, but it would seem people were approved more easily," she said.

"I can tell that over the last four years, the burden of proving it has gotten harder." That can be difficult for events that took place 70 years ago, she added.

In New York, the investigation began after the head of the Claims Conference became suspicious of the organization's employees and brought his concerns to the FBI.

According to the FBI, as of October 2011, "these defendants had a hand in fabricating, filing or processing nearly 5,000 fraudulent claims on behalf of non-qualifying applicants. Claims Conference funds have been drained of $57 million U.S. meant for Holocaust victims, and a large portion of the diverted money went into the pockets of corrupt insiders. These were people hired to give, who conspired to take."

Prosecutors allege a group of employees at the Claims Conference led by Semen Domnitser, the director of the Hardship and Article 2 funds, conspired to defraud Germany of the funds. Domnitser was fired from the organization shortly after the fraud was discovered. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

*With files from JTA*

# Israeli High Court affirms non-haredi conversions

Yair Ettinger
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**JERUSALEM** — Israel's High Court of Justice affirmed the validity of thousands of conversions by Rabbi Haim Druckman, the former director of the State Conversions Authority, that were called into question by the Rabbinical Court of Appeals in 2008, but the High Court refused to discuss the rabbinical courts' authority to annul conversions in general.

"The Rabbinical Court of Appeals rode roughshod over basic procedural rules and the principles of natural justice," former Supreme Court president Dorit Beinisch wrote. "It demonstrated contempt for the special conversion courts, and above all, it hurt and did a shocking injustice to the petitioners and their children."

The petition was filed by two Israeli women whose conversions were retroactively overturned by the rabbinical courts in 2007 and 2008, 15 years after the conversions had been recognized by the state. As a result, they and their children were retroactively declared non-Jewish.

In both cases, the rabbinical courts annulled the conversions while discussing the women's divorce proceedings, and their decisions were later upheld by the Rabbinical Court of Appeals. But the rabbinical court's ruling went farther than the immediate cases at hand.

A panel headed by Rabbi Avraham Sherman said that thousands of other conversions authorized by the special conversion courts then headed by Rabbi Haim Druckman should also be overturned.

While Rabbi Sherman's statement was not legally binding, it caused many converts to worry that their conversions, too, would be retroactively annulled. This prompted the High Court justices to level harsh criticism at the rabbinical courts' conduct.

"You read it and don't believe it," wrote Justice Miriam Naor in her concurring opinion.

The women and various organizations that joined their petition had asked the High Court to rule not only on their particular cases – which had already been resolved, since their Jewishness had since been affirmed by the Tel Aviv Rabbinical Court during a new hearing on their original cases – but on the rabbinical courts' authority to overturn conversions in general.

Rabbi Seth Farber

The justices declined to do this, however. Justice Elyakim Rubinstein, writing for the court, said the justices preferred not to intervene in this issue right now "out of hope that the buds of systemic change that have sprouted since the petition was filed [in 2008] will develop and bear fruit."

He was referring to a directive issued by the attorney general in 2010 that was drafted with Sephardi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar, the president of the Rabbinical Court of Appeals. That directive stated that if a conversion's validity is challenged during a rabbinical court hearing, the case must be transferred to the president of the rabbinical court in question.

In addition, the attorney general must be informed and will become a party to any case that involves a minor – meaning any case involving a woman with children, since annulling her conversion would automatically make the children non-Jewish – or anyone else deemed legally incompetent. This will make it harder for rabbinical courts to overturn conversions without a fight.

But the High Court did overturn Rabbi Sherman's 2008 ruling denouncing all conversions by the special conversion courts, as well as the initial ruling by the Ashdod Rabbinical Court that Rabbi Sherman's decision had upheld. This was a vindication not only for the affected converts, but for Rabbi Druckman, whose good week continued yesterday when he received the Israel Prize for lifetime achievement.

While Rabbi Sherman's ruling was ostensibly based on Jewish law, it was also part of a broader power struggle between the haredi (non-Zionist) community, represented by Rabbi Sherman and the religious Zionist community, represented by Rabbi Druckman.

The government originally set up the special courts headed by Rabbi Druckman to circumvent the rabbinical courts' monopoly on conversions, because the haredi-controlled rabbinical courts had adopted stringent requirements that were seen as deterring potential converts.

Rabbi Seth Farber, chairperson of Itim, an advocacy organization that provides free consulting and information on issues related to the Jewish life cycle, including the conversion process, released a statement in response to the High Court's decision last week.

"We are happy to see that the High Court of Justice has upheld our claim, and hope that this ruling will serve as a cry of support for those in the middle of the conversion process, as well as anyone considering it. Let us hope that this ruling will put an end to the phenomenon of unrecognized conversions, and do away with the continuing sorrow converts are forced to endure," Rabbi Farber said.

# Mere 'ink on paper'

**Continued from page 1**

Moussa, who served for 10 years as Egypt's foreign minister under former president Hosni Mubarak (and left his post over disagreements with Mubarak), differentiates between the Camp David Accords, which include the Palestinian articles, and the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, signed in 1979.

The Egyptian public does not necessarily make the same distinction, however. The Camp David Accords are seen as one whole, and all public discussions of them are seen as a test of the foreign policy that is expected of Egypt's presidential candidates, and mainly the code according to which U.S. policy toward each candidate will be decided.

In a visit to the west of Egypt two weeks ago, Moussa described the Accords as "ink on paper whose period of authority is over," without differentiating between the articles that deal with the Palestinians and those that deal with peace with Israel. Although Moussa is leaning on the support of some of the secular parties and activist groups that were the backbone of the January revolution, Islamist leaders are actually the ones talking about their commitment to the Camp David Accords.

The head of Salafi Al-Nour party, Imad Al-Din Abd Al-Ghafour, for example, said last December that his movement is not opposed to the Camp David Accords and that it is ready to negotiate with Israel. Representatives of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, including Khairat Al-Shater, who, until recently, was their candidate for president, also emphasized their commitment to the Camp David Accords, and have passed on this sentiment to the U.S. administration.

***Population grows 1.8%***

Israel's population has surpassed 7.8 million, a growth of 1.8 per cent or an additional 137,000 new citizens since last year, according to the country's Central Bureau of Statistics. Israel's Jewish population comprises some 75.3 per cent of the total population or 5,931,000 people, while the Arab population, 1,623,000, is 20.6 per cent of the total. Other groups, (327,000 people) comprise 4.1 per cent.

***Iran wants nukes: Barak***

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said the chances Iran will give in to pressure to stop its suspected nuclear program are low and the dangers of a nuclear Iran outweigh the dangers of action to stop it. Barak said a nuclear Iran would launch a regional nuclear arms race and embolden Iranian proxies. Barak said confronting Iran militarily would pose dangers and the chances of success aren't "marvelous," but a nuclear Iran poses even greater dangers.

***Iran's path unclear: IDF chief***

Iran hasn't decided whether to manufacture a nuclear bomb, the head of Israel's military said. Tehran "is going step by step to the place where it will be able to decide whether to manufacture a nuclear bomb," Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Benny Gantz said last week. "We're in a period when something must happen: either Iran takes its nuclear program to a civilian footing only or the world, perhaps we too, will have to do something," he said.

***Druze envoy named***

A Druze professor was appointed Israel's chief diplomat in New Zealand. Naim Araidi, who teaches Hebrew literature at Haifa University and Bar-Ilan University, was named to the post by Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman. A native of Kfar Marrar in the Galilee, Araidi won the Prime Minister's Award for Hebrew Literature in 2008. He received his doctorate in Hebrew literature from Bar-Ilan. His poems have been published in more than a dozen languages. Some 7,000 Jews live in New Zealand, mainly in Auckland and Wellington. Araidi is Israel's third Druze ambassador.

*Files from JTA*

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# Institute encourages high-tech innovations

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

It's pretty clear that Leonid Bakman is a big-picture sort of guy.

A successful entrepreneur, he's got a history of developing "seed-stage" high-tech companies in Israel, but in recent years, he's shifted from the micro world of commercial ventures to the macro world of turning Israel into a world leader in science, technology and industry.

Bakman is the founder and executive director of the Israel Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Institute (ISTIPI), a non-governmental organization that is attempting to foster innovative thinking, new business models and collaborative efforts that bring together academia, government and business.

Or, as ISTIPI states in its promotional material, the goal is to position "Israel as a global innovation centre."

Although Israel is known as "startup nation," more has to be done to ensure the country can play with the big boys, develop its human capital and create wealth that benefits a greater percentage of the Israeli population, he said.

If Israel is to be known for its advances in science, technology and innovation, "it should be developed properly," he added.

Bakman, who serves as a consultant in science, technology and innovation strategic development and policy design to the National Economic Council of the Prime Minister's Office, was in Toronto last week to solicit support from Canadian businessmen. Accompanied by Allan Reitzes, a former head of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, he met potential supporters and partners, with the pitch of participating in ISTIPI's innovative projects.

He also had meetings with the policy adviser to Ontario's Minister of Economic Development and Innovation, with Anne Golden, president and CEO of the Conference Board of Canada, and with academics.

Bakman explained his strategic outlook during a visit to *The CJN*. Israel has some successes in high-tech industries, but it cannot rest on its laurels. Someone, such as ISTIPI, must take the initiative and create an environment in which the private sector and government co-operate in developing new areas of growth in high tech that create innovative products and allow more Israelis to share in wealth creation.

Take agriculture, he suggested. There has been a revolution in production in recent years, and Israel has had its share of innovations, but what is absent is a "platform" to bring together stakeholders "under a unifying vision to promote this ecosystem." That could mean bringing together people to take advantage in seed technology, land use, water use, the employment of fertilizers, computer technology and other innovations in ways that currently may not be contemplated.

Another area with the potential for great advances is health. Diagnostics and health management, "all is data driven," Bakman said.

A way has to be developed that will bring together disparate areas like genome analysis and personal health records so more effective treatments can be developed, he said.

ISTIPI's goal is to "develop a platform that brings interests together," he said.

ISTIPI has already helped launch a pilot project looking at innovations in health care and is co-operating with the government of Israel to set up a similar pilot program in the area of agro-tech.

Reitzes, a consultant to a number of large Jewish organizations, believes Diaspora participation in ISTIPI's programs "is good for Israel, the Jewish community and the world."

**Leonid Bakman**

The Israeli economy benefits from innovation, and people around the world are better off if food or health management is more accessible, he said.

"We need to tell positive stories about Israel," Reitzes said, "what it's able to do and how it benefits people all over the world."

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# El Al mulls splitting into two airlines

**Zohar Blumenkrantz**
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TEL AVIV — EL Al Israel Airlines is considering splitting into two companies as part of a new strategic plan.

One of the two companies would specialize in premium long-haul flights to destinations such as the United States and the Far East, while the second would compete against low-cost airlines on European routes.

The two firms would share the same management.

Israel and the European Union (EU) recently signed an open skies agreement that will see El Al face increased competition. Efficiency measures would help the airline meet the expected pressures.

The long-haul company would use El Al's new wide-body planes, including Boeing 777s. The planes would be upgraded with fully reclining seats, and ticket prices would be set accordingly.

The second company would use El Al's smaller planes, including Boeing 737s. This would help it compete against low-cost airlines, which are expected to increase Israeli operations once the open skies treaty takes effect.

"The company is working to develop a strategic plan involving its future structure," El Al said.

The company lost $49 million (US), last year, and management is in talks with workers over cost-saving measures. El Al is asking workers to accept fewer free flights and to pay for meals based on their salary levels. It also wants to put up flight crews in hotels outside city centres.

In addition, the company's chair, chief executive and board members have accepted 20 per cent salary cuts, while managers have seen their salaries cut by 7 per cent to 10 per cent.

# Legendary Canadian music figure looks back

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Before his retirement, Bernie Finkelstein was a legendary figure in the Canadian music industry, a man whose contributions are still keenly felt in Canada.

Now 67, Finkelstein was a record-label owner, manager and promoter of Canadian talent. He established True North Records, managed the careers of Bruce Cockburn, Murray McLauchlan and Dan Hill, among others, and co-founded MuchFact, a fund that was instrumental in launching the likes of Sarah McLachlan, Celine Dion, Great Big Sea and Arcade Fire.

Five years ago, after about 40 decades in this frenetic and challenging business, he decided to retire, feeling burned out.

"I'd been thinking of retiring for a couple of years," he said. "I wasn't enjoying it enough. The business was changing rapidly, and I didn't want to relearn it."

"There was no way I could hit the ball hard enough," added Finkelstein, an ardent baseball fan. "I didn't want to hang on. I saw my due date. I found a good buyer for my business."

Pausing in self-reflection, he murmured, "I never wake up in the morning and say, 'I wish I hadn't retired.'"

Retirement gave Finkelstein – a member of the Order of Canada since 2007 – an opportunity to write his memoirs, *True North: A Life Inside the Music Business* (McClelland & Stewart), which was officially launched last month in Toronto.

A high school dropout, he wrote the book himself, not having farmed it out to a ghost writer. Snapped up by one of Canada's oldest publishing houses, it was fleshed out by an editor. "But I'm the author and take full responsibility for it," he noted.

Finkelstein completed much of *True North* in the old country home in Ontario's Prince Edward County he shares with his wife, Elizabeth Blomme, a former publicist and the mother of his two grown boys, Noah and Edan, both of whom have followed in their father's footsteps.

**Bernie Finkelstein**

Although he's officially retired, he's still gainfully employed. "Right now, I've got more on my plate than I can handle," he said. "There are always things going on."

He no longer maintains an office at True North, one of Canada's oldest independent labels, but he's still its honorary chair.

Since bursting on to the scene in 1969, True North has released more than 500 recordings, 37 of which were gold and platinum releases and 40 of which won Juno Awards. Clearly, True North has played an important role. As he put it, "Our songs are woven into the cultural fabric of Canadian culture."

By now, McLauchlan's *Down by the Henry Moore*, Cockburn's *Wondering Where the Lions Are* and Hill's *Sometimes When We Touch* are beloved made-in-Canada standards.

Finkelstein continues to manage Cockburn's career. "Bruce keeps me busy, but it's not like it was when I was juggling a thousand balls in the air."

One of the founders of the Canadian Independent Music Association, he was born in the old Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto on Aug. 12, 1944, the only son of Harold and Eve Finkelstein, who were respectively from Ottawa and Winnipeg.

Harold, a non-commissioned officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force until his retirement in 1969, was posted at bases across Canada and in Britain, forcing Finkelstein to attend 13 different schools. Before a heart ailment forced his father to take early retirement, he lived in northern Toronto, where he attended Downsview Collegiate.

Describing himself as "an air-force brat," he had a happy childhood. But since the Finkelsteins were usually the only Jewish family where they were stationed, Finkelstein was sometimes called upon to physically defend himself.

"There were times when I had to fight, but I don't remember whether the fights were over my surname or my Jewish background. In places where names like Smith and McCleod were common, some people thought I had a funny name. I don't recall being called a 'dirty Jew,' but it may have happened."

Drawn to music at a tender age, Finkelstein could not get enough of it. "My parents had a record player, and I played music, everything from Elvis and Little Richard to Frank Sinatra and Judy Garland. The big event of my day was turning on Dick Clark's *American Bandstand* after getting home from school."

Much to his parents' disappointment, he left home at 17, drawn to the bohemian ambience of Toronto's Yorkville district. And though he did not have a master plan, he gradually drifted into the business that would soon define him.

When he was 24, he landed on the cover of *Saturday Night* magazine in recognition of his association with two bands, The Paupers and Kensington Market.

As time went on, he discovered Cockburn, hooked up with partner Bernie Fiedler for almost a decade, managed groups like Rough Trade and Blackie and the Rodeo Kings and created the Finkelstein Management Company.

In 1969, he founded True North, whose mandate was to promote Canadians. Its first release was by an unknown, Cockburn.

Finkelstein co-founded MuchFact, originally known as VideoFact, in 1984. Dedicated to assisting talented but struggling Canadian recording artists, it was backed by MuchMusic.

MuchFact, having distributed more than $60 million in grants since its inception, has been a force for good. "We were extremely important in the development of the Canadian music business," said Finkelstein, who left the organization in 2011 after a 26-year run.

By his reckoning, MuchFact was a factor in encouraging the federal government to introduce Canadian content rules in broadcasting. "We lobbied for it," he said. "It was a very controversial topic in its day. Canadian broadcasters opposed it. I supported it and thought it was a great thing."

As he looks back, Finkelstein recalls a number of key moments: The Paupers opening for Jefferson Airplane in the mid-1960s and setting off a chain reaction that changed his life; recruiting Hill to True North; steering McLauchlan to a gold single in 1972, and basking in the glory of Cockburn's 1979 hit, *Wandering Where the Lions Are*.

Yet there is a dark side to the business he so loves.

"It's not for the faint of heart," he observed. "You shouldn't go into it to make a lot of money, though you can. It's a very, very tough and difficult business, full of traps. You may as well take your money to a Las Vegas casino. It moves very fast and doesn't always breed loyalty. There are safer things to do, but I fell into it."

Finkelstein, however, did not fall through the cracks. "I did very, very well," he acknowledged. "When I sold my company, I deposited a seven-figure check in my bank account. I'm satisfied with the results."

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
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# *Searing eyewitness account of Nazi crimes is reprinted*

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Jan Karski, a member of the Polish resistance movement during World War II, will best be remembered for having written a searing expose of Nazi crimes in German-occupied Poland.

Published in the United States in 1944, when the Jewish community in Poland had already been virtually decimated in such death camps as Auschwitz and Treblinka, *Courier from Poland: The Story of a Secret State* was a bestseller, with 400,000 copies having been sold.

Penguin Classics has reprinted this important book under a new title, *Story of a Secret State: My Report to the World*. A raw, blistering account of a nation under brutal occupation and unimaginable duress, Karski's book was a bombshell, alerting Americans to the Holocaust.

At the behest of the Polish government-in-exile in London, Karski, a former diplomat born in Lodz in 1914, twice visited the Warsaw Ghetto and had himself smuggled into Izbica Lubelska, an annex of the Belzec concentration camp. These visits shocked him to the core of his soul and turned him an invaluable witness to unprecedented crimes against humanity.

On trips to Britain and the United States, where he met U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, among others, Karski relayed this chilling information to the Allies.

After the war, Karski settled in the United States, became a naturalized citizen and began a 40-year career as a professor at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

The French filmmaker Claude Lanzmann plucked him out of obscurity in 1985 by including him in his epic documentary, *Shoah*.

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, recognized him as a Righteous Gentile in 1982. Twelve years later, Israel conferred honorary citizenship on Karski, who died in 2000. After the fall of communism in Poland in 1989, his role was officially acknowledged.

Karski, whose real name was Jan Kozielewski, was called up by the Polish armed forces upon the outbreak of war in 1939. With Poland having been partitioned by Germany and the Soviet Union after their joint invasions, Karski joined what would be the Polish Home Army. Highly intelligent and possessing a photographic memory, he repeatedly crossed enemy lines as a courier. On one such mission, he was caught by the Gestapo and tortured.

Jan Karski in 1943

*Story of a Secret State* is, in essence, a cri de coeur.

"The world I lived in was falling apart around me," he writes of the period following Poland's catastrophic defeat. "I felt like a shipwrecked man in the ocean..." After visiting Poland's capital, he observes: "Warsaw was a shocking ruin of its former self."

Although he remains convinced that Poland will be liberated from the Nazi yoke, he is gloomy: "Everywhere about me I saw chaos, ruins, despair and indescribable poverty. German arrogance and German terror affected everyone..."

Karski's Gestapo interrogator is a brute. As he informs Karski, "I assure you, after a few of our caresses, you will regard death as a luxury."

A Gestapo agent who vainly tries to turn him into a collaborator says, "We do not want to harm anyone. With the exception of the Jews, of course. They will be exterminated. This is the Fuhrer's will."

Disgusted by Nazi massacres of civilians, he notes, "This incredible baseness on the part of Germany will never be forgotten or forgiven."

Expressing defiance, Karski says, "We fought back by every conceivable means in a naked struggle to survive against an enemy determined to destroy us."

In 1942, when Polish Jews are being murdered ruthlessly in town after town, he meets two Jewish leaders in a Warsaw suburb. They are Leon Feiner of the Bund and a Zionist representative whose identity is still unknown.

Their revelations shake him: "Never in the history of mankind... did anything occur to compare what was inflicted on the Jewish population of Poland."

And in great pain, he adds, "The first thing that became clear to me as I sat there talking to them... was the complete hopelessness of their predicament. For them, for the suffering of Polish Jews, this was the end if the world."

Two days later, accompanied by the Bund leader and another Jewish guide and wearing an old, shabby suit and a cap pulled down over his eyes, Karski ventured into the ghetto.

His observations are stinging: "Everywhere there was hunger, misery, the atrocious stench of decomposing bodies, the pitiful moans of dying children, the desperate cries and gasps of a people struggling for life against impossible odds."

In horror, he watches two boys, dressed in the uniform of the Hitlerjugend, shooting a man for the sport of it.

Returning to the ghetto to memorize his visual impressions, Karski subsequently reports his experiences to British and U.S. government officials and Jewish leaders. In London, he meets Szmul Zygelbojm, a Bund leader who, in utter despair, committed suicide.

"Of all the deaths that have taken place in this war," he writes with passion, "surely Zygelbojm's is one of the most frightening, the sharpest revelation of the extent to which the world has become cold and unfriendly, nations and individuals separated by immense gulfs of indifference, selfishness and convenience."

Karski's clandestine inspection of Izbica Lubelska – a way station to Belzec – is horrifying, or, as he puts it, "a ghastly ordeal."

His guide there, a Ukrainian guard whom he mistook for an Estonian, told him of his interest in saving Jewish inmates. Karski asked him, "Are there many more good men like you there who are willing to save the Jews?" The guard replied, "Save them? Say, who wants to save them?" The guard looked at Karski in bewilderment, as if he was a fool. "But if they pay, that's a different story. We can all use some money."

Walking through the desolate camp, Karski is appalled by the sight of its imprisoned Jewish inhabitants, who were rounded up in the Warsaw Ghetto. "The Jewish mass vibrated, trembled and moved to and fro as if united in a single, insane, rhythmic trance... They had become... completely dehumanized... The chaos, the squalor, the hideousness ... was ... indescribable."

He is particularly repelled by the guards' practice of squeezing more than 120 Jews into freight cars that can normally accommodate 40 soldiers and eight horses and of lining the cars with quicklime that burn them to death before too long.

After exiting the camp, he is seized by a violent fit of nausea and vomits for the next two days.

In the final pages of this strong and affecting book, Karski describes his meetings with Allied and Jewish leaders and leaves a reader with the indelible impression that he was a man of resolve, courage and vision.

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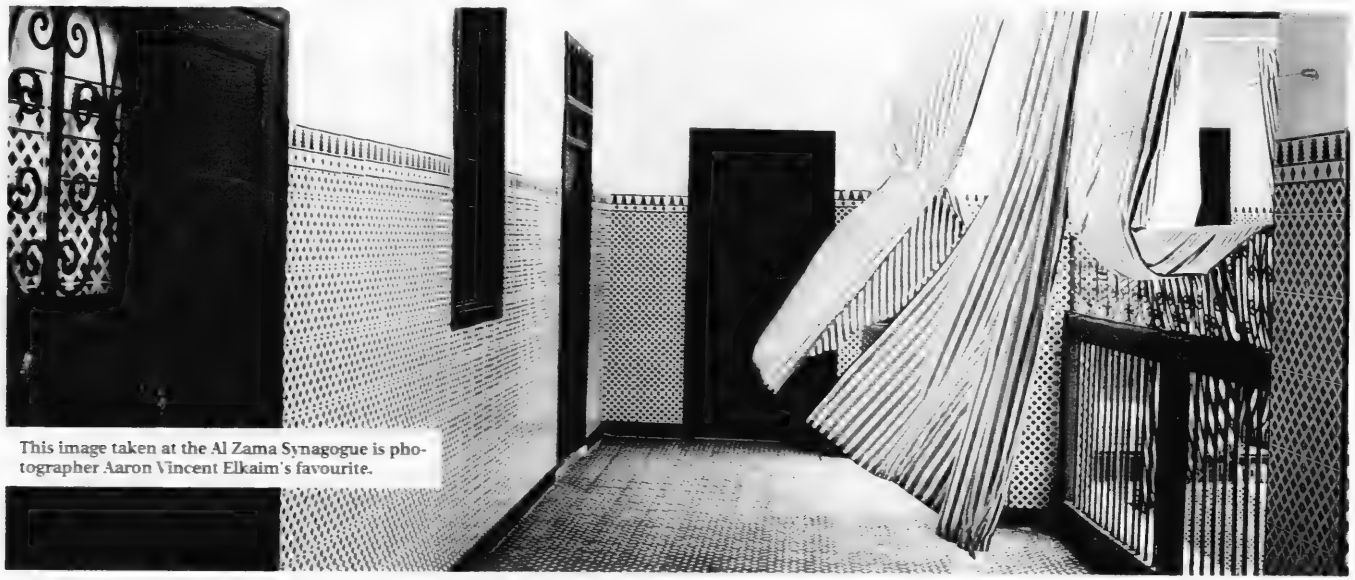
# Photo exhibit is a journey into Jewish Morocco



This image taken at the Al Zama Synagogue is photographer Aaron Vincent Elkaim's favourite.

Cara Edell
Special to The CJN

Aaron Vincent Elkaim's upcoming photographic exhibit documents the history of Jewish Morocco.

His work will be displayed at the CONTACT Photography Festival for the month of May at the Pikto Gallery in the Distillery District in Toronto.

"The title, *A Co-Existence Lost in the Wake of Zionism*, refers to how Jews and Muslims lived alongside each other in relative peace in Morocco since, really, the beginning of Islam," Elkaim said. "Although an Islamic country, the Jewish People were truly incorporated into the Moroccan identity and structure of the country."

Although Elkaim said he doesn't deny certain dark periods in the history, "on the whole, Jews were considered true Moroccans. They were part of the country's identity, and the country was part of theirs. This is still evident in the nostalgia that exists in those who have left Morocco."

Elkaim's photographic project is "a journey into the remnants of a culture" that captures "an epoch of Judaism existing in peace with Islam." Reviving memories of "a past forgotten in the wake of Zionism," Elkaim said he aims to tell a story at odds with current perceptions of Jews and Arabs.

The Jewish People arrived in the land now known as Morocco more than 2,000 years ago. Protected since the seventh century by the Islamic principle of tolerance, they thrived, holding high positions in trade and government. The Star of David, which appeared on the currency and national flag, was a symbol all Moroccans shared.

During the Holocaust, when asked for a list of Jews, King Mohammed V declared, "We have no Jews in Morocco, only Moroccan citizens." In 1940, Morocco had 300,000 Jews, the largest population in the Arab world. Following World War II, Israel's expansion marked the beginning of an exodus. Today, less than 5,000 Jews remain, Elkaim said.

"The underlying message is simply that coexistence did exist and it worked. I think this is something that is forgotten in today's political climate, where walls are being built to keep people apart. I feel these walls are blocking the view of what once was and what could be again. I'm simply trying to find hope and truth in history, trying to keep that alive."

Elkaim said his inspiration for his exhibit stems from his family's history. "My father was born in the Mellah of Marrakech. He and most of my family immigrated to Canada in the 1960s. They were always very nostalgic of Morocco and kept the culture alive."

He said the culture was always exotic, yet "normal" for him growing up. "I took it for granted. As I got older though, I began to realize that the culture could not last in the same way as the generations move forward. The Jewish traditions may stay strong, but the cultural tie to Morocco would fade."

Before becoming a photographer, Elkaim studied cultural anthropology and film in university. He found photography as a passion after completing his degree, but it took a while for him to pursue it as a career.

"For me the idea of exploring the world and its stories and cultures was captivating. When I began to realize that photography offered the ability to keep exploring and learning, I knew I had found something great, but more importantly, it also offered me direction and purpose for these desires. My explorations were no longer just for me – I now had the ability to communicate the things I was discovering. I could tell stories that I believe are important."

Elkaim said he loves being part of life. "The work I do is a reflection of real life, realities that aren't my own, but that I am privileged to experience and capture. It is the people and their stories and watching them unfold around me that truly captivate me. It's less about a beautiful image than capturing what I am experiencing and conveying a feeling about it."

This year marks the third time that Elkaim is showing his work at CONTACT. He is a founding member of the Boreal Collective, a group of Canadian documentary photographers who had a group show at last year's festival.

His work from Morocco has also been shown internationally at the Reportage Festival in Australia, the New York Photo Festival, the Recconures des Arles festival in France and Fotographia Festival in Rome.

Elkaim said he hopes people will react positively to his images of Morocco. "I simply aim to shine a light on a history that might have been overlooked in the current framework surrounding both Judaism and Islam. I feel we often see things in black and white, but this story offers us shades of grey, and I believe that truth and hope usually resides somewhere in the middle."

His favourite image from the collection is of the wind blowing through the curtains of the Al Zama Synagogue in Marrakech. "Everything is blue and so peaceful. You can just feel the presence of a sacred history being preserved within the space."

To see more of Elkaim's photography, visit www.avephoto.ca.

# *Wistful documentary launches 20th TJFF*

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival is celebrating its 20th anniversary this month with an impressive lineup of movies – features, shorts and documentaries – from 15 countries.

A sampler:

Thierry Binisti's *A Bottle in the Gaza Sea* delves into the Arab-Israeli conflict by means of an unusual and intriguing e-mail exchange.

Tal Levine, an idealistic 17-year-old Israeli, stuffs a high-minded message of peace into a bottle in the wake of a suicide bombing in Jerusalem. Her brother, Eytan, a soldier, throws it into the Mediterranean Sea while on patrol near the Gaza Strip.

Naim, a Palestinian Arab in his 20s, retrieves the bottle and sends Tal a note, launching a correspondence. In response, she writes, "Who I am and who you are is what matters." Naim – a deliveryman who delivers T-shirts to the Israeli border – expresses a desire for a "normal life." Tal, a student, says both sides are to blame for the violence.

This wistful, workmanlike documentary, set on the eve of the 2008-09 war in Gaza, unfolds against the backdrop of Israeli retaliatory air strikes in Gaza. Amid the turmoil, Naim is roughed up by Palestinian police, who suspect him of being an Israeli collaborator, while Tal loses her virginity. The war tests Tal's long-distance relationship with Naim, making viewers wonder whether friendship under such circumstances is possible.

• • •

Ilan Ziv's *Exile: A Myth Unearthed* boldly challenges a religious belief and a historical fact – namely that Jews were driven out of their historical homeland after the sacking of Jerusalem and the fall of Masada.

Ziv claims that compelling archeological evidence – an excavation in the ancient Jewish town of Sepphoris – supports the supposition that the Romans permitted Jews to live in the Galilee after the expulsion of Jews from Jerusalem and Masada. He takes his thesis one step further by speculating that some of the Jews who converted to Islam after the Muslim conquest may be the distant ancestors of the Palestinian Arabs.

Ziv also brings the Bar Kochba revolt and the chronicler Josephus Flavius into the picture and interviews historians and archeologists who subscribe to his theories.

• • •

Ronit Kertsner's *Torn* focuses on Romuald Jakub Weksler-Waszkinel, a Lublin-based Polish priest who was born Jewish and now wrestles with his dual identity. His longtime friend, the chief rabbi of Poland, Michael Schudrich, describes him as a "living conflict." Certainly, he feels "different."

Adopted by a Catholic family during the Holocaust, he learned he was Jewish at the age of 35. Armed with this knowledge, he began working to heal wounds between Poles and Jews and dreamed of living in Israel.

In a touching scene on the eve of his trip to Israel, he bids goodbye to a group of nuns in Lublin. He enrolls in the ulpan of a religious kibbutz and, eager to be recognized as a Jew, he requests temporary residency status from the Israeli government. Yet he also asks for membership in a monastery. Both overtures are rebuffed, prompting a friend to observe that he suffers as a Jew in Poland and as a priest in Israel.

The burning question in this poignant, troubling film is whether he can find acceptance and peace of mind in Israel.

• • •

Ami Drozd's feature film, *My Australia*, is fundamentally about identity and displacement. This Israel-Poland co-production opens in the 1960s in a Polish city as a gang of teenaged hooligans beats up a group of Jews. Among the attackers are Andrzej (Lukasz Sikora), 14, and his younger brother Tadek (Jakub Wroblewski). Arrested by the police, the brothers are released thanks to the persuasive powers of their single mother, Halina (Aleksandra Poplawska).

In the wake of this incident, Halina announces they are immigrating to Australia, a country Tadek fetishizes. En route to their new home, the boys learn that they are of Jewish origin and that their destination is really Israel. Halina, a Holocaust survivor whose estranged husband was a Polish war hero, has been masquerading as a Catholic until now.

Not surprisingly, her sons are none too pleased by the revelation. Tadek, for example, does not want to go to "stinking Israel" or be "a sort of a Jew."

Unable to find a job, Halina sends the boys to a kibbutz, where they are kindly received. Their adjustment to kibbutz life is difficult. Tadek refuses to use the communal showers, and ironically, some of the Israeli kids call him a "stinking goy."

*My Australia* starts promisingly, with credible performances from an impressive cast, but it slows to a crawl in the second half. Still, this is an interesting film about the pitfalls of mixed identity and the challenges of adapting to a foreign culture.

• • •

Eva Gruberova's and Martina Gawatz's *Born in a Concentration Camp* deals with a little-known topic: Jewish mothers who gave birth in Nazi concentration camps.

Their film focuses on Eva and Miriam, two young women who were pregnant when deported to camps. Eva, a Slovakian Jew, arrived in Auschwitz with a swollen belly, prompting her sister-in-law to advise her to get "rid" of the baby. Eva would not hear of it, so the question was how she could protect her child in Auschwitz.

Eva met six other pregnant women, including Miriam, in the next camp. All their babies were delivered by a Hungarian gynecologist without the benefit of anesthesia. "It's terrible I had to begin my life here," says Eva's daughter, Marika, who was born on Jan. 8, 1945.

The six mothers survived by the skin of their teeth. An SS plan to send them to Bergen-Belsen to die fizzled, and a death march that could have killed them proved to be harsh but not fatal. There is a local angle in this largely upbeat film. Miriam and her family immigrated to Canada after the war and now live in Toronto.

**Jakub Wroblewski stars in *My Australia*, set in Poland and Israel.**

• • •

Yasmine Novak's *The Lost Love Diaries* is a heart-rending account of a Dutch Holocaust survivor in Israel who embarks on a quest to find a prewar boyfriend from whom she was separated during the Nazi occupation of Holland.

Shula, a widow, receives a package in the mail. It's the diary of her old flame, Berny. There is no return address, but the diary drives Shula and her daughter to travel to Holland in a bid to track down Berny. They talk to a succession of people who may have known him, but the trail grows cold. Is he, in fact, still alive?

• • •

Ian Ayres' entertaining biopic, *Tony Curtis: Driven to Stardom*, profiles a 1950s pop culture icon through the medium of film clips, home movies and interviews with, among others, Curtis himself, studio colleagues and ex-wife Debbie Reynolds.

Curtis (formerly Bernie Schwartz), an actor who appeared in more than 130 movies, notably *Some Like It Hot* and *Spartacus*, was born into poverty in New York, the son of Hungarian Jews. Thanks to a talent scout who spotted him in a high school play, he was offered a seven-year contract by Universal Studios, and Curtis never looked back.

Gorgeously handsome and exuding sex appeal, Curtis was a pinup boy and teenage idol in a succession of low-brow movies until he finally hit his stride as a serious actor in *Sweet Smell of Success*. Yet Curtis was more than merely a sex symbol. He courageously campaigned for racial equality, thereby risking his career.

But like far too many actors, he abused drugs and took his marriages for granted. As his roles dried up, he desperately clung to the chimera of fame. In true Hollywood fashion, he was buried with his phone, not wanting to miss a call!

• • •

Joshua Waletzky's *Music for the Movies: Bernard Herrmann* is a straightforward portrait of an accomplished Hollywood composer who wrote the score for *Citizen Kane*, *Psycho* and *Taxi Driver* and worked with director Alfred Hitchcock in eight films. Portrayed as a gruff and cranky person who hated the Hollywood system, he is best remembered for his remarkably dramatic but unobtrusive style.

• • •

Waletzky's companion documentary, *Music for the Movies: The Hollywood Sound*, documents its so-called golden age in the 1930s and 1940s, when Jewish composers such as Alfred Newman and Max Steiner were at the height of their considerable powers. Regrettably, the film is far too technical to be wholeheartedly enjoyed.

• • •

Peter Rosen's *God's Fiddler* profiles Jascha Heifetz, who was arguably the 20th century's greatest violinist. A child protégé whose father was a violinist and whose talents were recognized when he was very young, Heifetz was a Lithuanian Jew from Vilna who settled in the United States on the eve of the Bolshevik Revolution.

An intensely private, introverted and conceited individual who could ham it up for a camera, he got the shock of his life early in his dazzling career when a newspaper reviewer gave him a lukewarm notice, almost driving him to commit suicide. No longer complacent, he worked hard to perfect his effortless style.

This first-rate, warts-and-all biopic contains cheerful home movies from Heifetz's archive, interviews with students and associates and clips of his magical performances.

*The festival runs from May 3 to 13. For locations, dates and screen times, visit www.tjff.com.*

# TJFF saves the last film for Doc Pomus

**Joseph Serge**
Arts Editor

Rock musician Lou Reed called him one of the greatest songwriters in history and Bob Dylan admired him so much he once asked him to write some lyrics for him.

His life seemed tailor-made for a Hollywood movie. He was the son of poor Jewish immigrants and was crippled by polio. Yet, he became a successful celebrity, got addicted to gambling, lost everything and then got his life back on track.

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival is saving its best for last with *A.K.A. Doc Pomus*, a highly informative documentary on one of the most prolific hitmakers of the 20th century, which closes the Film Festival on May 13.

Born Jerome Felder, Doc Pomus wrote or co-wrote over 1,000 songs including *This Magic Moment, Little Sister, Sweets for my Sweet, Viva Las Vegas* and *Save the Last Dance for Me*. His songs were recorded by Elvis Presley, The Drifters, Andy Williams, Ray Charles, B.B. King, Dion and the Belmonts, The Coasters, Joe Turner and several others. In his prime, Doc Pomus had 13 Top 10 songs in one year. He was nominated for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1992.

*A.K.A. Doc Pomus* chronicles his life from his beginnings as a young Jewish boy in Brooklyn stricken with polio, to his extravagant 1991 funeral attended by hundreds of the most important people in the music business including Phil Spector and Lou Reed

Doc Pomus was born in 1925 and contracted polio when he was six. He would spend the rest of his life on crutches or in a wheelchair. He was a "white boy hooked on blues" and spent most of his childhood days listening to the radio. At 17, he wowed the manager of a blues bar with his singing and began performing every day. (He changed his name so that his mother wouldn't recognize it on the marquees).

This was quite a start for a fat Jewish boy on crutches. But it was these handicaps that would also let him down. No record company was willing to sign him despite his obvious talent.

Instead, he turned to song writing, becoming encouraged when his song *Young Blood* became a hit in 1957 for The Coasters and he received a sizable royalty cheque. Because he was already in his 30s, there was a danger that he was out of touch with the vibrant teenage market of the 1950s, and he teamed up with the younger Mort Shuman, who added contemporary stylings to Doc's blues sensibilities.

It was the start of a highly lucrative partnership. Under contract to the top music publisher, Hill & Range, they started to churn out hits, starting with *A Teenager in Love* for Dion and the Belmonts.

They were introduced to Elvis's management and wrote several hits for him including *Viva Las Vegas*, which has since been recorded by many other artists, among them Bruce Springsteen, Shawn Colvin, The Dead Kennedys and ZZ Top.

He married the aspiring young actress Willie Burke, and it was at their wedding that he got the idea for his signature song *Save the Last Dance for Me*. Unable to dance with his wife because of his disability, he let her dance with other men, but reminded her, as the song goes, who will be taking her home tonight "and in whose arms you're gonna be."

**Doc Pomus wrote over 1,000 songs**

The song was a huge hit for The Drifters and has been recorded by other artists including Dolly Parton and recently Michael Bublé.

The mid-'60s saw the rise of singer/songwriters such as The Beatles and Bob Dylan, and songwriters were no longer in demand. This, and his marital woes, started a downward spiral for Doc Pomus. The hit he wrote for Andy Williams *Can't Get Used to Losing You* was inspired by his marriage problems.

He turned to gambling to make a living, but around 10 years later, Elvis's death ironically brought him lots of royalties and he was able to leave gambling and devote his attention to writing again, teaming up with the eccentric blues man Doctor John to write songs for B.B. King.

*A.K.A. Doc Pomus* packs a lot into 90 minutes. Even if you've never heard of Doc Pomus before, you'll still find it extremely moving and entertaining. It's a fitting end to this year's film festival. It screens at the Bloor Cinema May 13 at 7:30 p.m.

# Film tells the Roma side of the Shoah

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

A stirring Canadian documentary focusing on the plight of the Roma people during the Holocaust will be screened at this year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

*A People Uncounted* documents the travails of the Roma in Europe – often pejoratively referred to as Gypsies – who were among those targeted by the Nazis as part of Germany's Final Solution.

According to statistics obtained by the filmmakers, it's estimated that more than 500,000 Roma were murdered during the Shoah.

Aaron Yeger and Marc Swenker, the film's director and producer respectively, told *The CJN* they hope the Jewish community comes out in force to see the film and recognize that the two communities are intrinsically linked.

Yeger, who is Jewish and whose family descends from Holocaust survivors, said the film can serve as an educational resource for the many who have limited knowledge of the Roma.

"I come from a family of survivors, and [before filming] I didn't realize the extent to which the Jews and Roma were linked" by their shared fate in World War II, he said.

The film does a superb job of editing emotional interviews with Roma survivors, a Jewish survivor (Yeger's grandfather) and Roma and Jewish scholars and historians, who all agree that the tragedy that befell the Roma is woefully underreported and unacknowledged.

The main difference between the two peoples post-World War II is that "unlike the Jews, once the war ended, [the Roma] had no community to embrace and support them and nowhere to go," the filmmakers wrote on the festival's website.

Swenker noted that the film, released last year, also tried to capture much of the modern-day persecution the Roma experience in various European states, most notably in Hungary, where certain members of the ultra-nationalist Jobbik party have displayed open contempt for ethnic minorities.

Swenker and Yeger also turned their lens on France, where the government has dismantled numerous Roma camps and in 2009, deported some 10,000 Roma back to Romania and Bulgaria, followed by another 8,300 deportations in 2010.

Politics aside, *A People Uncounted* is a beautifully filmed story, complete with an original score by Robi Botos, a Hungarian-born Roma pianist now living in Toronto.

"The intention of this film was to build bridges between the Jewish and Roma communities," Yeger said. "Jews can understand what the Roma went through."

It's estimated the Roma population worldwide is between 13 and 15 million people.

After filming and editing the movie, Swenker said he came away feeling "let-down" by the world community for continuing to mistreat the Roma.

Yeger added that the Jewish community should feel a source of pride, since "much of the support for Roma rights comes from Jewish scholars and advocates."

"At the end of the day, our mandate is to get the Roma story out there," Swenker said. "Hopefully this film will inspire other filmmakers to look at the Roma."

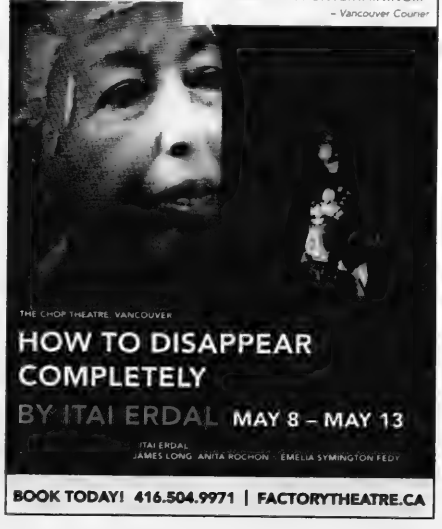
Yeger said he and the film crew recorded more than 20 hours of Roma Holocaust survivor stories and are hoping to put those testimonials into a format similar to what Steven Spielberg used to set up his Shoah Visual History Foundation, which has recorded tens of thousands of Jewish survivors' stories.

The filmmakers noted that the Romany equivalent of the word Shoah is *Porrajmos*, a term that's becoming more widely used in their community, though many Roma also use the term Shoah to describe what happened to their people.

*A People Uncounted* will screen at the TJFF at 8 p.m. on May 8.

For more information, visit www.tjff.com

*Eye on Arts is on page 45*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# Octogenarian gearing up for 5-km run at marathon

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

At 83, Harvey Freeman still takes the stairs two at a time, and he's not shy to let you know he can beat pretty much any of his contemporaries in a foot race.

He's done it for the past two years in a row, finishing first in 5-kilometre runs in the 80-plus category at the Goodlife Fitness Toronto Marathon.

Yes, it's true that there aren't too many competitors in his age cohort, but nevertheless, a win is a win.

On May 6, when this year's version of the marathon kicks off, he'll be gunning for a three-peat, but he acknowledges getting the hat-trick will be difficult, because a well-known runner who dominated everyone in the 70-plus range in half-marathons just turned 80.

Still, when you can finish a 5-km race at any age, it's quite an accomplishment.

A few years ago, pounding the pavement would have been the last thing on Freeman's mind.

He was pretty much a couch potato when it came to athletic endeavours. He had played a little shinny hockey when he was younger, but by the time he was 66, he was 20 pounds overweight, smoked and was "a desk-bound executive... I was a typical candidate for a heart attack," he said.

Then, on a trip to the West Coast, the heart attack came. In retrospect, the incident turned out to be a turning point in his sporting life. While still in the hospital, medical staff had him up and walking, and when they discharged him, they recommended he enrol in a rehab program that would keep him active.

When he returned to Toronto, he was put in touch with a clinic at Sunnybrook Hospital, where physical exercise is a key component of the rehabilitation process.

Freeman changed his lifestyle: he gave up the smokes, started eating better and took up exercising. Within nine months, he was able to run two to three kilometres at a time. He eventually maxed out at 15 to 16 kilometres.

He started signing up for competitive races, usually finishing in the Top 5 among the septuagenarian runners. He even travelled to Jerusalem back in 2003, testing himself on a hilly 10-km course near the Knesset on a cold, wet and generally miserable day.

He was gearing up for a half-marathon when he suffered a meniscus injury in his knee. It took almost a year to recover, but when he did, he found he just couldn't get back to the longer distances he had been training at.

Nevertheless, running five kilometres at his advanced age is nothing to be embarrassed about.

He continues to train in the gym in his building, running on a treadmill three or four times a week. With the weather improving, he's back outdoors pounding the pavement and noticing how concrete is so much harder on the legs.

He's limited by doctor's orders to a speed that keeps his heart rate at 137 beats or less, and he wears a heart monitor to make sure he stays at that number.

Freeman is feeling pretty good these days, and running has a lot to do with it. It only shows that "it's never too late to start," he said. "I'm racing against guys who've been racing for 40 or 50 years."

There's "a little silent admiration in some quarters" that he's able to accomplish what he has. And besides, he said, "I like the bragging rights for winning."

Harvey Freeman

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# Charity basketball tournament aids at-risk youth

Compiled by CJN staff

The sixth annual Hoops 4 Israel charity basketball tournament will take place Sunday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kimel Family Education Centre at 9600 Bathurst Street in Vaughan.

The tournament will feature three-on-three, half-court, round-robin play that makes for fast-paced, competitive games and great entertainment for everyone involved.

Funds raised will go to programs that support at-risk youth in Israel, such as the Zipori Educational Warm House and the Living Bridge Partnership.

In addition, some of the money raised will benefit underprivileged youth in Toronto, giving children the chance to have access to summer programs through the JCC Chai Sports Scholarship Fund and the Centre Camp Scholarship Fund.

Hoops 4 Israel is sponsored by the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and is administered by Community Connect, federation's young adult engagement division. The event relies on the collective efforts of dozens of player participants, corporate sponsors, community organization partners and private donors. Since its founding in 2007, Hoops 4 Israel has raised more than half a million dollars.

For more information, contact the organizers at info@hoops4israel.com.

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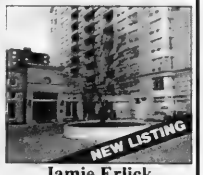


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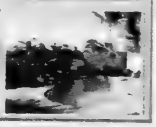

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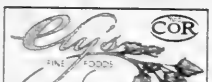

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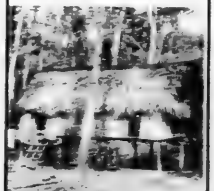

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The Canadian Jewish news

**Adi Nes's photograph *The Last Supper* recalls the famous Leonardo da Vinci painting.**

## EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

### FILM-SCORE COMPOSERS CELEBRATED IN 12 TJFF FILMS

Included among the prodigious programming of the 20th annual Toronto Jewish Film Festival, which is screening about 100 films from May 3 to 13, is a 12-part series on the lives and works of Jewish composers who write cinematic soundtracks.

*The Sound of Movies: Masters of the Film Score* explores the predominant and extraordinary role that Jewish composers have played in the movies as well as in popular culture. The series incorporates special guests, rarely screened gems and events that showcase some of the most renowned composers of all time.

Special guests include composer **David Shire**, who introduces the screening of **Francis Ford Coppola**'s *The Conversation* and the teleplay *Evening Primrose*, and discusses his art with critic **Kevin Courrier**.

**Steven North**, son of composer **Alex North** (*Spartacus, Death of a Salesman, A Streetcar Named Desire*), talks about his father's life and work at a screening of *The Last Butterfly*, a feature about the Terezin concentration camp. At a screening of *Planet of the Apes*, composer **Mychael Danna** (*Moneyball, The Sweet Hereafter*) talks about **Jerry Goldsmith**'s score of that film.

The festival is also screening rare documentaries on Goldsmith, **Lalo Schifrin**, **Bernard Hermann** and the Hollywood Sound (about the Jewish exiles who invented film music), as well as an illustrated talk by Courrier. Other offerings focus on **Elmer Bernstein**, **Michael Nyman**, **Howard Shore** and **Danny Elfman**. www.tjff.com.

• • •

**Stagecraft Production:** Holy Blossom Temple Stagecraft Company presents *The Triangle Factory Fire Project* by **Christopher Piehler** with **Scott Alan Evans**, directed by **Eric Kirsh**. The play focuses on the tragic Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire that caused the deaths of 146 garment workers in New York in March 1911. Lasting only 18 minutes, the fire was instrumental in improved building codes and the establishment of unions and labour laws that changed the nature of work in North America.

Holy Blossom Temple, 1950 Bathurst St. Thursday, May 3 and Saturday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 6 at 2 p.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 511.

• • •

**Names in the News:** *Shirim*, the Los Angeles-based Jewish poetry journal, has dedicated a double issue to Jewish Canadian poetry. The 68-page issue was edited by University of Ottawa professor and poet **Seymour Mayne** and contains works by Mayne and **Asa Boxer**, **Elizabeth Brewster**, **Jason Camlot**, **Leonard Cohen**, **Susan Glickman**, **Shel Krakofsky**, **Rochelle Mass**, **Isa Milman**, **Sharon H. Nelson**, **Marty Newman**, **Merle Nudelman**, **Ruth Panofsky**, **B. Glen Rotchin**, **Robyn Sarah**, **Karen Shenfeld**, **Kenneth Sherman**, **David Solway**, **Rhea Tregebov** and **Elana Wolff**.

• • •

**Arts in Brief**

• **Jerry Seinfeld** performs standup comedy at the Sony Centre, Toronto, May 4 and 5. www.sonycentre.ca

• Critic **Adam Nayman** continues In Nayman's Terms, his series of lectures with film clips, with a look at **Stanley Kubrick**'s *Lolita* and *Dr. Strangelove*. May 7, 7 to 9 p.m. $12 drop-in per class, students $6. 416-924-6211, ext .606.

• Active Seniors presents the Toronto Jewish Film Festival documentary *Tony Curtis: Driven to Stardom*, followed by refreshments and discussion with festival programmer **Larry Ankewicz**. The film chronicles the actor's stormy childhood, meteoric rise, artistic successes and failures, romantic life, and involvement in the civil rights movement. Miles Nadal JCC, Thursday, May 10, 12:15 p.m. $11. 416-924-6211, ext. 155.

• The Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company presents **Neil Simon**'s *Lost in Yonkers*, with **Marion Ross**, **Linda Kash**, **Ari Cohen** and **Sheila McCarthy**. St. Lawrence Centre, Jane Mallett Theatre, May 12 to June 10. $42.50 to $79.50. 416-366-7723, www. stlc.com

• • •

**At the Galleries**

• *Spark – Igniting with Photography* is a collection of photographic portraits by artists from *Shoot With This*, a film and photography mentorship program for at-risk youth in the Jane-Finch community. Presented as part of the Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival in partnership with the Al Green Theatre. Miles Nadal JCC, May 2 to 29.

• The **Bruce Cassidy Ensemble** "plays" the paintings of **Judy Singer** in *Heart to Heart*, a fascinating live performance highlighting the interrelationship of music and painting. Trane Studio, 964 Bathurst St. Thursday, May 10, 8 p.m.

• The 23 members of the Israeli Artists Group of Toronto present their fourth annual arts show in celebration of Jerusalem Day. J.E.H. Thoreau MacDonald House, 121 Centre St., Thornhill. May 17 to 20. Opening night, Thursday, May 17, 6:30 to 9 p.m. www.israeliartists-group.com

• The Koffler Centre of the Arts presents an exhibition of the photographs of Tel Aviv photographer **Adi Nes**, whose "meticulously crafted interpretations of biblical, mythological and literary subjects propose a critical view of the present while seeking to uncover a universal humanism." Offsite at Olga Korper Gallery, 17 Morrow Ave. May 3 to June 2. Opening reception, Thursday, May 3, 6 to 9 p.m. Nes gives a talk at Eaton Theatre, Rogers Communication Centre, 80 Gould St., Monday, May 7, 7 p.m. Free admission. www.kofflerarts.org

Check out our blog @ heebonics.ca HEEBONICS

# T.O. filmmakers take on 'lo-fi' travelling film festival

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Toronto-based filmmakers Jeffrey Nesker and Justin Kelly hope the blood, sweat and tears they poured into co-directing the travelling Bootleg Film Festival was worth it.

"It's a hell of a lot of work," Nesker said.

"It's planning a wedding with 600 people… and your families are both dysfunctional," added Kelly.

"It's a giant event."

The Bootleg Film Festival is a travelling festival that debuted in 2008 in Glasgow, Scotland. It has since run in Swansea, Wales; London, England, and for the first time, the festival will cross the Atlantic to screen films and host filmmakers in Toronto from May 10 to 12 at the Tranzac Social Club in the Annex.

Nesker, 34, who said he's been in the movie-making biz since the early 1990s, said he was asked to organize the film fest in Toronto, by the founder Tom Wilton, whom Nesker met in 2008 at the Bootleg festival in Glasgow.

Nesker, who won an award for best short film for *Nightclub Story*, said Bootleg is a "special, little festival," that continues to impact his career.

"It fostered a lot of relationships that have carried through until now. I met quite a few people there that I still talk to now," he said.

Nesker explained that Wilton, an actor turned filmmaker, founded the festival because he was frustrated by the slow pace of the film industry and the hurdles in getting a film distributed.

Wilton created Bootleg to honour the "filmmaker in ripped jeans and battered Converse, shooting lo-fi movies on the rent money, because along the way, we've been that filmmaker," he wrote on the festival's website.

Bootleg will showcase a mixture of short films and features, and will also cater to international filmmakers who will be taken on tours of the local film production houses in Toronto.

The final night of the festival will include an awards ceremony, and the best film will win a 12-month deal with FilmBinder, a film distributer.

"Anyone with some money can go out and make a film, but it's something that looks a lot easier than it is. I think the mandate of Bootleg is separating the wheat from the chaff," Nesker said.

Kelly said that what separates this festival from some of the other more established ones is the accessibility factor.

"Anybody can be a filmmaker, anybody can make a movie. If you want to do it, do it. I would say what separates us is that we encourage handmade films. A lot of the other festivals, if it has that handmade look, they won't get past minute 4 of your screener," Kelly said.

"We're encouraging of the underdog."

Both Nesker and Kelly know all about being the underdog and barely scraping by to produce their low-budget projects.

Kelly, 39, who has been making films his "entire adult life," said he's been involved in most aspects of movie production including writing, direction, production and financing.

Kelly's latest project, *The Seder*, is a BravoFact film that he wrote and directed last summer, and which Nesker edited.

"It's about Leo, bringing his boyfriend home for the first time at his family's seder," Kelly said.

He said that he is in the midst of submitting this 17-minute short to a number of film festivals and is waiting to hear back. So far, it's been accepted into the Los Angeles Comedy Festival this year, but it was rejected from the Toronto Jewish Film Festival opening this week.

*More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca*

"It'll be really interesting, as a sociological experiment to see what kind of heat *The Seder* generates at the Jewish film festivals because it will really be a yardstick to measure what the prevailing feeling is towards homosexuality in the Jewish environment," Nesker said.

In addition to working with Kelly on *The Seder*, Nesker has been busy working on a teaser and "character intros" for a web series he directed called *The Undrawn*, which "follows the exploits of six ridiculous, drunk, slutty and ineffective superhero bottom feeders at SuperCorp."

"It's the dirtiest thing I've ever been involved with. It's like, a step away from porno, but I think it's pretty fantastic," he said with a grin.

Through Kickstarter, a fundraising platform for creative projects, Nesker and his team managed to raise the required amount to produce the six-episode project.

During the Bootleg festival, Kelly and Nesker, both Toronto-based filmmakers, are eager to present the city as an inviting place to produce film to the many movie makers who will be in town later this month.

"We have an advantage in Toronto in that the requirements to produce original works here aren't necessarily the labyrinthine, bureaucratic messes they are in other places," Nesker said.

"There will be a minimum of 200 people a day coming through the festival and multiple sets of screenings going on throughout the day, events following the screenings at night, events during the day, taking the filmmakers out," Kelly added.

"How often do we get 50 international filmmakers arriving in Toronto at the same time?"

More important for a struggling filmmaker is the opportunity to benefit from meeting others in the industry.

"You'll be networking with like-minded filmmakers who aren't from your own backyard or sphere of influence," Nesker said.

He added that he's confident the young film festival will continue to grow in popularity and influence.

"The track record for Bootleg is pretty damn good. Over three years that the film festival has run, a good chunk have gone on to some measure of success," Nesker said.

"There's definitely a brand that is being established here."

For more information, visit www.bootlegfilmfestival.com.

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# I have a celebrity friend

I don't know if I mentioned it, but I have a celebrity friend. Her name is Alison, and she's on TV! Usually, I'm not impressed by famous people. I'm not going to mention I once saw Michael Bublé on the street and waved to him. I'm not a name-dropper. It's not classy. My friend, Michael Bublé, told me so.

Alison trusts me. I know that, because she always wants me to take care of her granny. Only me. She has millions of friends, yet only I get to take Granny for long, boring walks, listen to her long, boring tales, while Alison's busy having fun with her other friends.

When Alison throws parties, I'm not one of those people who stands besides the wall, watches her for hours, gets closer, touches her and jumps right back. I never do that at her posh parties. Maybe, because I've never been invited to one. Up until last Thursday.

*New to Canada*

*Nina Shenhav*

When I was invited to one of Alison's parties!

"What will I do when she starts introducing me to all of those hotshots?" I ask Meir as I wrap her super-expensive present.

"Let's cross that imaginary bridge when we get there," says cruel Meir. As he dresses, I wonder if it's time to tell him he wasn't invited.

"I'm not sure that present is appropriate." He looks at the gold earrings with real diamonds.

"I'm not sure, either," I respond. "I'm super sure. You jealous little thing." It's a good thing he's staying home!

When I arrive, I find myself standing alone at the front door. No paparazzi, no nothing. I'm in sort of a panic. I ring the doorbell and put on my most glamorous smile.

One of Alison's employees answers the door. "I'm here for the party. Gosh! Is it not today?" I ask nervously.

"It is. Please walk through the garden to the kitchen entrance," he answers.

As I stumble to the back door, I feel annoying tears starting to fill my eyes, so I hug Alison's earrings and enter.

"Alison will see you in a minute," the worker promises, and my tears vanish.

There she is. Coming down the stairs slowly and majestically. One hand holds the rail, the other holds... Granny.

"So glad you came! My party begins in an hour, so you and Granny should leave before the guests arrive. Granny doesn't like parties and [whispers to me] parties don't like Granny, so take her to the park and be back, say, in four hours?"

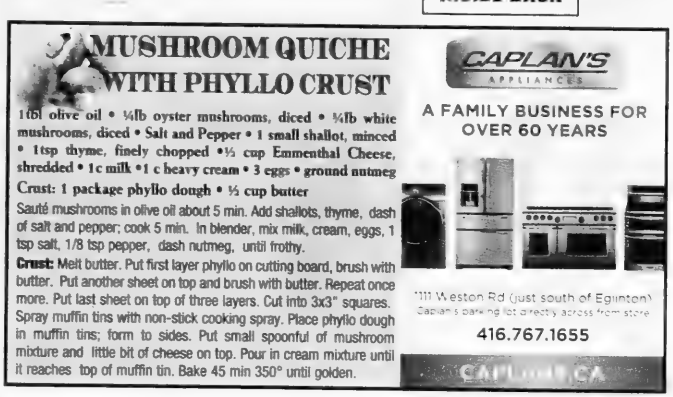
Alison notices my fancily wrapped gift. "You brought Granny a gift! You didn't have to. She loves you anyway."

I can't talk yet, so I just mumble "earrings."

Alison throws my wrapped life's saving into a big charity box that stands there. "Nah, she'll try to swallow them, again. Too risky. Now run along, you two!"

After a long, long liberating cry, when I finally take Granny back, I spot Michael Bublé through the back door. I wave and wave, but I'm not really sure he remembers me!

*Nina.shenhav@gmail.com*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1tbl olive oil • ¼lb oyster mushrooms, diced • ¼lb white mushrooms, diced • Salt and Pepper • 1 small shallot, minced • 1tsp thyme, finely chopped •½ cup Emmenthal Cheese, shredded • 1c milk •1 c heavy cream • 3 eggs • ground nutmeg
Crust: 1 package phyllo dough • ½ cup butter
Sauté mushrooms in olive oil about 5 min. Add shallots, thyme, dash of salt and pepper; cook 5 min. In blender, mix milk, cream, eggs, 1 tsp salt, 1/8 tsp pepper, dash nutmeg, until frothy.
Crust: Melt butter. Put first layer phyllo on cutting board, brush with butter. Put another sheet on top and brush with butter. Repeat once more. Put last sheet on top of three layers. Cut into 3x3" squares. Spray muffin tins with non-stick cooking spray. Place phyllo dough in muffin tins; form to sides. Put small spoonful of mushroom mixture and little bit of cheese on top. Pour in cream mixture until it reaches top of muffin tin. Bake 45 min 350° until golden.
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## On cjnews.com

*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

Two Israeli members of Knesset, Yizhak Vaknin and Daniel Ben Simon, who were the guests of the Quebec national assembly for a special session commemorating Yom Hashoah.

French lawyer and author Gilles-William Goldnadel who talks about the implications for the Jews of France if the Socialists win the May 6 elections.

*Exclusive to cjnews.com*

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa talks about Yom Hazikaron: On this solemn day, we are all family.

Web columnist Masada Siegel heads to Italy to explore both ancient and modern Rome.

The Quebec Press Council has upheld a complaint by a pro-Israel group about the headline of a story published on Cyberpresse.ca last summer that it felt was biased.

Twenty Montrealers will be competing in Israel's first dragonboat festival this month.

A drug education and counselling program rooted in the Lubavitch community, which began years ago as a modest campus project, has entered an expanded and more professional phase.

# How in control are we really?

We humans aren't really sure if we're running our world well. How would we know? We've never done this before.

Yet, with the advent of such mind-blowing discoveries as cloning and stem cell research, it's as if we've rubbed elbows with God and figured things out. Sometimes we become so cocksure about our achievements, such as the splitting of the atom and the discovery of fish without eyes at the bottom of the sea, that we think we're in charge.

*Urban Writer*

*Avrum Rosensweig*

Who needs God at all? Like the people who built the Tower of Babel, our universal confidence, combined with a sense of self-importance, grows so much at these times that we see ourselves as central to existence.

Then what has come to be seen as the inevitable happens. A wave called tsunami washes away eons of children and we are once again pitched back into a reality where we recognize how little control we really have.

I think Anders Behring Breivik, a Norwegian mass-murderer responsible for the killing of 77 fellow nationals on July 22, 2011, is like that wave.

Like the wave that arrived irrationally but quite naturally and washed over land in 13 countries in 2004, Breivik's behaviour hints at his being both sane and insane. He gave us no notice of his well-thought-out plans, and even today, makes it impossible for us to define his core motivation for such evil and to see what lies within his soul that allows him to enact a mission contrary to a universal belief in the sacredness of human life.

Breivik makes us quiver and vibrate about our existence because his humanness is so inhumane.

Breivik is a steely character with an Aryan stare, look and demeanour, who spent three years diligently preparing for his crime, right down to a reminder to include bottled water in his backpack on the day of his rampage.

He studied Al Qaeda magazines for their successes and mistakes, and wrote a 1,500-page manifesto on the ills of multiculturalism and the Islamization of Norway. With the assiduousness of Nazi leadership, Breivik masterminded a flawless attack on Oslo and Utoya Island where teenagers affiliated with the country's Labour Party were enjoying the summer.

Was this a regular Norwegian citizen's commitment to his ideology and task at hand, a reflection of his insanity, his psychosis? Or are we to believe when he says, "The worst thing one can do is take a life," that he is sane and indeed recognizes the difference between right and wrong and the illegality of murder?

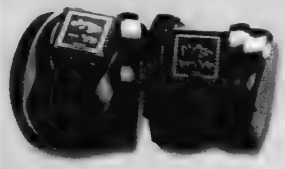
Are we to trust in the cogency of his mind – *compos mentis* (literally, a composed mind) – when he tells the court he said to himself just before he started shooting, "I just don't want to do this," and "I knew it was wrong. Taking life is the most extreme action you can do."

Did you know the prophets were considered insane by many because they foretold the future? So who is sane and who is insane? What are we to make of Anders Breivik? How human is he?

What are we to consider when Anders Breivik, like the average German citizen who participated freely and often excitedly in the chilling massacre of *children* during the Holocaust, appears on the world's radar?

Breivik believed in his ideology. He thought he was right. Are we all from the same human family? How in control are we? When does the wave arrive?

*avrum@veahavta.org*



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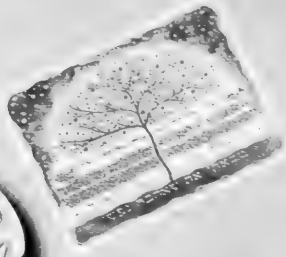

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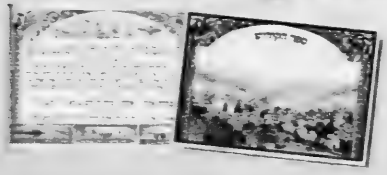

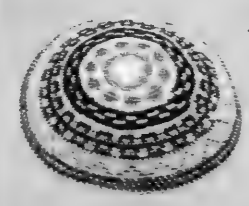

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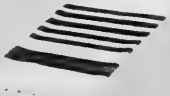

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## This Week

National

**United Bakers** celebrates 100 years of borscht and blintzes. *Page 3*

**Antisemitic incidents** decline slightly. *Page 5*

**Aish cellphone** towers pose no risk, Rogers says. *Page 6*

No Place Like Home

**Think fresh. Think new.** Special supplement. *Section B*

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Canadian Gov.-Gen. David Johnston, left, greets Israeli President Shimon Peres in Ottawa on Monday morning. [*Dany Veillette, Rideau Hall photo*]

# Peres has full slate on Canadian visit

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Israeli President Shimon Peres' four-day state visit to Canada began with kind words for the host nation.

In a formal ceremony at Rideau Hall on Monday hosted by Gov.-Gen. David Johnston, Peres thanked Canada on behalf of Israelis.

"I am very, very grateful for your kind invitation to visit your wonderful country," Peres told the Canadian Press. "I have the deepest gratitude, and I bring that gratitude from Jerusalem to Ottawa for the deep friendship that has existed between our peoples from our first day of independence."

This is Peres' first trip to Canada in his capacity as president.

After the formal ceremony, Peres and Johnston held a private meeting focusing on fostering increased collaboration between the two countries in the fields of education and innovation.

The 88-year-old president had a full slate this week.

He was meeting Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Monday morning as *The CJN* went to press.

Peres was also scheduled to meet with Opposition leader Thomas Mulcair and interim Liberal party leader Bob Rae while in Ottawa.

On Tuesday, Peres was slated to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Royal Society of Canada and the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities before moving on to a tree-planting at Rideau Hall, the governor general's residence, to commemorate his visit.

On Monday night, Johnston hosted a state dinner in Peres' honour that was attended by Harper and various other dignitaries.

He was also feted by the Jewish community of Canada at a dinner on Tuesday in Ottawa hosted by the Israeli Embassy.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto hosted Peres at a dinner on Wednesday, and another reception by the Jewish community in Montreal was scheduled for Thursday night at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim.

In addition, Peres was scheduled to meet with Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty on Wednesday to discuss Israeli-Canadian collaboration in the field of brain research.

On Thursday, he was to meet with Quebec Premier Jean Charest before departing for Israel.

*Please see related story on page 8.*

**Emor**
**Candlelighting: 8:14**
**Havdalah: 9:18**
*Greater Toronto Area*

**Israelis to vote for a new Knesset on Sept. 4 – please see page 31**

## CANADA

### Camp Director Dies

**MONTREAL** — Joe Friedman, for 16 years director at several Jewish community camps during their heyday in the Laurentians, died April 26 at age 86. Between 1960 and 1976, Friedman oversaw camp operations at Camp B'nai Brith, Camp Wooden Acres, the Y Country Camp, and the Laurentian Fresh Air Camp. Friedman then directed services for the elderly at Maimonides Geriatric Centre and Jewish Family Services until his 1995 retirement. Friedman is survived by children David, Matthew, and Elinor and siblings Gersha, Shulom and Ted.

### Bezmozgis Wins

**TORONTO** — Toronto writer and filmmaker David Bezmozgis won the 2011 First Novel Award from Amazon.ca for his book *The Free World*. The Latvian-born Bezmozgis, 38, who came to Canada with his family in 1980, received the $7,500 prize April 26. *The Free World*, about three generations of Russian Jews who pursue new lives in the West, was also a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award and the Giller Prize. Bezmozgis also wrote the 2004 anthology *Natasha and Other Stories* and wrote and directed the 2009 film *Victoria Day*.

## WORLD

### Cdn. Appeals Ruling

**NEW YORK** — A Jewish Canadian-Egyptian businessman wants a U.S. appeals court to rehear his lawsuit against Coca-Cola for using his family's property in Egypt. Raphael Bigio and his family filed the brief May 2 in New York. He's suing Coca-Cola, headquartered in Atlanta, for its use of family property in Cairo that was confiscated by then-president Gamel Nasser in 1965 during his purges against Egyptian Jews. Bigio hopes to get compensation from the beverage giant for what he alleges is substantial profit. Coca-Cola Egypt leased the property from the family after Nasser's purge. A three-judge panel in New York dismissed the case in March on grounds it didn't contain sufficient evidence Coke caused or directed Coca-Cola Egypt to build additional buildings on the property. Coca-Cola has said that an Egyptian state-owned company, not Coke, owns the property; that it's a minority stakeholder in the firm that leases the land, and that the land was bought from the Egyptian government.

### Founder of Peace Studies Slurs Jews

Johan Galtung

**OSLO** — A Norwegian sociologist who pioneered the discipline of peace studies and conflict resolution made antisemitic and anti-Israel statements in a public lecture and in an article.

Johan Galtung, called the "father of peace studies," also made antisemitic and anti-Israel remarks in an e-mail interview with the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*, the newspaper reported.

Galtung claimed there's a possible connection between Anders Behring Breivik, the anti-Muslim Norwegian terrorist who murdered 77 people, mostly children, last summer and Israel's Mossad. He said he believes the Mossad may have given Breivik his orders.

The speech was made last Sept. 30, and a critical article about the speech, as well as several written exchanges between Galtung and the author, were reprinted last week in Norway's *Humanist* magazine.

Galtung wrote in one of the exchanges, according to *Ha'aretz*, that Jews control the U.S. media. "Six Jewish companies control 96 per cent of the media," he wrote, naming journalists, publishers, TV networks and movie studios that he claims are controlled by Jews. He also wrote that "70 per cent of the professors at the 20 most important American universities are Jewish."

Galtung recommended that people read the antisemitic screed *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and said that "it is impossible to do so today without thinking of Goldman Sachs," the international investment bank founded by Jews.

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## *'Every day is pea soup day'*

# United Bakers celebrates 100 years

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

United Bakers Dairy Restaurant, family owned by the Ladovskys for 100 years, welcomed its fourth generation to the restaurant recently.

Nathan Ladovsky, 22, who recently graduated from Dalhousie University, is working in the kitchen and as a bus boy for the summer.

Whether he joins the business full time is up in the air at the moment, he said.

But he's proud to be part of a tradition that started in 1912, when his great-grandparents, Aaron and Sarah Ladovsky, opened United Bakers as a dairy and pareve restaurant on Agnes Street near Terauley (what is now Dundas near Bay).

To commemorate the 100th anniversary, the Ladovskys are having a "Four days in May" celebration, May 14 to May 17, featuring daily entertainment, music, menu specials, surprises and give-aways during lunch and dinner.

In 1920, after eight years at the original location, the restaurant moved to 338 Spadina Ave., and in 1986, the Ladovskys opened a branch in Lawrence Plaza, at Bathurst Street and Lawrence Avenue. The legendary Spadina location closed two years later.

**Continued on page 13**

**United Bakers Dairy Restaurant at 338 Spadina Ave.**

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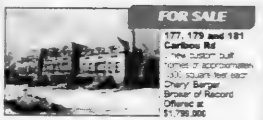
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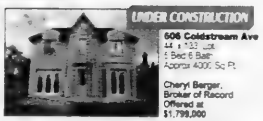
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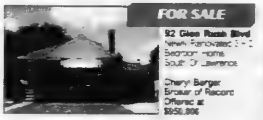
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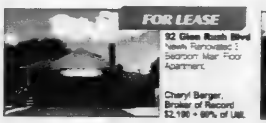
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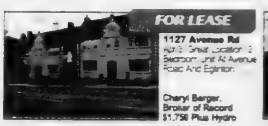
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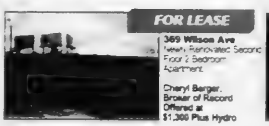
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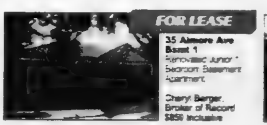
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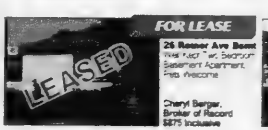

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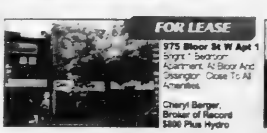
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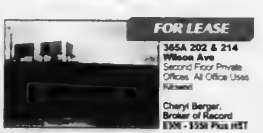
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# *The gunslinger mentality*

Israeli society encourages individualism. For anyone who has ever visited the tiny country, or ever met an Israeli that is like saying the sun comes up every day. It is, rather, stating the obvious.

Asking questions and challenging authority are part of the national character. It is a way of being, a way of finding one's place in the world that is deeply rooted in the intellectual traditions of the people in both its ancient and recent history stemming from Abraham to Moses to the sages whose arguments for the sake of heaven fill the pages of the Talmud.

At the turn of the last century when Jews in increasingly large numbers began finding their way to the mostly hostile terrain of the ancestral homeland, it was usually the hard-driven, self-motivated, undauntable ones of high resolve and daring initiative who stayed on, staking roots into an ever-yielding soil of freedom and independence.

Sixty-four years after the country was established, and more than 100 years after the modern return to Zion began in earnest, the paradigm of the strong, unflinching, tell-it-like-it-is individual still commands respect and praise. There is no retreat for this individual from saying what is on his or her mind, from saying "what needs to be said," from tossing the verbal grenade into the crowded marketplace of public ideas and debate.

Thus we have seen over the last few weeks, the pages, airwaves and blogospheres of Israeli media have veritably spilled over like a cornucopia overflowing a substantial treasure of news coverage of the high-profile individuals who have publicly criticized the prime minister and the defence minister for their views concerning safeguarding the country from the perils of a nuclear Iran.

The highly regarded former head of the Shin Bet (the internal security service), Yuval Diskin, excoriated the government for its Iran policies. In doing so he added his doubts to those of the former head of the Mossad, Meir Dagan, who had already spoken out against the government repeatedly.

Like gunslingers in the old westerns who suddenly show up at the saloon surrounded by shady and untrustworthy characters, they speak their minds, their virtue and courage apparent in their honesty.

But in this case, is their honesty so very virtuous?

And is courage really required to feed Israel's attentive, highly polemical, ideologically driven cadre of media and foreign observers?

The substance of their or any gunslingers' opinions regarding Iran is not the issue. Well-informed, well-intended, reasonable men of common cause and common purpose will always differ on their respective interpretations of facts and possible outcomes. Nor is their right to offer their opinions

At issue is the manner by which they speak, that is, always *to* the camera but not, where it might be truly more effective, *in* camera.

For example, Diskin told a receptive media and lay audience at a conference two weeks ago in Kfar Saba, that he could not trust Benjamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak in handling the Iranian crisis due to their "messianism." It was uncertain what he meant by that term in relation to the prime minister and defence minister.

Equally uncertain was the former Shin Bet chief's notion of the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of democratic process. For, along with his florid disparagement of Netanyahu and Barak, Diskin also weighed in against the social justice protesters last summer, whose leaders he said "weren't ready to pay a personal price in order to achieve their goals."

He unfavourably compared the "revolutionists in Rothschild Boulevard and those in Tahrir Square."

"In Tahrir Square, Diskin said, "people paid a price for their principles. If that doesn't happen here, all this social justice thing will be another summer festival in Israel. I think that the people who led it, most of them, aren't really willing to pay a price for it," he said.

What was Diskin implying?

Was he suggesting that unless the Rothschild Boulevard protests led to bloodshed, they were simply playthings, or "festivals," as he unkindly called them, in the minds of the participants and the leaders?

Was he suggesting that the response of the government and the Knesset in appointing the Trachtenberg Committee to study the issues underpinning the Rothschild protests, provide policy guidelines and legislative guidance was inadequate?

And even if the committee and the Knesset ultimately do fail to solve all of the problems, what according to Diskin, in a democratic, civil society that is governed by the rule of law, would have been the proper behaviour by the protesters?

What price was he looking for them to pay to help advance Israeli society?

Not all gunslingers, I suppose, are like Gary Cooper. **–*MBD***

SeeJN

## Holocaust survivors honoured at Queen's Park

**Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty celebrated the lives of 19 Holocaust survivors on May 3 at what has become an annual ceremony at Queen's Park. Pictured are, front row from left, Lea Hochman, Sara Marmurek, Fanny Fox, Miriam Schlanger, Chava Kwinta, Eric Weisz, Gena Tenenbaum and George Tenenbaum; second row from left, Gerta Solan, Felix Opatowski, George Fox, Amek Adler, Morris Rosenberg, Claire Baum and George Berman, and back row from left, Canadian Society for Yad Vashem national chair Fran Sonshine, the society executive director Yaron Ashkenazi, Andrew Adler, Livia Eva Adler, McGuinty, Mississauga South MPP Charles Sousa, Israeli Consul General Amir Gissin and York Centre MPP Monte Kwinter. Not pictured is Judy Lysy.** *[Office of the Premier of Ontario photo]*

# Audit finds slight decrease in antisemitic incidents

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights reported a slight decrease in antisemitic incidents in 2011.

Altogether, 1,297 occurrences were reported by the League in its 2011 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, an annual survey of "patterns of prejudice in Canada."

The finding represents "a sustained, ongoing undercurrent of antisemitism."

Nearly 41 per cent of the incidents (528) were considered "web-based hate activity," down from the 568 the year before, but substantially higher than the 405 Internet incidents cited in 2008.

Breaking down the incidents by type, the audit found that 916 were cases of harassment (70.7 per cent), 362 were classified as vandalism (27.9 per cent) and 19 were considered instances of violence (1.5 per cent).

Though small in number, the violent episodes were shocking: In Winnipeg, a 15-year-old girl was accosted in a school hallway by a youth uttering anti-Jewish slurs who used a lighter to set her hair on fire. In Montreal, a boy wearing a kippah was swarmed by teens and assaulted. And in Toronto, a man walking home from synagogue was swarmed by teenagers who threw pennies at him and called him "dirty Jew."

While the largest number of incidents was categorized as harassment, even these can be "traumatic" for the victim, said Anita Bromberg, national director of legal affairs for B'nai Brith Canada.

More than 100 harassment incidents included threats of violence, and in many cases, homes were targeted, leaving the occupant feeling very stressed, she said.

Bromberg related an incident recorded in 2009 to illustrate how troubling harassment could be. A young girl, she said, found a swastika on her desk at school. When she came home, she couldn't sleep, and when Bromberg advised her mother to ask the girl what it would take to make her feel comfortable, the daughter asked that the mezuzah, identifying their house as Jewish, be taken down, Bromberg recounted.

One woman who found threatening messages at her work mailbox went on stress leave, while another left her job entirely after facing harassment, Bromberg added.

The audit suggested the high number of incidents in Canada is part of a growing pattern in the western world.

Levels of antisemitism were high in 2011, "slightly decreasing in some countries, while dramatically increasing in others. But, in total, what these reports have in common is a continuing, steady, global increase in antisemitism in the past decade," the audit stated.

In Canada, the number of incidents reported in annual audits jumped nearly 25 per cent since 2007. In 2001, fewer than 300 incidents were recorded.

Examining "patterns of occurrence," the audit noted that "the largest number of incidents in any month occurred in March, when the so-called Israel Apartheid Week took place on university campuses across the country. Anti-Israel rhetoric spilled over into antisemitic expressions, including harassment, vandalism and assault on campus and elsewhere during this period... In 201 of the 1,297 cases reported, there was a direct link between anti-Israel and antisemitic activity, but the latter, while spurred on by anti-Zionism, was distinctly in and of itself antisemitic in nature."

As for web-based hate, the audit reported, "As in 2010, Jews were blamed for natural disasters, unpopular government policies and the 9/11 attacks, and allegations of government and media control, and organ trafficking continued to be propagated on social networking sites, blogs and websites."

In a section that offered 10 recommendations for action, the audit called for strengthening of the Criminal Code provisions on hate crimes by specifically including Holocaust denial as a prohibited activity. It also called for removing the defence of truth from the hate crimes provision, while "the defence of religious belief should be clarified or repealed."

Bromberg said those steps were recently recommended to a House of Commons justice committee looking at Section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act. The section prohibits the dissemination of hate on the Internet or by telephone.

"We understand that Section 13 is going, so if you take Section 13 away, then the Criminal Code will have to fill a gap that is significant in what we've been tracking," she said.

The League for Human Rights also called for banning "hate groups and the symbols they use to advance their racist agenda."

It also advocated "zero tolerance for hate, from educators at elementary and high schools, and campus administrators, to human rights commissions, police and government. Public education is the key to the success of such an approach."


## Heading forward, the wind at his back

**Shimon Ben Yaacov** completed his services in the Golani Special Forces Platoon. His devotion to Israel inspired him to sign up for another year in the elite "Shaldag" unit (Special Surface-Air Designation Team).

On the fifth day of the first Lebanon war in 1982, word reached Shimon's unit that two officers had been captured by terrorists and were being held in a building near Docha.

Shimon was part of a three-man group going in under fire to rescue the officers. Once they reached the building, a grenade was thrown from inside. This left Shimon wounded.

"I felt a burning sensation in my arm and thigh. Although I was bleeding, I felt numb and went on fighting. All that I could think of was to save my comrades and complete our mission."

Unfortunately the situation worsened. A terrorist thrust the barrel of his gun through a window and mercilessly sprayed Shimon with bullets causing severe damage to his leg.

Shimon was eventually rescued and spent nine long months in hospital. Despite the severity of his injuries, the doctors were able to save his leg from amputation. However, he has no knee joint and is unable to bend his leg.

**"As soon as I was released from hospital, I came to Tel Aviv's Beit Halochem Centre where I joined the swimming team, played badminton and had physiotherapy."**

In 2002 Shimon learned about a Beit Halochem sailing group at the Tel Aviv marina. It excited him tremendously as he had been a competitive sailor prior to joining the army.

**Since his injuries, Shimon never thought that he would be back in a sailboat again. Thanks to Beit Halochem, he is currently training for the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, England.**

Shimon and his sailing partner Hagar Zehavi prepare their boat for a training sail at Herzliya Marina. Hagar was severely injured while in the IDF. Their goal: to win a medal at the 2012 London Paralympic Games.

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# Binding contract means cell towers will stay

## *Rogers insists radiation levels are safe*

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Despite a backlash from local Jewish residents, Aish HaTorah Toronto says that a binding contract it signed allowing Rogers Communications to install cellphone towers atop Aish's Thornhill community centre means the structures are here to stay.

Aish Toronto agreed to let Rogers erect nine towers on the roof of its Clark Avenue low-rise building – which is home to a synagogue and Gan Nitzanim, a nursery school – in exchange for a monthly payment of $1,500.

But some Jewish community members have demanded that Aish walk away from the deal, citing potential health risks from radiation emitted by the towers, as well as a possible decline in property values of homes in the area.

Local residents expressed their anger at a public meeting in late March, and Gan parents had their own meeting with Aish officials around the same time.

In response to pressure to cancel the deal, Aish Toronto spokesperson Caroline Spivak said Aish leaders consulted lawyers about their options.

"We committed to the community to try to delay the testing and operation of the towers, but Rogers flat out said no," Spivak said.

"We engaged legal council to help us understand if there was an opportunity to challenge the contract. There is not," she said. "Rogers is not in breach of their contractual obligation, and as a result, Aish is expected to uphold and maintain its own contractual obligations. As far as Rogers is concerned, they're not coming down."

Spivak said that if Aish tried to back out of the contract, "it would ruin Aish Toronto. You have to appreciate a big, global company like that can out-resource a community centre… Are they going to feel sorry for us because our community isn't happy? No. They're in the business of making money."

Although the contract was signed in June 2011, it wasn't until construction began this past January that people learned about the decision.

Thornhill resident and Gan Nitzanim parent Aaron Posner said no one at Aish informed the community or the building's tenants about the deal.

"No one knew what was going on until [the towers] were up. We came in one morning and there they were," Posner said.

Posner said as soon as he learned about the towers, he began to do some research on the Internet about the effects their electromagnetic waves can have on a person's health.

"There were a billion articles – half saying it's fine, half saying it's not fine. And that's just not good enough," he said.

"Countries develop their policies on cellphone towers and the health risks associated with them based on a World Health Organization report written in 2006… That report was updated in 2009… That is so long ago when it comes to technology that it's almost not worthwhile talking about."

**Some of the cell towers on the roof of Aish HaTorah** *[Shefa Shefa photo]*

He said the WHO now plans to revisit the issue with a new report this year.

"Until you do a 20-year study and have children under the age of four exposed to it eight hours a day, five days a week, then you'll have a study," he said.

Rogers spokesperson Leigh-Ann Popek insisted that the towers' radiation emission levels are well below government health limits. "When building or upgrading infrastructure, we are always in compliance with Health Canada standards, Industry Canada regulations, and the processes and regulations of the local municipality," she said.

Popek said the towers are in the final phases of construction. They need to be tested and are expected to be activated by the end of the year.

Spivak admitted that it was wrong of Aish leaders not to consult the community before the contract was signed.

"That is something that Aish Toronto recognizes – that while it wasn't a legal or procedural requirement, it would have been a good neighbourly [action]," Spivak said.

"It was an honest oversight. Certainly, there was no anticipation of the intense backlash that has been received. [Aish leaders] thought they were doing a good thing for the community in order to use the funds to support ongoing programming, but they didn't consult, and that has been fully acknowledged by Aish.

"Unfortunately, many in the community are not willing to accept that it was an honest-to-goodness mistake. There was no deliberate deceit here on the part of anyone."

Spivak added that cell towers are more prevalent in our communities than most people realize and emit less radiation than personal mobile devices.

"Whether we see them or not, they're everywhere in our community. There's more radiation coming out of a cellphone that a parent is talking on while driving their child to a daycare than there is from the proximity to the cellphone towers."

But assurances from Aish and Rogers haven't been enough to appease a concerned community.

Gan Nitzanim director Naomi Zipori said she's currently looking for a new location for her school, which serves more than 90 children between the ages of two and five.

Zipori said she's in a bidding war for an undisclosed location, but likely won't know whether she's won the bid until the end of this month.

"Now the parents are very scared about what's going on next year," she said. "They want to stay, but still they're worried about the space."

But Zipori said that if she loses the bid for a new location, she'll stay at Aish.

"I don't think it's such a big deal, because the towers are all over Toronto. All over. I checked. It's terrible. If not here, then somewhere else," she said.

Posner, who has one child currently attending the nursery and plans to send his twins there next year, said if the school doesn't move to another location, he doesn't know what he'll do.

"I have no plan B," he said.

Posner agreed that legally, Rogers isn't doing anything wrong, but he cited Industry Canada guidelines that state companies should consider "local circumstances" when choosing a site.

"We value community feedback and we consider the needs of local residents when constructing the infrastructure that provides wireless service to customers and communities throughout the country," Popek said.

"We work hard to find a suitable location and design while still meeting the technical requirements of the network."

But Posner said Rogers is just paying lip service to community concerns.

"How can you say you considered this when you put it on top of a school, on a shul, and worse, next door to the Reena centre?" he said, referring to Reena's Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre for adults with developmental disabilities.

"We can't sue Rogers… but I think they're wrong, and I think the reason they'll never back down is because it'll set a precedent if they back down," he added.

When asked what actions Rogers would take if Aish decided to walk away from the contract, Popek wouldn't comment, saying that the agreement between Rogers and Aish "is privileged information."

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# Celebrating Israel's 64th birthday north of Steeles Avenue

## *Two Yom Ha'atzmaut events fill the air with pride and ruach*

*By Daniel Horowitz* *On Yom Ha'atzmaut, students from three UJA-affiliated Jewish Schools celebrated together, including a joint singing of Hatikvah with a Jewish school in Brazil, via Skype*

While Jewish communities around the world celebrated Israel's 64th anniversary on April 26th, two festive birthday parties in honour of the Jewish State took place just north of Jewish Toronto, in York Region.

And, considering that today there are approximately 80,000 Jews living north of Steeles Avenue, and that it's the fastest growing Jewish community outside of Israel, it was the perfect place to celebrate.

Braving unseasonably cold and windy conditions, three UJA Federation-affiliated schools that sit side-by-side along the Atkinson Avenue Corridor - The North Campus of The Leo Baeck Day School, Netivot Hatorah Day School and Associated Hebrew Schools Kamin Education Centre - all came together to participate in their annual festive and inspirational Yom Ha'atzmaut parade.

The three schools closed their doors for a few hours as

*Younger students look on as older children in the parade march along Atkinson Avenue*

Atkinson Avenue was transformed into a sea of blue and white, lined with cheering younger students proudly waving Israeli flags and raising their voices, together in song.

"I felt really happy during the walk and about Israel turning 64," explained Grade 4 Leo Baeck Day School student, Laila Bloomstone. "I thought about Herzel and how even before the war he wanted the Jews to have a Jewish State and today we are celebrating 64 years since Israel was established."

One of the highlights of the celebration took place when the students reached Associated Hebrew Schools Kamin Education Centre where they sang Hatikvah together with a Jewish school from Brazil, via Skype.

"I felt so excited to be walking along Atkinson Avenue with my Netivot students waving flags and singing songs," said Calanit Turgeman, a Grade 5 teacher at Netivot HaTorah. "I am from Israel, and even though I am abroad, I felt so proud to be a part of this special nation - Am Israel."

"The parade is a wonderful and integral part of Netivot HaTorah's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration," explained TK Rosenblum, a parent volunteer. "The students and parents all look forward to being part of this exciting event. The opportunity for me to walk hand-in-hand with my children in support of Israel and to stand united as a community with hundreds of children from different Jewish backgrounds in a show of solidarity to Israel, is not only incredible to witness but is amazing to be a part of."

"It made me feel proud because we were helping to support and care for Israel," said Adam Zoltak, a Grade 4 student at Associated Hebrew Schools Kamin Education Centre.

"It was fun because we were with the other Jewish schools celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut together," said Maggie Rappaport, a Grade 5 student at Associated Hebrew Schools Kamin Education Centre.

"I looked in front of me and saw so many people cheering," said Adam Freedman, a Grade 4 student at Leo Baeck Day School. "This felt like we were in Israel and made me proud to be Jewish."

Meanwhile, at the intersection of Lebovic Campus Drive and Ilan Ramon Blvd., over one thousand community members came out to celebrate Israel's birthday at the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan.

*Israeli flags were waved proudly along the parade route*

Young families and children were entertained by jugglers, magicians, face-painters and uplifting Israeli music led by the Magen Boys. A varied array of kosher food and drinks kept the crowds energetic and ready to celebrate.

"It's a little cold," Ellie Horowitz said, "but our feelings for Israel are warm and constant, and my family wouldn't miss celebrating Israel's birthday for anything."

The celebration, organized by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, concluded with live music by the Elevation Band which had community members dancing and singing until nightfall.

"As Jewish life north of Steeles continues to grow and flourish at an incredible clip, it stands to reason that celebrating Jewish life and Israel's 64th anniversary would take to the streets of

*Despite frigid conditions, York Region's Joseph & Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus was alive with Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities*

York Region," said Ted Sokolsky, UJA Federation President & CEO. "I am proud and delighted to see our schools come together as one to honour the Jewish State's anniversary with its annual walk along Atkinson Avenue, where these beautiful children show their love for Israel. And, to see so many members of the community come out to our celebration on the Lebovic Campus, fittingly at the corner of Lebovic and Ilan Ramon Blvd., illustrates the vibrancy and growth of Jewish life to the north."

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# *Welcome President Peres*

The near-nonogenarian is one of the most recognized and highly regarded individuals in the world. Distinguished by his frothy mane of carefully combed, silver-white hair, his sonorous baritone voice, his charming, warm, broad smile, his ability to condense experience into wisdom and wisdom into aphorism, when he speaks, others listen.

This week, many Canadians will have heard Shimon Peres speak and will have undoubtedly marvelled at the clearly envisioned and carefully drawn horizon of hope and possibility that he envisions for Israel, the Middle East and all humankind.

Since Sunday, the president of the State of Israel has been on a five-day state visit to Canada, received by Canada's head of state, its head of government and myriad government, parliamentary, community and other officials and lay leaders with the enthusiasm and warmth indicative of the profound respect for the distinguished visitor personally, and of the deep friendship for the tiny, remarkable country that he represents.

And it is indeed an extraordinary friendship anchored in the single-most important and precious value on God's earth: cherishing, nurturing, saving and protecting each and every human life. It is this value that provides the bedrock core of democracy. And it is this foundation of democracy, common to both Canada and Israel, that ties the two countries together in an iron and steel ribbon of life-affirming purpose that must stand for all time.

Among the official duties to which Peres is attending during his visit is the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Royal Society of Canada and the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. There is no doubt, however, that this ceremony was less duty and more pleasure for Peres. He is and has always been a stalwart champion of education and science as the key methods for building bridges of peace across the wide, scarred crevasses of conflict and distrust.

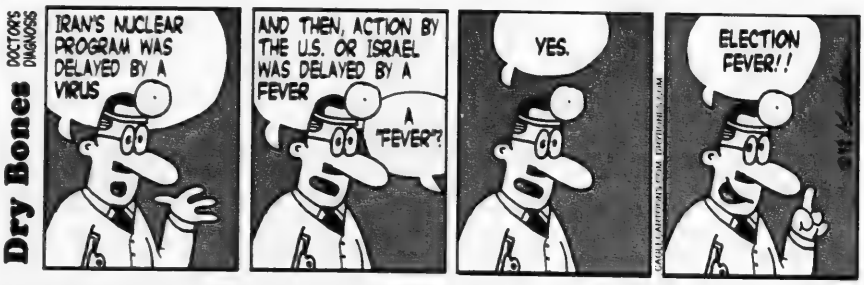
At a hopeful gathering of foreign leaders at Sharm el-Sheikh, on March 13, 1996, then-prime minister Peres said: "Let us all unite to wipe out the curse of terror and to receive the blessing of peace. Let your children and our children know a future of peace. Let them march, safe and sound, through the gates of the next century, free of fear, equipped with knowledge and wisdom, into a new era for mankind."

The building of this new era, an era of peace and prosperity for all mankind has been the one recurring theme of Shimon Peres' life, to which he has committed all his strength, all his will, all his courage, his prayers and his deeds.

Welcome to Canada President Peres. May God crown your deeds with success.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Austrian president Kurt Waldheim sued World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman for saying that Waldheim had been "part and parcel of the Nazi killing machine" and that Waldheim's lying about his past made it "almost a crime against humanity to have anything to do with [him]."


Dry Bones
DOCTORS DIAGNOSIS
IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM WAS DELAYED BY A VIRUS
AND THEN, ACTION BY THE U.S. OR ISRAEL WAS DELAYED BY A FEVER
A "FEVER"?
YES.
ELECTION FEVER!!

*Editorial Advisory Board:* **Maurice Benzacar, Michael Brown, Donald Carr, Rabbi Michael Dolgin, Jake Goldstein, Jeffrey Kopstein, Keith Landy, Lou Ronson, Alan Sandler, Rabbi Philip Scheim, Mike Shriqui, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, Ehud Telem, Nelson Wiseman.**

## Israeli settlements (1)

Many Jews on the so-called left want the settlement project stopped, knowing full well that peace will not miraculously follow but for several other important reasons. First, it will help shift the focus and pressure to the real problem – Palestinian intransigence and opposition to accepting a Jewish state. More importantly, it will create what the security fence was initially intended to do when it was first proposed by Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin – separation of Israel from the Palestinian territories. This important objective is being undermined by Jewish settlements in the midst of large Arab populations that are not only an enormous economic and security burden, but also create an ongoing irritant that exacerbates Arab and international antipathy toward Israel. It will take decades, if ever, before the majority of Arabs will accept a Jewish state. In the meantime, as much as possible, we need to get out of each others' lives.

**David Benjamin**
**Montreal**

### *LET THEM GO...*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

• • •

## Israeli settlements (2)

The suggestion in Tamara Micner's letter, "Leave vengeance to a higher power" (April 19), that more than 300,000 Jewish Israelis living in the West Bank should see their settlements dismantled is ludicrous. Apart from the fact that there is no legal or moral reason why they should not remain there, is the writer proposing that, at tremendous financial costs, they should be relocated to some other part of Israel and then, as was done when Gaza was vacated by Jewish settlers, the Palestinians will come in and destroy the houses in the West Bank? Perhaps as an alternative resolution, rather than being sent to some other part of Israel, the settlers would be sent back to Arab lands where their forefathers were forced out with the creation of the State of Israel. Somehow, the letter writer equates the presence of Jewish settlers in the West Bank with an act of vengeance and cites the golden rule as a formula for Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. Before the Israelis are taken to task for their treatment of Arabs, Micner should encourage every Arab country to apply the golden rule to the treatment of its own citizens.

**Bert Raphael**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

## The role of rabbis

We concur with Rabbi Dow Marmur's analysis of the changing view of the modern rabbi from a purveyor of Jewish scholarship, whose primary task is to inculcate a sense of holiness in his congregants, to counsellor, fundraiser and promoter ("Rabbis then and now," March 29). We feel less enthusiastic about Rabbi Marmur's tolerance of the new type of "democratic nature of contemporary religious life that seeks to reach out and connect with individuals and thus find the presence of God." It seems that people often want a synagogue to be a kind of country club rather than a way to connect with God through each other.

How can a rabbi connect his congregants with the God of Israel and His demands of us without directing them to the ancient intellectual heritage that contains the guidelines for leading a truly Jewish life? And of what relevance is the title "rabbi" (i.e., teacher) for a leader who is not a teacher? Ironically, such congregations resemble closely the Hellenized Jews of the early second century BCE who sought to turn the Temple into a place of money-making and secularization.

**Lionel Jehuda Sanders, Janet Sanders**
**Cote St Luc, Que.**

• • •

## Bible contest winner's name omitted

Your front-page story, "Bible mavens tested on Yom Ha'atzmaut" (May 3), correctly gave credit to Canadian teenage finalists Aaron Goldberg of the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, who tied for first place among Diaspora contestants, and Charlie Friedman of Hebrew Academy in Montreal for their participation in the International Bible Contest. But there was a third Canadian student, Jordana Maged, also of TanenbaumCHAT, in the finals. She placed 10th worldwide. TanenbaumCHAT is very proud of the fact that this is the fifth successive year that one or more of our students has qualified for the Jerusalem finals of the International Bible Contest (Chidon Hatanach), a record that we believe is unequalled by any other Diaspora Jewish school.

**Paul J. Shaviv**
**Director of Education**
**Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto**

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# *Benjamin Netanyahu's political inheritance*

**Yossi Klein Halevi**

Benzion Netanyahu, scholar of the Inquisition, secretary to Ze'ev Jabotinsky, and father of Benjamin, was the last of the purist Revisionist Zionists. He carried Revisionism's bitter battles against the Zionist left to the end of his 102 years. And his complicated relationship with his son tells the story of the successes and failures of the Revisionist movement.

Through the 1930s and '40s, Revisionist and left-wing Zionists argued vehemently about the nature of the future state and how to create it. Labor Zionists were socialists. Revisionists capitalists. Labor co-operated with the British mandate; the Revisionists revolted. And Labor accepted the division of the Land of Israel, while Revisionists opposed every partition plan, including the first partition in 1922, which created the Kingdom of Jordan. The future state, argued Jabotinsky, would need ample borders in which to accommodate millions of future Jewish immigrants from eastern Europe.

The most profound debate between Revisionism and Labor concerned the nature of the Zionist transformation of the Jew. All Zionists agreed that the Jewish character had been distorted by exile; the question was what aspects of that personality needed to be changed. Labor advocated a total overhaul: a secular socialist Jew, freed of piety and economic marginality, a farmer and a worker. Revisionism, though, had only one demand on the new Jew: become a soldier. Jabotinsky didn't care whether Jews were Orthodox or atheist, workers or businessmen – so long as they knew how to defend themselves.

A key component to self-defence is the ability to perceive threat. And with the rise of Nazism, Revisionism's insistence on Jewish power became a war against Jewish complacency and self-delusion. In speeches across eastern Europe, Jabotinsky urged young Jews to learn to shoot and prepare to get out. "*Es brent a fire*," he warned, a fire is burning. Destroy the exile before the exile destroys you. Jabotinsky's opponents mocked him as a fear-monger.

Of all the divides separating Revisionism and Labor, the failure of the mainstream Zionist movement to sense the approaching abyss and attempt to rescue Europe's Jews remained perhaps the most bitter. Zionism, the antidote to Jewish wishful thinking, had, under Labor, been guilty of that worst Diaspora character flaw, and at the worst moment in Jewish history.

In the early years of the state, all that seemed left for Revisionism to fight over was the past. Revisionism's most passionate issue became opposition to German reparations. The fight over partition, after all, had apparently been resolved in Labor's favor. Revisionists kept the memory of both banks of the Jordan alive more as nostalgia than realistic platform. They sang the anthem, "Both banks of the Jordan/ this one is ours, the other too," and members of Betar, the Revisionist youth movement, wore on their navy blue uniforms a patch of the old dream map, of both banks of the Jordan. This wasn't a map of Israel's future, but a memory of what could have been had the Jews listened to Jabotinsky, the borders of thwarted rescue.

What Revisionism retained most urgently wasn't so much ideology but sensibility. Jewish naivete, Revisionists insisted, had been the indispensable partner of the Final Solution. That is what kept the victims from listening to Jabotinsky and fleeing in time. The Nazis played on Jewish hope, reassuring their victims through a series of linguistic deceptions that ended with the showers. What remained of Revisionism was its 11th commandment: don't be a fool.

**Benzion Netanyahu and his son Benjamin** *(Flash90 photo)*

Then came the Six Day War. Suddenly territorial maximalism was relevant again. The new 1967 borders weren't the same borders Revisionists had dreamed of, but they were close enough. History had compensated the Jews for its territorial losses. Not one inch, vowed Jabotinsky's heir, Menachem Begin.

Ten years later, in 1977, came the moment the Revisionists had longed for and almost despaired would ever come. After 29 years in opposition – along with two decades in opposition before statehood –Begin finally rose to power.

And then, almost immediately, came the shattering. When Begin agreed to cede all of Sinai in exchange for peace with Egypt, one of his strongest critics from the right was Benzion Netanyahu. Yet Begin understood what the right-wing academic did not: that the actual wielding of power brought responsibility, a choice between values. Given the possibility of neutralizing the enmity of Israel's most powerful neighbour, Begin opted for peace over land. For Benzion, though, power remained abstract, and ideology absolute.

But the cruelest blow to Benzion came from his son. A political rift between them opened during the election campaign of 1996, when Bibi declared that he would accept the Oslo accords, while insisting on Palestinian reciprocity. Benzion was outraged. Benjamin tried to explain that his endorsement of Oslo was only tactical. Benzion countered: what begins as tactical ends in a betrayal of principle.

Benzion was right. In his second term, Bibi became the first Likud leader to accept the principle of a two-state solution, the possible withdrawal from the second bank of the Jordan. While most of the international community missed the significance of Bibi's historic concession, his father surely did not. Under Prime Minister Netanyahu, Revisionist ideology was buried in a state funeral. Yet even as he rejected the practicality of his father's territorial maximalism, Bibi remained faithful to his father's sensibility.

What Aharon Appelfeld has done in fiction, Benzion Netanyahu did in scholarship: dissect the consequences of Jewish naivete. Benzion's fascination with medieval Spain wasn't based only on the behaviour of the victimizers but of the victims. He not only drew a line connecting what he defined as the racial antisemitism of the Inquisition with Nazism, but implicitly drew a line between the Jews who saw medieval Spain as their golden land and the Jews who saw modern Germany as their new Zion.

It is precisely that dread of Jewish self-deception that has defined the politics of Benzion's son. Don't believe the Palestinian leaders when they speak about peace in English and jihad in Arabic, Prime Minister Netanyahu warned in his first term. And do believe the mullahs when they threaten to destroy the Jewish state, he now warns in his second term.

The war between the heirs of Labor and the heirs of Revisionism is no longer over ideology, but sensibility. Labor won the debate over partition: a strong majority of Israelis backs a two-state solution. Yet that same majority wants the Labor ideology of partition to be implemented by the Revisionist sensibility of wariness. And that is what Benzion's son has committed himself to do. Not to preserve greater Israel at all cost, but to negotiate a safe partition if that becomes possible. A partition without wishful thinking.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has forever changed Israel's political map and, in so doing, helped prepare the way for an eventual agreement with the Palestinians. That is not the victory Benzion hoped for. But it is, in its painful way, a vindication of the politics of realism he taught his son.

*Yossi Klein Halevi is a fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute and a contributing editor to New Republic. This article was originally posted to Tablet Magazine.*

# IDF lawyers act with integrity in West Bank

We're in the midst of another series of worrying occurrences in the West Bank, at least if you're concerned about the rule of law in those parts – to paraphrase the title of Ra'anan Alexandrowicz's award-winning documentary The Law in These Parts, released last summer. It examines the role of IDF judges and legal advisers in the now 45-year-old Israeli occupation of Judea and Samaria.

Having served as the IDF legal adviser to the West Bank and having spent most of my professional career addressing the legalities of myriad issues, large and small, pertaining to the IDF's military governance of this area, I dispute Alexandrowicz's underlying premise, expressed when accepting a prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival. He noted that "what you find out in the film... is that upholding law doesn't always lead to justice. It can even be used as a tool against certain segments of society. We have to oppose them, and if necessary, we have to break them."

I argued against these hypotheses as well as the manner in which the film was made when I debated Alexandrowicz after a screening of his film in Tel Aviv several months ago.

IDF lawyers, particularly those serving in the West Bank, often face complex dilemmas. My experience is that they do so with legal, ethical and moral integrity, understanding that the law, international or domestic, governs and not the whims or desires of other players in the field. And there are many players – left and right: Israelis, Palestinians and assorted foreigners; politicians and bureaucrats; military commanders and civilians.

Examples abound of recent West Bank events, loaded with legalities, requiring adroit legal attention from IDF lawyers, not to mention nerves of steel and a very sturdy backbone.

***Yair Lootsteen***

***in Jerusalem***

Just before Passover, settlers invaded a house in a Palestinian neighbourhood of Hebron, claiming they had circuitously purchased the property from its original Palestinian owner. Government ministers and assorted politicians flocked to this new Jewish enclave.

IDF lawyers examined the situation and concluded the settlers should be evicted to allow appropriate scrutiny of the conveyance contract, but mostly because they hadn't received a permit necessary to complete the transaction, requiring prior ministerial approval for such deals to ensure the government – and not settlers – decide if, where and when to expand existing Jewish presence in the West Bank.

IDF lawyers will also be deciding whether to indict Lt.-Col. Shalom Eisner, deputy commander of the Jordan Valley Brigade, who struck a Danish pro-Palestinian supporter in the face with his assault rifle the day after Passover, because the Dane and other Palestinian and foreign activists refused to disperse a protest by cyclists.

The most sensitive matters presently being dealt with by military attorneys serving in Judea and Samaria relate to the fate of several unauthorized and illegal outposts and neighbourhoods in different locales around the West Bank. Tens are scattered all over the territory, but the most overtly illegal are those built on land owned privately by Palestinians.

In the past few years, Palestinian land owners, represented by Israeli lawyers, have petitioned the Supreme Court demanding that the West Bank military government dismantle settler construction erected on their land. In several cases, the state has been ordered to destroy these structures.

The current hotspots are Migron, an illegal outpost housing more than 50 families, and Givat HaUlpana, a neighbourhood of Bet El with thirty families of its own. The Supreme Court set dates by which the buildings in both spots must be dismantled or destroyed, but politicians and military commanders want delays, arguing that destruction will lead to explosive circumstances.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition is threatened by the prospect of demolition, and commanders fear settler violence. Government lawyers asked for long extensions on the court's orders, but got less. Migron is to be dismantled by Aug. 1, and the government was given only two months to explain how and when it plans to destroy the Ulpana neighbourhood.

Cases such as Migron and Ulpana put legal advisers in uncomfortable positions. Their "clients" don't like their advice, not understanding the different allegiances government and private lawyers have – one to the law, the other to their clients.

West Bank legal advisers often find themselves being lambasted from the left by people like Alexandrowicz and from the right by settlers and their supporters.

This criticism always made me feel that I was probably doing an effective job.

# *Why Israelis are (relatively) happy*

In an international survey commissioned by the United Nations and published by Columbia University, Israel was ranked as the 14th "happiest" country in the world. The survey – based on factors such as health, family and job security, and social factors such as political freedom, social networks and lack of government corruption, is no fluke, and it's backed up by the behaviour of millions of Israelis.

Anyone participating in the Independence Day festivities in parks and nature trails would see that Israelis are very satisfied with their lot and achievements. Yes, we like to complain and criticize (these are Jewish national sports), and yes, there are plenty of dangers, but the bottom line is that most Israelis lead rewarding lives.

In contrast, if you read the newspapers or view news reports from most other media, Israel would appear to be a depressing and foreboding place to live. Even some major Jewish groups emphasize and greatly exaggerate the difficulties and confrontations that characterize life in the Jewish nation state, usually finding some alienated Israelis to provide authenticity.

Looking outward, for each of its 64 years of independence, Israel has been portrayed as facing imminent destruction, most recently from Iran and its allies such as Hezbollah and Hamas. In this, our political leaders are responsible for overstating the country's vulnerability, but Israelis have learned to filter out the hyperbole and live with the uncertainty.

In parallel, latter-day Jewish prophets of doom and gloom, viewing Israel from computer screens and short visits, such as former *New Republic* editor Peter Beinart, have risen to fame by predicting that the unresolved Palestinian conflict is certain to bring destruction. In contrast, the majority of Israelis who live with the reality on a daily basis know that there are no realistic solutions on the horizon. Certainly, Israel's geopolitical situation is more precarious than countries with higher happiness ratings (Canada is fifth), but, as the popular song goes, we have no other Jewish homeland, and we're making a reasonable go of it.

Indeed, the fact that we live in the Land of Israel, the homeland of the Jewish people, as a free and sovereign nation for the first time in 2,000 years is what this is all about – this gives life meaning for many of Israel's seven million Jewish citizens. We have our differences, but this is only natural as we attempt to weave numerous diverse and strongly held beliefs into a coherent social fabric.

These differences are greatly exaggerated when they're portrayed by "mainstream" writers who specialize in uninformed criticism. Some Jewish groups competing for funds, attention and influence join in by painting a highly negative image of Israel. In these public relations battles, Israeli society is falsely portrayed as "anti-

***Gerald Steinberg***

***in Jerusalem***

democratic", and dominated by "extremists" – totally distorting a complex struggle between strongly held traditions and interests.

For example, isolated incidents in which women were attacked by a tiny fringe in a Beit Shemesh turf battle – and which were clearly not ignored – were falsely turned into images representative of the entire society. And the head of one major Jewish organization even used the odious comparison of Israel to Iran in appealing for funds. Fringes cynically use exaggerated threats from other extremes to promote their own interests.

In contrast, Israel has done and is still doing an amazing job of integrating millions of immigrants from many different backgrounds. We have revived Jewish culture in a renaissance of learning and art that is unprecedented, including the regeneration of the Hebrew language, allowing everyone access to texts ranging from the original Bible to modern debates on philosophy and politics.

If Israel were really such a desolate and troubled place to live, the rankings on "happiness" surveys would be much lower, and a much larger number of talented Israelis would be leaving. At the same time, we know that our society is far from perfect (no place is), and we have our share of problems and challenges, both internally and externally.

But negative campaigning and gratuitous Israel bashing is counterproductive to efforts to overcome these challenges.

# West Bank outposts trigger tension

On April 24, the Israeli government retroactively legalized three unauthorized Jewish outposts in the West Bank, touching off a firestorm of international criticism and focusing attention yet again on Israel's controversial settlement building program in the territories.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesperson, Mark Regev, blandly downplayed the legalization of Bruchin, Sansana and Rechelim, populated by 188 families, as merely a procedural matter of no real importance.

But Regev's assessment was hotly disputed.

The secretary general of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, called the legalization contrary to Israeli law and Israel's obligation under the 2003 "road map" peace plan. The foreign minister of the European Union, Catherine Ashton, said that settlements are illegal under international law, pose an obstacle to the attainment of peace and threaten "the viability of a two-state solution."

The U.S. State Department described the legalization as unhelpful and noted that the United States does not accept "the legitimacy of continued settlement activity."

Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian Authority official, said that Israel's settlement policy would destroy the two-state solution and what is still left of the peace process. The PA's observer at the United Nations, Riyad Mansour, claimed that Israel's aim is to entrench its "massive network of illegal settlements." He urged the Security Council to address the issue.

Israel's decision was announced about a month after the Israeli Supreme Court ordered the West Bank outpost of Migron to be dismantled by Aug. 1 and a year after the Israeli government decided that outposts built on state land would be legalized, while those on private Palestinian land would be removed.

The court's verdict shines a spotlight on Israel's archipelago of about 100 unauthorized outposts. Israel makes a distinction between these outposts, some of which have been erected on private Palestinian land, and the 121 settlements that have been constructed with the government's approval since the 1967 Six Day War.

The outposts were established at the instigation of Ariel Sharon, long a champion and enabler of settlements.

In 1998, when he was defence minister in Netanyahu's first government, he urged Jewish settlers to seize hilltops in the West Bank so as to break up the contiguity of Palestinian-inhabited areas and prevent the creation of a contiguous Palestinian state.

***Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto***

A succession of Israeli prime ministers, including Sharon, promised to dismantle the outposts, which were built by highly ideological settlers without the permission of the government and in violation of Israeli Supreme Court veredicts.

On March 8, 2005, two months after Sharon succumbed to a massive stroke that incapacitated him, the Israeli government released an official report on the outposts written by Talia Sasson, a lawyer in the State's Attorney office.

The report was explosive in terms of its content and its implications.

Sasson concluded that Israeli state bodies, from the defence to the housing ministry, had been discreetly diverting huge sums of money to the outposts and the settlements.

She charged that the ministry of housing had supplied 400 mobile homes, while the ministry of education and the ministry of energy had respectively paid for nurseries and teachers and hookups to the electricity grid.

Calling the diversions a "blatant violation of the law," she recommended that "drastic steps" be taken to rectify the situation, such as stripping the ministry of housing of authority over the construction of settlements and transferring that authority to the cabinet.

And in an unmistakable message, Sasson declared that Israel should cease speaking in "two voices" over the issue: "The government must take into its hands responsibility for what is happening in the outposts... and not sit on the sidelines watching as the settlers do whatever they want, without anyone stopping them."

**Ariel Sharon**

Less than a week after the publication of the report, the government, led by Sharon's successor, Ehud Olmert, voted by a margin of 18-1 to approve Sasson's recommendations. The then minister of housing, Isaac Herzog, promised to study the report and implement its recommendations.

Seven years on, however, the report has been virtually forgotten, its recommendations having been all but ignored.

Israel has razed a few unauthorized outposts, including Amona, Mitzpe Avichal and Maoz Esther, but some have been rebuilt by recalcitrant settlers, whose attitude toward the rule of law is nothing less than flippant.

**Talia Sasson**
***(Ralph Alswang photo)***

Bitter by the fact that her report has been left to gather dust, Sasson, in a recent interview with the *Times of Israel* website, accused Netanyahu of destroying Israel's democratic and Jewish future by undertaking massive and indiscriminate settlement expansion.

She scathingly dismissed Netanyahu's formal endorsement of Palestinian statehood as "meaningless" and "empty" words.

Facing a severe backlash from cabinet colleagues and pro-settlement movements, Netanyahu said last month, "The principle that has guided me is to strengthen Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria."

Quite true.

Last November, in a move designed to punish the PA for its "unilateral manoeuvre" to join UNESCO, a United Nations agency, Netanyahu announced a new wave of settlement construction in the West Bank and in eastern Jerusalem, both of which are sought by the PA for a Palestinian state.

Netanyahu's office disclosed that some 2,000 housing units would be built in Gush Etzion and Ma'aleh Adumim and in eastern Jerusalem's Har Homa district, noting that these areas would remain in Israel's hands "under any future peace agreement."

More recently, Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz and Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz said that settlement construction is an intrinsic component of government policy.

Steinitz disclosed that government assistance to settlements in the West Bank has risen of late, saying that settlers who had submitted to a 10-month partial settlement freeze in 2010 should be compensated. Katz asserted that a Likud government "ought to be encouraging settlement."

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, a settler himself, went one step further, warning that Netanyahu's coalition government would unravel should the unauthorized outposts of Migron and Givat Assaf be demolished.

With an early national election looming on the horizon, Netanyahu is scrambling to save the outposts, even if they push Israel into further confrontations with the Palestinians and the international community.

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# Netanyahu not committed to two states: Peace Now

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has no interest in reaching a peace agreement with the Palestinian Authority, says the director general of Peace Now.

"Netanyahu doesn't feel committed to the two-state solution," Yariv Oppenheimer asserted in an interview last week. "He's not serious about it."

"The current government is not one to make peace with the Palestinians," he added, echoing a recent comment by the former head of the Shin Bet, Yuval Diskin.

Speaking at a conference last month on the Arab-Israeli conflict, Diskin said, "We are not talking to the Palestinians because this government has no interest in negotiations... This government is not interested in solving anything with the Palestinians, and I say this with certainty."

Comparing Netanyahu to one of his Likud predecessors, Yitzhak Shamir, Oppenheimer said, "He's becoming a modern version of Shamir, saying, 'No, no, no' to everything."

In a reference to Netanyahu's settlement expansion policy in the West Bank, he noted, "He's interested in creating facts on the ground."

Oppenheimer, who was in Toronto to deliver a lecture sponsored by Canadian

Yariv Oppenheimer

Friends of Peace Now, said Israel should have imposed a freeze on the construction of settlements in the West Bank right after the 1967 Six Day War.

In his view, settlements were built with one purpose in mind: to prevent the emergence of a geographically contiguous Palestinian state.

Suggesting that Netanyahu's formal acceptance of a two-state solution in 2009 was insincere and should not be taken at face value, Oppenheimer said, "He was under pressure from the Israeli public to show leadership after he became prime minister."

Netanyahu's coalition government would break up if he agreed to participate in substantive negotiations with the Palestinians, he said. "For Netanyahu, photo-ops are more important than real negotiations."

Oppenheimer charged that Netanyahu is using the demand for Palestinian recognition of Israel as a Jewish state as an excuse to let the status quo stand.

"Israel should be a Jewish state, but as an Israeli, I don't need the Palestinian Authority to define Israel's character."

Oppenheimer said that Israel can only preserve its status as a Jewish democratic state by ending its four-decade occupation of the West Bank.

Despite his belief that prospects for a peace accord are currently dim, he urged Israel's peace camp to persevere and not succumb to despair.

"Maybe it will take 10 to 15 years, but we have to continue to fight for peace. It's still possible, even if it's painful and traumatic. The two-state solution is not dead. Eventually, Israel will have to confront the issue of the West Bank."

Oppenheimer described the PA as a "credible partner" whose goal is to reach a peace agreement with Israel, saying its leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad is "more moderate" than was former PA president Yasser Arafat.

Rather than advocating violence, an old Palestinian tactic, they call for non-violent resistance to Israel's occupation of the West Bank so as to create conditions for statehood, he said.

"They're not Zionists, but they're responsible leaders who can deliver the goods."

Hamas' refusal to recognize Israel, as well as the lack of mutual trust between Israel and the PA, are further obstacles in the way of peace, he observed.

A peace accord would garner international support for Israel and undermine Iran's rationale for being at war with the Jewish state, Oppenheimer argued.

Rather than being an Israeli issue, Iran's nuclear program is really a matter for the international community to resolve, he said. Israel, therefore, should refrain from launching a preemptive attack on Iran. "Attacking Iran won't be an effective way of stopping its nuclear program."

If anything, an attack would probably embolden Iran to redouble its efforts to build an atomic arsenal, he warned.

Oppenheimer called on Jews in the Diaspora to get involved in Israeli politics.

"Israelis will make the final decisions, but Jews outside Israel should have a say. They need to speak up, whether on the left or the right, and hopefully, they will support Peace Now positions."

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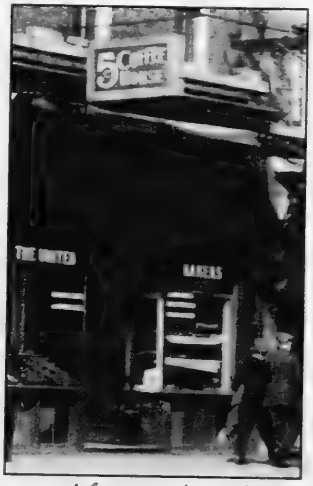

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Philip and Ruthie Ladovsky

# *Borscht and blintzes always popular*

**Continued from page 3**

Although there was no formal menu when it first opened in 1912, among the restaurant's favourite offerings were pea and vegetable soup, cabbage borscht, gefilte fish and cheese blintzes. These items – cabbage borscht only on Fridays – are served to this day.

Aaron and Sarah's son Herman joined the business and worked at the Spadina Avenue location for 60 years, and Herman's children, Philip and Ruthie, are United Bakers' current owners.

Nathan said that a highlight of his week is when his grandmother, Dora, Herman's wife, comes into the restaurant, and he is able to make her a "special" grilled cheese sandwich.

In an interview with Philip and Ruthie at the restaurant, Philip said that many years ago, the two of them decided that they would be proud to carry on the family tradition.

Their first big decision was to open the Spadina location on Sundays.

"This 100-year anniversary is thrilling to us. Imagine being part of this business, and remaining true to its roots."

Ruthie said that although they still serve the longtime favourites – they shook things up some years ago by adding dill to the soup – their menu has evolved.

"We now have veggie burgers, grilled salmon with wasabi, rainbow trout, eggplant parmesan, Israeli salad – something for everyone. There is such a wide variety of menu items that some customers eat here two or three times a day. We respond to what customers are looking for."

Without question, however, soups are one of the favourite menu items. "Its not Monday in our business, its vegetable soup day, and its not Wednesday, it's potato soup day. Every day though, is pea soup day," Ruthie said.

They serve comfort food that everyone grew up with, she said.

"It's always consistent and always tastes the same. Our customers count on that. Our father was able to make every customer feel at home, and we try to do the same."

It's not only the customers who feel at home, said Phillip. "The staff is like an extended family. Some have been with us since we moved here."

Nathan said he feels like he grew up with a bunch of mothers. "When I would come in to visit, they would greet me warmly, with lots of questions."

The staff shares the customers' joys and sorrows, said Philip.

"They come to UB when they have their first child, their first grandchild, when they've gotten married, and when they [get up] from shivah. We share in their rights of passage."


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# Thornhill teacher promotes Holocaust education

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Last week marked the sixth year of the Adopt a Survivor program at Yorkhill Elementary School in Thornhill. The program, created by Harriette Fleising, a teacher at the school, is an interactive way for students to learn about the Holocaust and other genocides.

For Fleising, educating students about the Holocaust feels like a personal responsibility. "It's very dear and close to my heart," said the kindergarten teacher who is the child of Holocaust survivors. "I felt that the children should learn a piece of history."

Harriette Fleising
*[Michelle Bitran photo]*

Fleising decided that the best way to teach that piece of history was to create the Adopt a Survivor program. Participating classes from grades 4 to 8 inclusive each "adopt" a Holocaust or genocide survivor and study their story as well as the history of the conflict or war.

Students are given a storybook about their survivor, printed and donated by Eleanor and Michael Rinne of Print Three in Toronto, which they study for 3-1/2 weeks. The students then hold a Holocaust and genocide memorial assembly at the end of the unit, where they are introduced to their adoptive survivors, either in person or through video-conferencing, depending on where the survivors live.

"They're so excited because it's not just information they're learning from a book," Fleising said.

The culminating assembly for this year's program was held last week in the school's gymnasium. The theme was child survivors of the Holocaust, and it included speeches by the director of the York Region District School Board, Ken Thurston, as well as executive vice-president of B'nai Brith Canada Frank Diamant. Following their speeches, students presented poetry and reflections about genocide, and there were video clips of the adoptive survivors, speeches by Holocaust survivor Jozef Cipin and a survivor of the Rwandan Genocide, Leo Kabalisa.

"The lesson is that we have to educate from a young age," Diamant told the students who were surrounded by decorations with information about the Holocaust, about genocides worldwide and about the dangers of bullying people because they are different.

Diamant stressed that the Holocaust happened in what people considered a "civilized" society, similar to the one in Toronto. He urged students to recognize the importance of tolerance. "Had there been that mutual respect of civilizations, there would never have been a Shoah," he said.

Feising told the audience how important it is for young children to understand the horrors of racism and of genocide, so that they can pave the way for a better future. "The challenge will be for the young generation to carry the torch, to recognize when injustice is done and to speak up," she said.

For Kabalisa, who barely escaped the Rwandan Genocide in the '90s, it is especially important that young people don't simply repeat the phrase "never again," but that they truly understand that they can make a difference in ending racism. "Every single time, we say 'never again,' and it happens again, and we [just] watch," he said. "However, when I see so many young students sitting here, listening quietly to what we say, I see a brightness in the future."

**EATING FOR ISRAEL: On May 1, Ulpanat Orot students took part in the "America Eats for Israel" initiative. On that day, restaurants across North America donated a percentage of their profits to Meir Panim, an Israeli organization whose mission is to alleviate the harmful effects of poverty on thousands of Israeli families by supporting a range of food and social service programs. Pictured, from left, are Grade 10 students Yardena Katz, Rachel Gold, Sarena Meyer, Adina Tanen and Sarah Wapner, who organized a school-wide lunch through Pizza Café, one of the participating restaurants.**

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# Police sergeant speaks out about Darfur genocide

**Vicky Tobianah**
Special to The CJN

We need to become global citizens and ensure that the genocide in Darfur does not continue, said Debbie Bodkin, a retired Waterloo Police sergeant.

She spoke to a roomful of people at the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies last week.

Bodkin was working as a police sergeant when she became interested in conflicts overseas.

In 2004, she was asked to join the Coalition for International Justice in Chad to interview refugees and victims who had entered the country after fleeing war-torn Sudan. The purpose of the interviews was to provide evidence to the U.S. State Department that a genocide was occurring in Darfur.

In 1989, Gen. Omar Bashir seized control of Sudan by military coup. Bashir was part of an Arab tribe, and soon the government was mainly composed of Arab tribe members, unlike the majority of the Sudanese population who are from African tribes.

Then in 2003, two Darfuri rebel groups, the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement, took up arms, accusing the government of oppressing black Africans in favour of Arabs, such as by sending the country's oil only to the Arab tribes. The government responded by sending Arab militia, known as "Janjaweed" (devils on horseback), who attacked the African tribes. Since the genocide began, 400,000 people have been killed and more than two million people are now displaced.

"One of the victims said to me, 'Life is nothing when you have no one left,' and we quickly found that the stories we were going to hear were always the same, no matter who we interviewed… stories of rape and murder," said Bodkin.

**Retired Waterloo Police sergeant Debbie Bodkin interviewed Mohammad, a refugee from Sudan.**

"There was one little guy named Mohammad, and he had a crush on me – I think he had never seen a white person. Before I left, his mother said to me, 'Please take him back with you, because he may not live to see another day here.' You know how much it would take for a mother to want to give away her son," she said.

After returning from Chad, she was determined to do more global work. This time, she entered the conflict itself, travelling to Darfur with the UN Commission of Inquiry for Darfur in January 2005. "The stories were the same, the only thing that differed was the number of people they lost," she said.

She said one man walked for three hours with his two young daughters to the camp where Bodkin was, so she could record their experiences. The two girls had been sent to get material to build a fire for their family and were sexually assaulted on the way and left to bleed in the middle of the desert. "They had no emotion left in them because of what they had been through," she said.

She spent three months in Darfur interviewing victims, but since the government sent spies to follow her and her team, she never actually witnessed any crimes. "It was a fake peace wherever we went. Some people said as soon as we moved on to the next building, they would bomb ours," she said.

A month after returning home, Bodkin was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. "As a police officer, when there's a crime going on, it's our job to stop it. But the problem is, I couldn't stop it," she said.

She now speaks to audiences across Canada about her experiences, which she says is therapeutic for her, and as a way to ensure that these stories are not lost.

"Simon Wiesenthal believed in the pursuit of justice and he spent his life hunting down Nazi war criminals," said Nicole Betel, an education associate at the centre. "He believed that the history of man is the history of crimes, and crimes can repeat themselves, so information is our best defence."

Bodkin hopes that her stories help others become "global citizens" and raise awareness of crimes against humanity.

# The moral lesson of Lag b'Omer

**Rabbi Mark Fishman**

Lag b'Omer, literally meaning the 33rd day of the Omer, is the one day of festivities in the midst of the 49 days of semi-mourning between Passover and Shavuot.

In biblical times, this bridge period between our Exodus from Egypt and the Divine revelation at Sinai comprised joyous days of the omer grain offering and a daily countdown of anxious expectation – "And you shall count for yourselves from the morrow after the Festival [of Passover], the day that you bring the grain [omer] of the wave offering, seven complete Sabbaths shall there be. To the morrow after the seventh Sabbath week shall you number 50 days." (Leviticus 23:15-16). Nevertheless, the ironies of history cast a tragic cloud over this seven-week period, when 24,000 students of Rabbi Akiva one of the greatest sages of the Mishnah, were felled by a plague.

The talmudic sage Rav Nachman gives the cause of this scourge as *askara*, which most commentaries explain as a plague of diphtheria. Others suggest it comes from the Greek *sikarii*, or sword, referring to the tragic defeat of the Bar Kochba rebellion against Rome – a rebellion that was supported by Rabbi Akiva and his disciples. Whatever the physical reason for their deaths, the Talmud definitively provides the moral cause of their downfall: "They did not accord each other proper respect" (B.T. Tractate Yevamot 62b).

It may be difficult to conceive that a mere lack of mutual respect should make the best and the brightest deserve such an extreme punishment, but the halachic reality of our daily lives has turned a biblical and climatic period bursting with new beginnings and new crops into a period of devastation – with no weddings, no social gatherings, no proper grooming.

*Rabbinic Reflections*

But there's one day when all this changes: Lag b'Omer. On that day, on the hill near Montefiore's Windmill in the heart of Jerusalem, streams of couples spend the day posing for the videographers and their cameras. It's not just the caterers and musicians and photographers who throw themselves into the charged atmosphere of the day; it's the barbers, the entertainers and the myriad youngsters of all ages who are enchanted by bonfires replete with snacks, songs and stories.

But when all is said and done, what exactly is the nation celebrating? Tradition has it that only on Lag b'Omer did the disciples of Rabbi Akiva not die. Big deal! What an anti-climax. Why such universal celebration because of a temporary respite of 24 hours from the plague? Even with this brief recess, the next day, 500 more sages lost their lives, as did 500 more every day thereafter until Shavuot.

A cynic can always ask: what's the significance of 500 less dead bodies when 24,000 corpses had to be buried? The answer is that every human life is of inestimable value. Apparently, the disciples of Rabbi Akiva didn't understand this fundamental Jewish truth, and, therefore, did not sufficiently respect each other, causing their colleagues pain and embarrassment. Subsequent generations had to learn to venerate and celebrate the fragility and dignity of life.

*Rabbi Mark Fishman is assistant rabbi at Congregation Beth Tikvah in Montreal.*

# Judaism and sexuality

The basic attitude of Judaism toward sex and marriage begins with several related statements in the opening chapters of Genesis.

The Lord declares, "It is not good for man to be alone; I will make a fitting helper for him." Adam is put to sleep and God takes a rib from him from which he forms woman. When Adam awakes and sees Eve beside him, he speaks these portentous words, "This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh... Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh."

*Bookmarks*

*Bernard Baskin*

The first of the Torah's commandments is, "Be fruitful and multiply." Celibacy is frowned upon in Judaism. Even the old, the weak, the sickly are entitled to marry.

Judaism and Jewish law are "chivalrous." The Bible, the Talmud and rabbinic literature abound in warm tributes to the "woman of valour" who looks diligently after her husband and children. Jewish ethics has much to say on how the wife is to be honoured and cherished.

But words of praise and approbation are not enough. Many Jewish women resent the legal inferiority and disabilities to which Jewish law subjects them – especially with respect to laws of marriage and divorce.

It is disgraceful that Jewish law leaves women totally and helplessly at the mercy of estranged husbands and spiteful brothers-in-law. It is insufferable to be "chained" to a man who has remarried and yet refuses to make it possible for his first wife or his deceased brother's childless widow to remarry.

Under strict traditional male-made law women can neither vote nor serve as witnesses. They are not counted in the prayer quorum of the minyan. Some of the talmudic sages, concerned that women were a source of sexual allurement, cautioned against holding even a casual conversation with them (Avot 1:5). They taught that men shouldn't touch a women or even shake hands in greeting.

Two provisions of the modesty laws with regard to women are so troubling that they divide Orthodox Jews even today. The first teaches that woman's hair is powerfully erotic and that no one but her husband should see it. This rule has led many Orthodox women to wear a wig in public.

The other rule makes listening to a woman's voice a grave sexual violation. Thus, those who observe this ruling may not attend the opera or theatre, or even listen to women's voices on radio, television or recordings.

Dov Linzer, an Orthodox rabbi, is the dean of a rabbinical school in New York. In a recent article in the *New York Times* he writes that the Talmud, in effect, warns the restrictive male that how he treats and regards women must involve his self-control and responsibility.

Romantic love, which is an expression of sexual desire, is natural, normal and good. Expressed in the best human spirit, this kind of love is part of the beauty of holiness. A modern poet expressed it best: "Love is biology set to music."

# שישאר בינינו

## גידי קורן וחברים

**להתראות חברים-תחסרו לנו:**

קבלת הפנים של הקונסוליה ביום העצמאות עלתה על קודמותיה ברמת ההתלהבות ובאוירה המאוד מיוחדת עם קסם של ממש באויר. את ממשלת קנדה ייצג השר ג'ו אוליבר, שהוא במקרה (או שלא ) הנציג שלי בפרלמנט. אוליבר, יהודי חם ואוהד ישראל נלהב, הביא את דברי סטיבן הארפר וזכה לתשואותיהם הרמות של מאות הנוכחים, תשואות שביטאו את ההוקרה של הציבורים היהודי והישראלי בקנדה לעמדת הממשלה כלפי ישראל. אבל כוכב הערב היה ללא ספק אמיר גיסין, שזה היה לו יום העצמאות האחרון איתנו. הישגו העקרי של גיסין בעיני רבים הוא בהסטת תשומת הלב הציבורית מהקונפליקט במזרח התיכון לכוון ייחודה של ישראל בכל תחום אנושי, מכלכלה למדע, לחינוך ורפואה. חשיפת קנדה להתלהבות, למקוריות וליצירתיות של שמונה מליון הישראלים, התיירות והסחר עם קנדה-כל אלה הן קבלות לתקופה מזהירה של גיסין. שיא הערב היה לטעמי כשגיסין הצטרף לזמר דני רובס לשיר את אחד מלהיטיו. כל מי שדרכו הצטלבה עם אמיר ויעל בחמש השנים האחרונות יחסר אותם- את הצניעות, החכמה וחוש ההומור, שחורגים ממה שמצפים באופן רגיל מדיפלומט. היו שלום, יעל ואמיר. אנחנו נחסר את הסוג הזה של ייצוג ישראלי. ושתהיינה לכם נחיתה רכה וקליטה מוצלחת.

**THE TORCH OF LIFE**

בחמישי בנובמבר 2005 נורה למוות בג'נין ילד פלשתינאי, אחמד, בשל טעות טראגית של חייל ישראלי. אחמד שיחק ברובה צעצוע, והחייל סבר שהוא מתכונן לירות בכוחות צה"ל. ראש הממשלה שרון התנצל למשפחה ואז קרה דבר מדהים: אביו של אחמד, איסמעיל חטיב, החליט להסב את הטרגדיה האיומה שלו לאנרגיה חיובית, ותרם את אבריו של אחמד ובכך הציל את חייהם של חמישה ילדים ישראלים יהודים.

לפני שבועיים, בערב ההצדעה של חוג ידידי בית החולים מאיר בכפר סבא, נכח אחיו של אחמד, תאלד, שמסייר בצפון אמריקה ומספר את סיפור אחיו, כדי לגייס תמיכה בפרוייקט השתלת האיברים "לפיד החיים". כסיפר אריה רייף את סיפורו של אחמד והציג את אחיו תאלד, קם קהל המאות על רגליו ונדמה לי שלא היתה עין יבשה אחת באולם "בית אמת". פרוייקט "לפיד החיים" אומץ על ידי חוג ידידי בית החולים מאיר, כאמירה ברורה על הצורך בדו קיום בישראל, דו קיום שמתקיים יום יום בבית החולים בכפר סבא.

**על אומללות הספורט הטורונטאי**

בשבוע שעבר שאלתי איך זה שקבוצות הספורט המקצועי של טורונטו אינן מצליחות לנצח ולזכות באליפויות כבר עשרות שנים. איך יתכן שפניקס אריזונה, שאיש לא ראה בה שלג, מצליחה הרבה יותר מטורונטו בהוקי קרח!

זו איננה בעייה כספית, כי בטורונטו יש שוק ענק לצריכת ספורט. זה משהו אחר לגמרי לענ‍יות דעתי: בספורט, כמו גם בתחומים רבים אחרים, הקנדים עושים את העבודה ללא התלהבות, ללא יציאה מן הכלים, ללא חריקת שיניים -PASSION, מילה אנגלית שאין לה תאום בעברית: התלהבות, התמכרות, הליכה בלתי מתפשרת לכוון מטרה. זו אולי הסיבה מדוע ישראלים רבים מצליחים כאן- הם מביאים איתם את היכולת להלהיב . אבל שישאר בינינו.

**MORE GIDI KOREN at www.gidikoren.com**

# Why the hoopla about Israel's 64th?

Yom Ha'atzmaut 2012 – the 64th anniversary of Israel's Declaration of Independence – has prompted a flurry of media coverage that is usually reserved for perhaps more significant events, such as 25th, 50th or 75th jubilees. Even turn-of-decade celebrations or a 65th might ordinarily be considered more defining.

However, if this is what fills column (or blog) space, we shouldn't complain. Much of it has been positive, sometimes, according to Israel's traditional adversaries, too positive. So, inevitably, when Google honoured Israel by decorating its online logo with Israeli flags (in what's known as a "doodle"), a Palestinian group responded by demanding their own depiction – of a Google emblem that instead referenced their "nakba" the perceived "catastrophe" that befell them when the Jewish State was established in 1948.

But amid the "feel-good" reporting, there is also a good dollop of balanced and insightful commentary that draws attention to the social, cultural, religious, political and existential predicaments that are so much part of what characterizes modern-day Israel. Despite its Herculean strides in creating the foundations of a civil society, a thriving democracy, a flourishing economy and a pride of place and purpose that are the envy of other nations of comparable age – and some much older – there remains within the Israeli psyche a pervasive uncertainty about where precisely the country is headed and what shape it will take in the next 64 years.

Of course, a lot is contingent on whether there's the political will within the current leadership and its successors to deal sensibly and resolutely with the myriad domestic flashpoints that demand attention. Among these are the deepening tensions between

*My View*

*Lawrence Hart*

the haredim (an estimated 10 per cent of the Jewish population) and the rest of Israeli society, which can no longer be ignored.

In addressing this, *Times of Israel* editor, David Horowitz recently commented that "the ad hoc arrangements that have produced, for the first time in Jewish history, an entire demographic sector that has abandoned the religious requirement to join the productive workforce, cannot be sustained." What is also unsustainable, Horowitz adds, is the Orthodox community's "stranglehold on life-cycle events."

Also needed is a prompt and unequivocal acceptance of Israel's High Court decision of late April to rescind the Tal Law, which, up until now, has permitted exemptions from military service for yeshiva students.

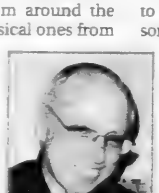
The alarming escalation in the cost of living, especially housing, in Israel – the focus we'll recall of last summer's "social justice protests" – is another example of the spectrum of issues that urgently require policy changes if Israel's democracy is to be further cultivated going forward.

Less controllable and ultimately more daunting are the uncertainties facing Israel from beyond its borders. Much will depend on how exactly the so-called "Arab Spring" (which is more aptly described an "Islamist spring") plays itself out and how Iran's march toward a hostile nuclear capability is confronted.

Israel at 64 may not represent a pivotal milestone in the country's history. Nonetheless, the media attention that it has attracted has had a fascinating, even salutary, effect. It has provided an opportunity for introspection, for those who care to re-evaluate past missteps and hopefully guide this precious haven through a deservedly healthy and vibrant middle age.

# The ketubah: document of devotion, Pt. 2

If you are looking for inspiration for your own ketubah or just love Judaic art, the very best site to visit is the Ketubot Digitization Project. This Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem has catalogued and made available on the web hundreds of ketubot from around the world, including classical ones from Afghanistan, Morocco, Latin America and Myanmar. [http://bit.ly/ketuba9]



*Jewish & Digital*

*Mark Mietkiewicz*

The oldest ketubah on this site dates back to the year 1023 in Eretz Yisrael between the groom Natan HaCohen HaTzefati ben Shlomo and his bride, Rachel. Almost one millennium later, you can see Natan and Rachel's ketubah online – and dream about their lives. For more about this incredible collection, see the article in Cultivate Interactive magazine. [http://bit.ly/ketuba10]

If you want to possess a truly unique ketubah – and have some artistic flair – then why not create one yourself? I came across a site where the bride's mother decided to paint one as a wedding gift. She provides step-by-step instructions, along with these words to the faint of heart. "Don't be afraid to try! If you mess it up, you can always start again (or buy one). And as my daughter pointed out, in this day and age it's not that much of a trick to have something that's perfect – computers do it every day. What's exceptional is to have something made by hand, something personal, something with the quirks, eccentricities, and yes, even mistakes that show it's made by a human being." [http://bit.ly/ketuba11]

If you want some inspiration, here are two great places where you will find thousands of ketubot, mostly contemporary. Both Google Images [http://bit.ly/ketuba12] and Flickr will not disappoint. [http://bit.ly/ketuba13]

And here's a practical piece of advice if you're planning an out-of-town wedding and will be travelling with your ketubah. Roll it between sheets of acid-free tissue paper and pack it in an extra strong tube. "When you get to the location of your wedding, take your ketubah out of the tube and let it unroll. The paper will keep its curl for a while, but don't worry. The paper of your ketubah should easily 'forget' the curl over time." [http://bit.ly/ketuba14]

After the wedding is over and you have hung your ketubah on your wall, Anita Diamant says don't just admire your ketubah, read it regularly. She quotes the Baal Shem Tov, the 18th-century founder of Chassidism who "advised couples to re-read their ketubah whenever they were fighting. It would remind them, he said, of how they felt as brides and grooms, hopeful, smitten, surrounded by good wishes." [http://bit.ly/ketuba15]

But Diamant says it shouldn't take a fight to get couples to re-read their ketubah. "It ought to be one of those health-and-safety habits, like checking your smoke detector when you change the clocks for daylight savings. Likewise, on every wedding anniversary, Jewish couples should sit down and read the contract they signed with stars in their eyes... Even the most exquisite ketubah is never simply a work of art. A ketubah always signifies the Jewishness of a love story, a marriage, a home, a family, a past and a future."

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# *Remember with tea, love and a cookie*

**Dorothy Lipovenko**
Special to The CJN

They belong to a generation that loved to bake, and baked with love. Like most artists, these women were their own toughest critics, and each had her signature style: cookies of tender crumb, feathery sponge cake, mandelbread that snapped in the mouth.

These bakers are the last to inherit the shtetl way of making something from nothing, a generation whose "tech apps" were the 12 speeds on a Mixmaster's dial. Blend, mix, stir, fold, beat: what's the difference when everything goes into one bowl?

Ah, but the bakers knew.

And they knew, too, that their creations were the ultimate comfort food, offered with words sweeter than sugar: "Tomorrow you'll diet."

Baking was their pride, and now it is their legacy.

The women who raised us postwar boomers are on my mind of late. Their electric mixers are going silent. With a heavy heart I go to their funerals, pay shivah calls, send tribute cards to unfamiliar zip codes.

In middle age, I'm one of those women reaching for the phone to mend a frayed connection with the past, when a special baker from that era is gone.

It is no coincidence that in their grief, grown children are taking comfort in memories of a mother's baking. Sometimes in unexpected ways.

Two sons are giving the eulogy for their mother, a former schoolteacher. As always, a life lived must be telescoped into minutes. But they do so, eloquently. The oldest speaks of his mother's cooking as the heart and soul of family holiday dinners; it is her hamantashen he singles out for special mention.

Days later, a friend in Toronto shares an e-mail thread. She wants me to read some of the condolence messages from the family's old neighbourhood on the passing of her mother, Faye Grafstein, last year.

Here is one: "I often think of your mother, giving us cookies when we'd come to the door... sometimes we'd ask for [your sister] even though we knew she wasn't there – just to get a cookie and a smile!"

"May the aroma (and the *tam* of the wonderful memories) of her freshly baked cookies ... accompany her neshamah to its honoured place in Gan Eden," reads another.

The kids on that street are grown and long gone, scattered dozens or thousands of miles, but Faye Grafstein's elfin kitchen will always be just around the corner; no space would have been big enough for her sweet compassion, advice and legendary chocolate chip cookies and angel cake, fondly known as shmatte cake.

Almost 40 years later, we still sniff the air and summon those treats, because no child ever forgets who made them feel special or important.

Nor does a certain child, now a mother herself, ever forget Mrs. Grafstein's few choice words of wisdom (over juice and cupcakes) that would shape her approach to life. "Never wish time away."

Sadly, we can't wish back the good times. But we can remember: with tea, love and a homemade cookie.

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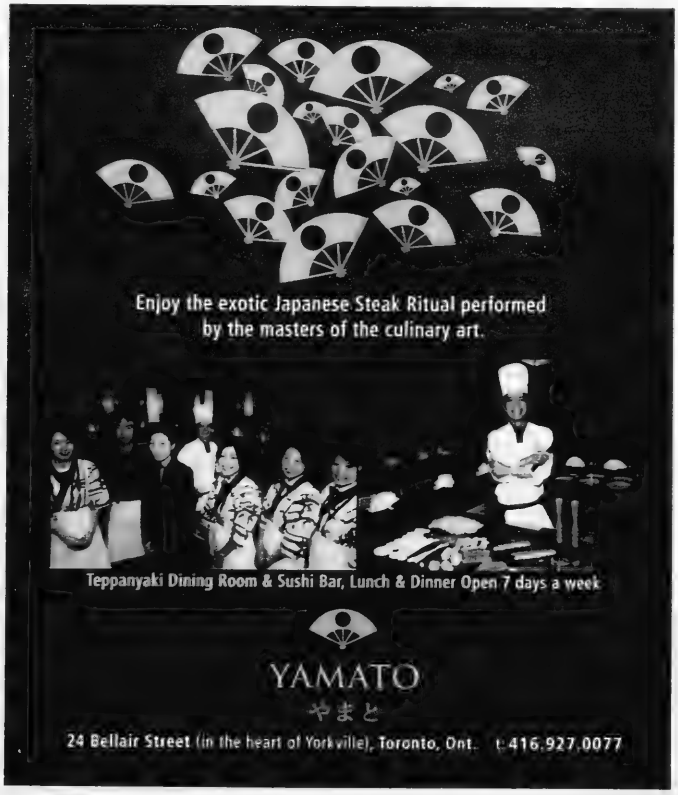
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# CIJA slams United Church stance on Mideast

## *'There's an obsession with Israel that is totally distorted'*

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

A longstanding disagreement over United Church statements on Israel burst into the open last week with Jewish leaders slamming a report by the church's working group on Israel/Palestine.

**Shimon Fogel**

The report contains "elements that are obscene to Jews," it "trivializes the Holocaust," questions Israel as a Jewish state, calls for a boycott and unfairly singles Israel out for condemnation while ignoring the plight of Christians around the world, said Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).

The report also distorts history, and focuses on Israeli settlements as an obstacle to peace, ignoring several Israeli evacuations of settlements and withdrawals as part of bids for peace, he said.

The document will be debated and voted on at the church's 41st General Council in August, which means it could be adopted as official church policy.

Forgel was particularly incensed with the document's reference to the Holocaust. The working group stated that "the deepest meaning of the Holocaust was the denial of human dignity to Jews." That statement was quickly followed by one lamenting the "loss of dignity" of the Palestinians, which the document asserts is due to Israeli occupation.

Not only does that distort the Holocaust, in which six million Jews were murdered, but it "draw[s] moral equivalence of Jewish suffering in the Holocaust with Palestinian suffering in the current situation," Fogel said.

"That assertion leads to conclusions that other motivations are at play beyond contributions to peace," he said.

"I think there are people within the United Church, like in academia and the labour movement, who are part of the movement to isolate and delegitimize Israel within the international community," he added.

Jewish community organizations have been at odds with the United Church over its views on the Middle East for some time. Earlier in the year, a task force of a Toronto presbytery of the church called on members of the church to boycott six Canadian and Israeli companies "who are enabling the illegal occupation."

In 2009, the church's General Council adopted policy items that called for Israeli withdrawal to pre-1967 lines and called for an end to "all forms of violence by the Israeli government upon the Palestinian people." The assembly, however, voted down a proposal for boycott, divestment and sanctions of Israel after Canadian Jewish Congress officials lobbied hard against the measure.

Rabbi Reuven Bulka, who served as co-president of Congress at the time, said "it's a crying shame that between the last incarnation [of the General Council] in Kelowna [in 2009] and now, nothing seems to have changed.

"There's an obsession with Israel that is totally distorted. Nothing good can come out of this. It's unconscionable. It's gotten to the point that it's sickening."

Facing heated critiques of the working group's recommendations, United Church spokesman Bruce Gregersen said "we're deeply concerned about the interpretation that's been given to a section of the report [concerning the Holocaust "dignity" reference]. It's a small section of the report.

"We are clear that the intention was not in comparing the Holocaust to any other experience," he said, adding the church has always "upheld the nature of the Holocaust as being distinctive."

He said the document is consistent with the longstanding church position that removing settlements is the key to peace.

**Rabbi Reuven Bulka**

"The church points to ongoing military occupation of Palestinian territory. The church has consistently said this has to be addressed for peace in the region," said Gregersen, the church's senior program officer.

He said the report explicitly rejected associating the term "apartheid" with Israel, adding that it accepted Israel as a Jewish state and rejected the suggestion that Israel should take in large numbers of Palestinians who would affect the country's demographic makeup.

The church, however, supports targeted boycotts of "settlement products," a position adopted by many churches and some Jews, including American liberal writer Peter Beinart, he said.

The church is inviting dialogue with CIJA to discuss its concerns, he added.

Rabbi Bulka said the measures advocated by the working group are consistently negative and aimed at hurting Israel.

"Don't give me this garbage of boycott. It's punishing one side. It's taking sides, and they don't have all the facts."

The working group's recommendations won't advance peace, he added.

Rabbi Bulka said it's likely the recommendations don't represent the views of the church's membership. "After Kelowna, I got calls from four church ministers who were fed up by this. I was invited to speak to [half a dozen] congregations, and it was a warm, fuzzy feeling."

Fogel believes the agenda on the Middle East has been led by a small group of activists who likely aren't representative of the wider church membership.

He said CIJA would continue to engage with the church in advance of its August gathering in Ottawa, "to reach out to our many friends in the church to reach an accommodation and amend the report.

"We will engage in dialogue with them over the next four months and we hope that we will be able to demonstrate the justification to amend the report in a way that eliminates the offensive sections and references."

"Failing to achieve that understanding, and if it goes to the General Council as endorsed, we will have to think carefully if there's any utility to continuing our relationship with the United Church," he said.

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# Campaign aims to boost organ donations

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Khaled Khatib was 13 years old when his brother was accidentally shot and killed by an Israeli soldier.

In 2005, the story of 11-year-old Ahmed Khatib, who was killed while playing with an imitation Uzi during a raid in Jenin, made international headlines when his parents decided to donate their son's organs to Israelis who were in desperate need of transplants.

George Marcello, founder of Step By Step, a non-profit organization that raises awareness about the importance of registering as an organ and tissue donor, has made the Khatibs the focus of his Torch of Life campaign in hopes of inspiring people to register to become potential donors.

Torch of Life is a province-wide campaign to register more than one million Ontarians as organ and tissue donors.

Ontario has one of the lower organ donor registry rates in the world at only 21 per cent.

The campaign's 75-city tour, which kicked off in Kenora on March 2, has been led by Khaled, now 20, who has been working with Marcello to raise awareness about the thousands of Canadians whose lives depend on receiving a transplant.

"I wanted Khaled to carry the torch through Ontario and I wanted to show... that it's not just not about organ donation but so many other reasons," Marcello said.

"We all can see how organ and tissue donations can bring the world closer, can benefit peace."

Khaled's brother's heart, kidneys, liver and lungs were transplanted into six Israelis – four of whom were Jewish.

Khatib, who spoke to *The CJN* through his interpreter, Ibrahim Hasan, said when his parents made the decision to donate Ahmed's organs he didn't know what to think.

"He was too young and was grieving. That was the last thing on his mind. Little by little as he saw the fruits of the labour and he realized what had happened and the positive outcome that came out of it, and the fact that he saw the people that were helped, he realized they were saved by his brother. He realized that his father made the right decision and he supported him," said Hasan, who translated for Khaled.

He said when he was approached by Marcello to take part in the Torch of Life campaign, he was eager to play an active role.

"It didn't take him long to decide that he could help the people who are still on the waiting list. He wanted to be a voice for these people."

Khaled marched the Ottawa leg of the Torch of Life relay in late March in honour of Hélène Campbell, who was waiting for a double-lung transplant. When he learned that she had found a match last month, he was moved to tears.

"He said he was just as happy in that moment as he was when his brother's organs were given to the Israeli families. It had brought joy to him and to his heart and he was extremely happy," Hasan said.

Arie Raif, president of the Canadian Friends of the Meir Medical Centre, said he helped connect Marcello with the Khatibs because he hoped their story might move Canadians to act.

"We at the Meir hospital in Israel, which treats Israeli Arabs, Palestinians and Israelis, believe that we talk too much and we do very little," Raif said.

He said despite the talmudic injunction that "he who save a life saves an entire world," many Jews still don't think it's permissible to donate organs.

"If you're brought up to believe that your body needs to be whole when the Mashiach comes, it's hard to change that belief," Raif said.

"But in a world of terror, to talk about organ donation and co-operation between people in the Middle East, it's like trying to part the Red Sea again."

He said most major religions preach the importance of supporting life, and education is the key to getting people to realize that all the major religions endorse organ donation.

"Whether it is a Palestinian who donates to five Israeli kids, or an Israeli who donates to five Palestinian kids, it means that they broke the barrier of ignorance. We have to make sure that happens. That's why we endorse Step by Step, that's why I devoted my time," Raif said.

The goal is to make Ontario a leader in organ donation, Marcello added. "If we reach the one million mark we're aiming for, we can save 900 extra lives that would otherwise die. What could be more honourable than that?"

Exactly halfway through the tour, having visited 37 cities, with 38 more on the itinerary, Marcello said he's looking forward to the last leg of the tour.

**Continued on page 28**

**Khaled Khatib hands double-lung transplant recipient Hélène Campbell a teddy bear last month, when he vowed to carry the torch in her honour, as York Centre MP Mark Adler looks on.**


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# Medical student organizes bone-marrow drives

Lauren Kramer
Pacific Correspondent

**VANCOUVER** — When Warren Fingrut started medical school at the University of British Columbia last year, the 21-year-old Toronto student started inquiring about stem cell drives on campus.

"I'd been involved in stem cell drives in 2009 and 2010, while I was studying at McMaster," he says. "That's when I learned that all you had to do to join the registry of Canadian donors was to swab a cheek. So when I came to UBC, I started wondering why no one had organized a drive here."

Recognizing the need for more drives, Fingrut founded a club in his medical school, called it Medical Students for Stem Cell Networks and recruited several of his colleagues to join. Then he partnered with Hillel, which has led bone marrow drives on other Canadian campuses, and organized three drives on the British Columbia campuses of UBC, the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University.

"The Canadian stem cell registry is dreadfully low, and there are only 340,000 volunteer donors on its list," he says. "Something like four per cent of Canadians donate blood regularly, but much fewer are on the stem cell donor registry. Our goal was to address this problem and improve the registry by signing up young donors. For people who need a stem cell or bone marrow transplant, this can save their lives."

From left are students Rael Katz, Rotem Tal, Ayelet G. Weil, Warren Fingrut, Paul Curran and Jeff Greenberg, who organized bone-marrow drives on British Columbia campuses.

The students called their stem cell drive campaign "May The Swab Be With You" and at the drives, recruited students to swab their cheeks and fill out some paper work so that their genetic profile can be recorded. Once registered, a potential donor may be contacted to donate if someone in need of a bone-marrow graft with a matching genetic profile is found.

More than 900 Canadians with a blood cancer (lymphoma, leukemia, myeloma), autoimmune disease or bone-marrow infection are currently looking for a match but less than 30 per cent will find a match from within their family. A patient has the best chance of finding a match within their own ethnic group.

The three British Columbia drives succeeded in signing 686 students to OneMatch, the Canadian stem cell and bone marrow donor registry, a program of Canadian Blood Services. Next year, Fingrut plans to hold more drives in more locations and expects a much bigger yield.

"There's no obligation to donate once you become a volunteer donor, but if there is a match for your stem cells, most of the time it's just like a blood donation," he says. The process of extracting stem cells is called apheresis and is no more painful than having an IV inserted into your arm.

One needle is inserted into each arm, pulling the stem cells from the body and separating them from the blood, which is returned to the donor. The process takes between four and six hours and the optimal population of donors is young, healthy men between the ages of 17 and 35. "Young, healthy male donors produce the rest results post-transplant," says Cassandra DeLuca, OneMatch co-ordinator of donor management for Western Canada. "In general, results aren't as good for women and for donors older than 35."

Not everyone who joins the registry will be eligible to donate, but the idea is to get a well-rounded group of diverse donors who can be accessed if they are needed, she adds. For this reason, Fingrut's initiative for the stem cell drive is invaluable. "Having young healthy males like Warren leading the charge and taking a strong leadership role in his own community – both his medical-student community and the broader student community at UBC – is imperative for our mission."

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**Toni Silberman** is a child of Holocaust survivors, and was born in a Displaced Persons camp in Stuttgart, Germany. Throughout her adult life, she has fostered her passion for and commitment to human rights advocacy and activism.

Toni has worked in a management capacity for the Ontario Human Rights Commission for 16 years, and now promotes Holocaust education, and community involvement on a volunteer basis. She sits on the Board/Advisory Councils of several governmental, private and public sector organizations, and is the recipient of numerous awards and citations for her work.

Most recently, Toni has been awarded the The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her service to the community.

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# 60 Minutes *misses the point*

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Last week's column looked at how recent media attention to the broader Middle East following the "Arab Spring" has resulted in less media negativity toward Israel over the past year.

By no means was that meant to deny the persistence of what has been, for decades, the hallmark of often unfair coverage of Israel: a failure or refusal to keep events in perspective. We've seen this time and again in the tendency to shift the onus onto Israel for unwelcome developments caused primarily by Arab regimes and growing Islamic militancy.

In his April 28 *National Post* column on the recent *60 Minutes* segment on CBS titled "Christians of the Holy Land," Robert Fulford forcefully captured this failure of perspective:

"Across the Middle East this year, Christians are in more trouble than at any previous point in memory. Massacres and beatings by Islamist mobs have caused 200,000 Copts to leave Egypt, their home for 16 centuries. In Iraq, scores of churches have been burned and many worshippers killed. The Christian population in most Arab states is sharply declining.

"So last Sunday, the producers of the CBS show *60 Minutes* did an item exposing the problems that afflict Christians... in Israel."

Fulford called this "a colossal case of missing the point" since Israel is the only country in the Middle East where Christians can practise their faith without fear. Indeed, Israel is the only place in the region where the Christian population is actually growing.

On the surface, *60 Minutes* did not blame Israel entirely for the Christian decline in the West Bank. The feature included sources who said that Christians have become victims of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and were being "squeezed" between a growing Muslim majority and Jewish settlements. But the onus clearly fell on Israel for its occupation.

The program downplayed the role of militant Islam in the Christian decline. When Michael Oren, Israel's ambassador to the United States, indicated that "the major duress" the Palestinian Christians face comes from Muslims, *60 Minutes* host Bob Simon switched immediately to Palestinian businessman Zahi Khouri. The owner of the Coca-Cola franchise in the West Bank, Khouri claimed never to have heard, from any of his 12,000 customers, of a single instance in which a Christian has left because of "Islamic persecution." No other voice from the Palestinians was heard telling a different story.

> Israel is only country in Mideast where Christians can practise faith without fear

But when it comes to judging credibility, Simon's focus, as Fulford made clear, was directed elsewhere – squarely on Oren. "Michael Oren... appeared on the program as a whipping boy for Simon," Fulford wrote. Oren was to be upbraided for having had the gall to complain to Simon's boss when he, Oren, learned about the distorted nature of the pending report. How, Oren asked, can you latch onto Israel when "one of the great stories in history" – the persecution of Christians in the Middle East unrelated to the Jewish state – is being ignored? That, said an exasperated Oren, is "outrageous, completely incomprehensible."

As Fulford noted, Simon simply ignored the fact that Oren is a distinguished historian who just happens to be a regional expert. What mattered to Simon was not historical context, but Oren's infraction in going above his head. Thus Simon charged: "And that was reason to call the... chairman of CBS News?" (Jeff Fager, chairman of CBS News for a little over a year, also happens to be executive producer of *60 Minutes*, a show with which he's been affiliated for many years.) So in going over Simon's head, Oren didn't actually go all that far. Yet as Fulford explained, to Simon it was an inexcusable "crime" for which Oren was going to pay. And pay he did – on camera.

Oren may not have been at the top of his form in steering through this trap. But the fact remains that Oren's concerns were entirely validated by the distorted segment that CBS aired. And sadly, Oren is right about the big picture: the persecution of Christians across the Middle East remains largely ignored.

*Paul Michaels is director of research and communications for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

## Correction

The article "OAS changes could harm older workers: prof" (*CJN*, May 3) should have said that with the Old Age Security program changes, people will be forced to work longer to receive their pensions. They will not have a choice. We regret the error.

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Image: Adi Nes, *Untitled (The Last Supper Before Going Out to Battle)*, 1999.

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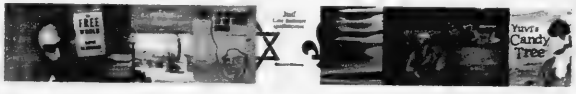


The 2012 winners are: **Fraidie Martz** and **Andrew Wilson**, **David Bezmozgis**, **Denis Vaugeois**, **Eli Pfefferkorn**, **Richard Marceau**, **S. Weilbach**, **Kalman Weiser**, **Rebecca Margolis**, and **Lesley Simpson**.

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# Vancouver author nominated for 2012 Leacock award

**Lauren Kramer**
Pacific Correspondent

**VANCOUVER** — There's no denying that Vancouver author Robyn Michele Levy has had a difficult time over the past five years. Between learning she had early-onset Parkinsons, coupled only months later by a diagnosis of breast cancer, the 48-year-old was well overdue for some good news.

So when her memoir, *Most of Me* (Greystone Books, 2011), was nominated as a finalist for the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for humour writing last month, it was a timely dose of comfort. As it turns out, the award went to Patrick DeWitt for his book *The Sisters Brothers*, but the nomination itself was breath of fresh air in Levy's life.

"My mom had just passed away two weeks prior and her name was Lea Levy, so this was a lovely gift of comfort and acknowledgment," says Levy, who never quite intended to write a book in the first place.

Around the time she was undergoing operations, her friends and family were so worried and concerned that she decided to send them quirky, weekly e-mail updates "to let everyone know what was going on and to try and cheer them up," she says.

The e-mails landed in the inbox of a publisher who was a friend of a friend, and the result was Levy's memoir, wherein she incorporates some of her e-mails, but writes mostly about her experience over the course of treatment for breast cancer and Parkinsons, two summers ago. It's heavy subject matter for a humour writing nomination, but it's precisely Levy's dark sense of humour that lifts readers from the doldrums of her illnesses, lightens the mood of her book and instigates unexpected bursts of laughter throughout.

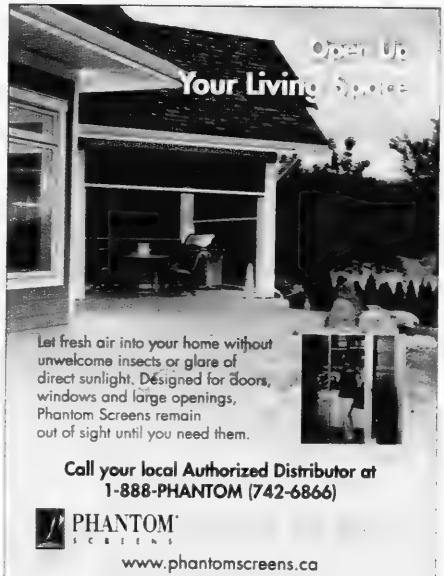
"I'm an artist and I began to apply my creative perspective to some of the experiences I was going through," she explains. "I was among the 50 per cent of Parkinsons patients with depression, and as I began treatment for that, my sense of humour came back."

Robyn Michele Levy

That humour litters *Most of Me* with laugh-out-loud funny moments that would not appear humorous out of context – which is why I won't quote them now – but in the memoir, add mirth and insight into Levy's wonderful perspective. We're taken into doctors' offices, into private conversations with friends and into her marriage, playing witness to her personal struggle and how those around her participate in it, try to offer comfort and deal with the uncertainty she endures by way of her illnesses.

"The crux of the story is about relationships between myself and my family, caregivers, relatives, strangers and neighbours," she says. "It's really about community and how much we depend on each other."

Though the core content is very serious, Levy adds her intention throughout was for *Most of Me* to be seen as a funny book. "The nomination lifted my spirits so much," she confesses. "Even as I was writing it, I had in the back of my mind that it would be so great to be nominated for this award. It was a secret little dream and that part came true, which was wonderful."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# New shul planned for Winnipeg

**Myron Love**
Prairies Correspondent

**WINNIPEG** — A new shul just in the process of being formed in Winnipeg has the potential to affect the membership of the city's largest and oldest congregation.

That's because Rabbi Larry Pinsker, currently in his final months as associate rabbi at the Conservative Shaarey Zedek Synagogue – which has more than 1,000 member families and last year welcomed 1,500 people to High Holiday services – will become spiritual leader of the new entity, to be called Beit Knesset Hadash, or the New Shul.

He'll take up the post as of Rosh Hashanah, after his contract with Shaarey Zedek expires.

Prior to coming to Shaarey Zedek in 2004, the Reconstructionist-trained Rabbi Pinsker served as the rabbi of Toronto's only Recontructionist shul, Congregation Darchei Noam, from 1991 to 2002 and as interim associate rabbi for a year at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, a Conservative congregation, also in Toronto.

About a year ago, the Shaarey Zedek executive told Rabbi Pinsker that the synagogue would not be renewing his contract. The executive didn't give shul members an explanation for the controversial decision.

Pinsker's wife, Laurelle Harris Pinsker, is president of and spokesperson for Beit Knesset Hadash. In an e-mail, she stated the New Shul is planning to hold regular Shabbat services at a location still to be determined, as well as High Holiday services at the Fort Garry Hotel, one of Winnipeg's most prestigious inns, which has kosher catering under the supervision of Chabad Rabbi Avraham Altein.

Harris Pinsker told *The CJN* that since the announcement about the New Shul on April 27, there have been a number of inquiries, and several families and individuals have committed to joining.

"We are excited that the response has been so positive, especially from Jews who have previously not been affiliated with other synagogues in Winnipeg," Harris Pinsker said.

"It's too early to tell what our numbers will be, but we believe we are offering a creative and viable option to which Winnipeg Jews will respond."

When asked about the new congregation, Ian Staniloff, Shaarey Zedek's executive director, would only say that "we wish Rabbi Pinsker well in his future endeavours."

The New Shul could also have an impact on the last new congregation to be established in Winnipeg. Congregation Shir Tikvah was formed in the aftermath of the merger of three large north Winnipeg synagogues in June 2002, which resulted in the creation of Congregation Etz Chayim.

Some members of the three synagogues involved in the merger were unhappy with the result and started their own congregation, initially for the High Holidays only. While Shir Tikvah will be hosting its 10th High Holiday services this fall, there has been little interest among attendees in expanding the congregation's activities year-round.

Shir Tikvah holds High Holiday services at a Winnipeg hotel and generally draws close to 200 worshippers.

***To read complete story, please go to cjnews.com***

**Amir Gissin, consul general of Israel in Toronto, right, accepts the Founding Friend of the Campus Award from Zac Kaye, executive director of Hillel of Greater Toronto.** *[Michelle Bitran photo]*

# *Consul General to award winners: stay young*

**Michaelle Bitran**
Intern

Amir Gissin, consul general of Israel in Toronto and Western Canada, was received by a roomful of applause at the 16th annual Hillel Student Awards ceremony last week.

The message that garnered the enthusiastic cheers was no doubt something the students wanted to hear: "Don't get old too quickly," he said. "For the moment you'll be more successful if you continue to be wild."

Gissin was called to the podium in the packed basement of the University of Toronto's Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life to receive the Founding Friend of the Campus Award. This honour, reserved for those who have made an outstanding contribution to Jewish student life, was also bestowed on Allen Berg, the sponsor of the Harvey's Table affordable kosher meals on campus initiative.

The student winners of the evening came from campuses across Toronto, including York University, U of T, Ryerson University, George Brown College and OCAD University. This past year saw a marked growth in Jewish student involvement particularly at Ryerson and George Brown, both schools with fewer Jewish students.

"It's a privilege to meet and work with such amazing students that we have here in Toronto," said Lindy Goodman, the outgoing chair of the board of directors of Hillel of Greater Toronto. She spoke at the beginning of the ceremony, along with the organization's executive director Zac Kaye and student MCs Isaac Kates Rose and Polina Isakharova.

All the speakers expressed enthusiasm about Hillel's recent initiative to reach out to both Jewish and non-Jewish students and groups on campus in an effort to create a more inclusive and co-operative campus environment. "Today we see the result of that," said Gissin, referring to the importance of this kind of outreach. "We see the results in every campus. We see the decline of those who are working against us."

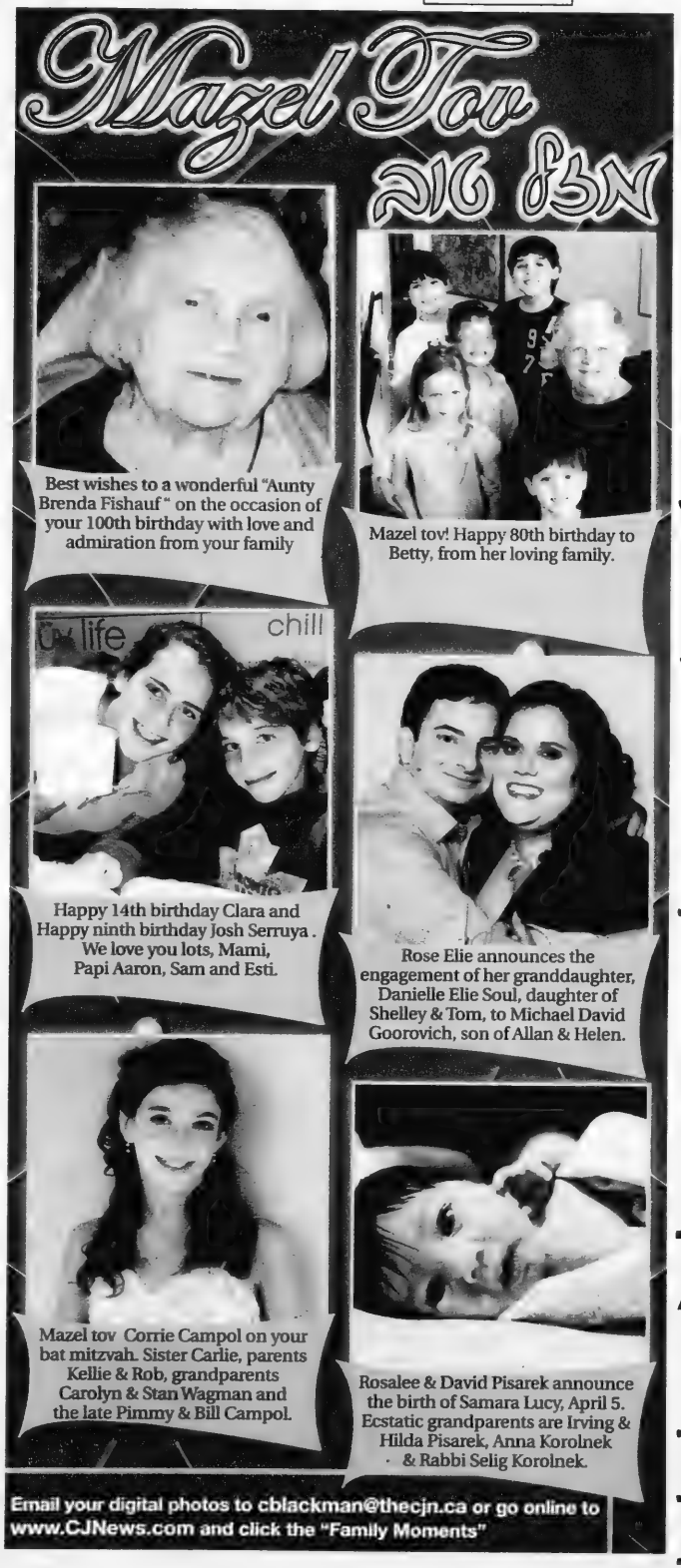
Some of the awards presented for these new initiatives include the Chefs for Peace Award, won by Maxa Sawyer, Avram Heisler, Lisa Wilder, Ishraq Alim, Eitan Gilboord and Mitch Reiss; the Black Jew Dialogue Award, won by Christopher Better, Johann Keens and Mitch Reiss, and the TGIF Award, won by Ishraq Alim and Marty Rotenberg.

Hillel of Greater Toronto has also been making efforts to expand its reach within the Jewish community, with new programs for Russian Jews, Israelis and Jewish students interested in media and the arts.

Some awards given for the first time this year include the Julie M. Gallery Emerging Jewish Artist Fellowship, awarded to Dov Smiley, Rebecca Ihilchik, Liat Shalom, Shlomi Amiga and Dorona Zierler, as well as the Top Score Media Fellowship, awarded to Alan Hudes.

Toward the end of the ceremony, Shelly Feld, the incoming chair of the board of directors, presented the Outstanding Alumni Award to former York U student Ryan Levey. Feld emphasized the importance of staying involved in the Jewish community after graduation and of continuing to make a meaningful contribution to Jewish life as an adult.

"This is a first and early step in your journey," he said to the award winners in the audience, "but we hope you will stay involved."


Mazel Tov
מזל טוב
Best wishes to a wonderful "Aunty Brenda Fishauf " on the occasion of your 100th birthday with love and admiration from your family
Mazel tov! Happy 80th birthday to Betty, from her loving family.
life
chill
Happy 14th birthday Clara and Happy ninth birthday Josh Serruya . We love you lots, Mami, Papi Aaron, Sam and Esti.
Rose Elie announces the engagement of her granddaughter, Danielle Elie Soul, daughter of Shelley & Tom, to Michael David Goorovich, son of Allan & Helen.
Mazel tov Corrie Campol on your bat mitzvah. Sister Carlie, parents Kellie & Rob, grandparents Carolyn & Stan Wagman and the late Pimmy & Bill Campol.
Rosalee & David Pisarek announce the birth of Samara Lucy, April 5. Ecstatic grandparents are Irving & Hilda Pisarek, Anna Korolnek & Rabbi Selig Korolnek.
Email your digital photos to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click the "Family Moments"

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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

Social Networking @ The Canadian Jewish News
for the :-) generation

**Deadline reminder: May 14 is the deadline for the issue of May 24. Because of the Victoria Day holiday, May 18 is the deadline for the issue of May 31. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, May 10

**LAUGH WITH ELON GOLD**

Join Temple Har Zion for "An Evening of Laughter with Elon Gold." 7:30 p.m. 7360 Bayview Ave. Tickets $72. Call 905-889-2252 or barbarabarnett@templeharzion.com.

**MEET AND GREET**

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism hosts a Meet and Greet. 7 p.m. at Pauper's Pub. 539 Bloor St. W. 416-854-0133 or dhandlar@yorku.ca.

## Friday, May 11

**FAMILY KABALAT SHABBAT**

Temple Kol Ami holds family Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner. 905-709-2620 or www.templekolami.ca

## Sunday, May 13

**JEWISH THINKERS**

**Sheldon Richmond** discusses "Current Jewish Thinkers." 9 a.m. at the Lodzer Synagogue, 12 Heaton St.

**USED-BOOK SALE**

Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation of Toronto holds a used-book sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill.

## Monday, May 14

**MEDICAL HALACHAH**

**Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner** discusses "The Obligation to Seek Medical Help." 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. info@torontotorah.com or 416-781-1777.

***INCENDIES***

**Heather Kassel** reviews the film *Incendies*. 12:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. 416-781-3514, ext. 225.

**SPRING LECTURE SERIES**

Prof. **Sergei Plekanov** discusses "Between the U.S.S.R. and a Eurasion Union," 2 p.m., Temple Emanu-El. 416-449-3880.

## Tuesday, May 15

**CHUG HATANACH**

**Rabbi Pinchas Brummer** leads the study of the Book of Zachariah (in English). 8 p.m. at Beth David Synagogue.

**LUNCH AND LEARN**

**Rosalie Moscoe** discusses "Beyond Retirement: Pathways to Well-Being," 12 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. By reservation only: 416-221-3433, ext. 352 or helen@bethtikvahtoronto.org.

**WHO WROTE THE TORAH?**

**Rabbi Cory Weiss** discusses "Who Wrote the Torah and Why Does It Matter?", Temple Har Zion. Bring a dairy lunch at noon, program starts at 12:30 p.m.

**Continued on page 27**

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CATHERINE CHATTERLEY
Canadian Institute for the Study of Antisemitism

DAVID HIRSH
Goldsmiths, University of London

FATHER RAYMOND J. de SOUZA
Columnist National Post

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012 | 7:30 PM
BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION
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ATTENDANCE FREE
REFRESHMENTS

Continued from page 26

THE BOOK OF RUTH

**Rabbi Martin Berman** leads a study of the Book of Ruth. 8 p.m., Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill.

## Wednesday, May 16

STEINBERG MUSIC AWARD

**Lily Chapnick**, 2012 winner of the Ben Steinberg Musical Legacy Award, performs with her grandmother, flutist **Atarah Ben Tovim** and **Stephen Tam**, 8 p.m., Temple Sinai. 416-487-3281.

*THE START UP OF YOU*

**Ben Casnocha**, author of *The Start Up of You*, speaks to Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, 7 p.m., MARS Discovery District, 101 College St. For tickets, 416-485-8000 or www.cfhu.org/casnocha.

POMEGRANATE GUILD

**Amanda McCavour** discusses "Thread as Line, Sewing as Drawing" and shows work samples, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim. Guests welcome. $5.

## Thursday, May 17

MELODIES & MANDELBROIT

The Toronto Jewish Chorus presents "Melodies and Mandelbroit," 7:30 p.m., Temple Emanu-El, 120 Old Colony Rd. Tickets at www.torontojewishchorus.org or at the door.

ANTI-ISRAEL PROPAGANDA

**Barbara Kay** discusses "Anti-Israel Propaganda," 7:30 p.m., at the Lodzer Synagogue. 416-636-5665.

MAH-JONG AFTERNOON

Thornhill Study Group and Zion Branch of the NCJW invites groups or single players to play mah-jong, 12 - 4 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Enjoy lunch, a raffle and door prizes. Call to reserve 416-633-5100.

GOD, GOODNESS AND GREED

Prof. **Elliott Malamet** discusses "God, Goodness and Greed: Does Religion Influence Ethics Any Longer," 7:30 p.m., Beth David Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Rd. 416-633-5500.

## Other News

CHARITY GOLF DAY

Early-bird deadline for Temple Sinai's charity golf day is May 15. The tournament will be held June 26 at Sleepy Hollow Country Club. Call **Marcie** at 416-487-3281.

CHABAD GOES TO NEW YORK

Chabad of Markham's women's trip to New York, June 8-10. To register, call 905-886-0420, ext. 221.

HOUSING REGISTRY

Are you looking to rent your basement apartment or an extra room in your house? List it free with Jewish Information Service of Toronto. People looking for a place to live can also find help. Visit JIST in the Lipa Green Centre, www.jewishtoronto.com or call 416-635-5600.

HONOUR YOUR MOTHER

This Mother's Day honour a special woman by donating to Act to End Violence Against Women (formerly Jewish Women International of Canada). For a $25 donation, a woman in a shelter receives flowers, and a card will be sent to the donor. Call 905-695-5372.

## JF&CS GROUPS

All programs require pre-registration and are open to all members of the community. To register, call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or www.jfandcs.com. All classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St., unless otherwise noted.

When You're About to Separate, What to Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents, May 10, 9:30 a.m.

Understanding ADHD at Home and School: A workshop for parents and professionals May 22, 7 p.m.

High-Conflict Divorce: A workshop for parents in a high-conflict situation. Not for individuals in an abusive situation. May 24, 6:30 p.m., Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

Let's Be Blunt: A Forum on Teen Drug Use, May 24, 7 p.m., William Lyon MacKenzie Collegiate, 20 Tillplain Rd.

BEREAVED PARENTS

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. On June 10, the group is attending a fundraising performance of *Lost in Yonkers*, St. Lawrence Theatre for the Arts. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF & CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**The PEP Social Group** meets May 10, 12:30 p.m., Earl Bales Community Centre. Singer **Sandra Cohen** provides the entertainment. Members $3, guests $5. **Terri**, 416-785-0335.

**Association of Jewish Seniors** meets May 17, Shaarei Shomayim, 9:30 a.m. **Natalie Mehra**, director of the Ontario Health Coalition, speaks. RSVP **Tammy**, 416-635-2900, ext. 458.

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. Casino Rama, May 16. Kosher lunch, May 17, noon. Dance with live music, May 27, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, duplicate bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Spousal Support Group.** A group for caregivers over 55 starts May 15 at Bernard Betel Centre. Call Circle of Care, 416-635-2860.

**National Council of Jewish Women of Canada - Aviva Branch** is looking for women over 70 for their group. They meet Tuesdays midday. Call 416-633-5100.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Bernard Betel Centre** 416-225-2112. May 15, lecture on Royal Ontario Museum highlights, 10 a.m.; May 16, health fair, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; May 17, **Judy Weiss** discusses "Coping with Loneliness," 1:30 p.m.

**Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. The film *Tony Curtis: Driven to Stardom* will be shown, followed by refreshments and discussion. May 10, 12:15 p.m.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

**Kevin Courrier** teaches a class on the films of Woody Allen, Thursdays 1 p.m., starting May 3.

The film *Munich* will be shown May 14, 12:45 p.m.

**Marilyn Herbert** reviews the book *Great House*, May 15, 1 p.m.

Bridge classes begin June 18. Mah-jong classes begin the week of June 4.

Current JCC members' mothers are free in May. Free Fridays for all mothers. Call ext. 4000.

Space available for Sports with Jay (children aged 3-5) on Sundays. For information on summer programs, call **Monique Shapiro**, ext. 4012.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

**Dan Mendlesohn** launches his book, *End of the Jews: Radical Breaks, Remakes and What Comes Next*, at a panel on "The Next Jew: Where Do We Go From Here," May 10, 7 p.m.

Leil Tikkun Shavuot, all-night Torah study and more, May 26, 9 p.m.-6 a.m. Ext. 154.

Summer Institute for Creative Adults offers classes for adult singers, July 16-20. Ext. 250.

Adult daytime choir meets Tuesdays, 1 p.m. gillians@mnjcc.org.

*Spark: Igniting with Photography*, a collection of portraits by youth in the Jane-Finch community is in the Al Green Gallery until May 29.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services every Thursday at 7:15 a.m. and Sunday at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

**EARTH DAY 2012: Families from Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue channelled their green thumbs and planted dozens of trees at Downsview Park in Toronto on Earth Day 2012. From left, Yagil Yakobi, Josh Small and Yoel Yakobi dig a hole for their tree.**

***SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN***

# Hamiltonian was tireless advocate for Israel

**Abigail Cukier**
Special to the CJN

**HAMILTON, Ont. —** Compassionate, strong, inspiring.

These three words kept coming up as friends remembered Rose Lax, who died suddenly of natural causes on April 28 in Hamilton, Ont., at age 66.

Lax was known throughout the world for her tireless advocacy for Israel.

She was buried May 1 in Jerusalem, next to her parents and brothers. Israeli cabinet minister Benny Begin, son of the late Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin, who was a good friend of the family, spoke at her funeral.

"Rose was passionate and devoted to the Jewish people. She was a strong, focused person," said Sima Aronowicz, a friend of Lax and a member of the Hamilton-based Never Again Group, which Lax co-founded in 2010 to counter what she saw as political and existential threats to Israel and western democratic values.

"She was the most amazing person with regard to motivating us to stand up. She gave us the courage and made us strong.

"Rose taught me to be proud to be a Jew, to be proud of Israel. She empowered me."

Lax was born in a displaced persons camp in Uzbekistan to Holocaust survivors about nine months after World War II ended.

She and her parents, Morris and Golda, moved to Israel, where Morris fought for the establishment of the Jewish State. He stood side by side with Zionist Revisionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky and Menachem Begin, the future prime minster, with whom he remained lifelong friends.

**Rose Lax** *[Photo courtesy of the Hamilton Spectator]*

Morris and Golda instilled within Rose the religious and nationalistic Jewish values that would form the backbone of her being.

But for Rose, family was paramount. As the oldest of four, with three siblings with special needs, she tended to them with love and sensitivity.

The family moved to Hamilton in 1948. Morris went on to found Morris Lax Metals and was a very successful businessman until he was murdered in 1992. The case remains unsolved.

"Throughout her years, she witnessed indescribable tragedies, challenges and heartaches. Yet despite the myriad of thorns thrown her way, her spirit only grew stronger. Not only did Rose have the strength to continue her own march of life, she became the beacon of strength to so many others," Rabbi Daniel Green of Hamilton's Adas Israel Congregation said at Lax's funeral.

"Rose Lax was one of the most remarkable people and passionate Jews that I have ever met," Rabbi Green said in his eulogy. "To capture the enormity of her legacy in words, to adequately express the impact she had upon me on and so many others, is an impossibility.

"For Rose, it was never about Rose. She was utterly selfless. She lived life for everyone but herself. Her life was her family. Her life was her friends. And most importantly her life was her people and the State of Israel."

Gary Gerofsky met Lax after he wrote a letter to the editor regarding Israel. Lax called to congratulate him and the two became friends and founded the Never Again Group, which was formed to counter political and existential threats to Israel.

Gerofsky said he'll miss Lax's daily calls to talk about anything and everything – especially Israel.

"There was no one like her. She was a real fighter. She taught us that you need to be grounded in what you believe in and never be swayed," Gerofsky said. "She believed that if you don't stand up, we are doomed to repeat history."

Lax was also charitable with causes such as Israel and the United Way, and in funding programs for hungry children. When students at McMaster University were intimidated about standing up and fighting for Israel, Lax was there to support and guide them.

Rose was, most of all, a dedicated mother to Daisy and her son-in-law Kent and a devoted grandmother to Olivia, Asher and Ben, with whom spending time was her greatest pleasure.

In his eulogy, Rabbi Green noted that Lax's name was an encapsulation of her essence.

"The Jewish nation is called a rose – 'kashoshana ben hachochim' – a rose among the thorns," he said. "Rose's middle name was Kreindel – a Yiddish expression for crown. A crown personifies the ideals of a nation. What we strive for as a people, our mission and goals.

"Roiza Kreindel, was our crowning rose. More than anyone else I have ever known, she raised the crown of the Jewish people."

# Tour ends in Toronto

**Continued from page 20**

The tour will end on June 19 in Toronto, with a march to Queen's Park.

Marcello said he wants to invite the family of the late Yoni Jesner, a 19-year-old Jewish student who was killed in a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv in 2002, to join Khaled on the last leg of the tour.

Jesner's family decided to donate Yoni's organs, which saved the life of a Palestinian girl from east Jerusalem.

Barbara Landau and Shahid Akhtar, co-chairs of the Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims, learned about Khaled's involvement with Torch of Life and have chosen to honour both Khaled and Marcello at the next CAJM meeting.

"We are moved by the heart-wrenching and heart-warming story of Ahmed Khatib. The response of Khaled and his family are an inspiration to all of us. We can all register for the organ donation program, both as a vehicle for peace between our communities, and for the saving of precious lives," Landau said.

To register to become an organ donor, visit www.beadonor.ca.


# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

**Kenneth "Kenny" Jacob Ain** ז"ל

Proud Husband, Father and Zadie, passed away peacefully in Toronto, leaving behind his beloved Wife, Myrna, children, Eva and Michael, son-in-law, Eric, and grandchildren, Maya and Rachel. Along with his sisters, Rhoda Blevis and Anna Feldman.

Kenny was deeply honoured by the Love and support he felt from his extended family - the Blevis, Feldman, Bregman and Midvidy clans. A generous family man and best friend, Kenny will be missed by many, leaving us with the memory of his Smile and inspirational optimism.

Summarizing his own life "I am a lucky man".

Funeral Services were held at Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel on Sunday, April 29, officiated by Kenny's brother-in-law, Rabbi Philip Bregman.

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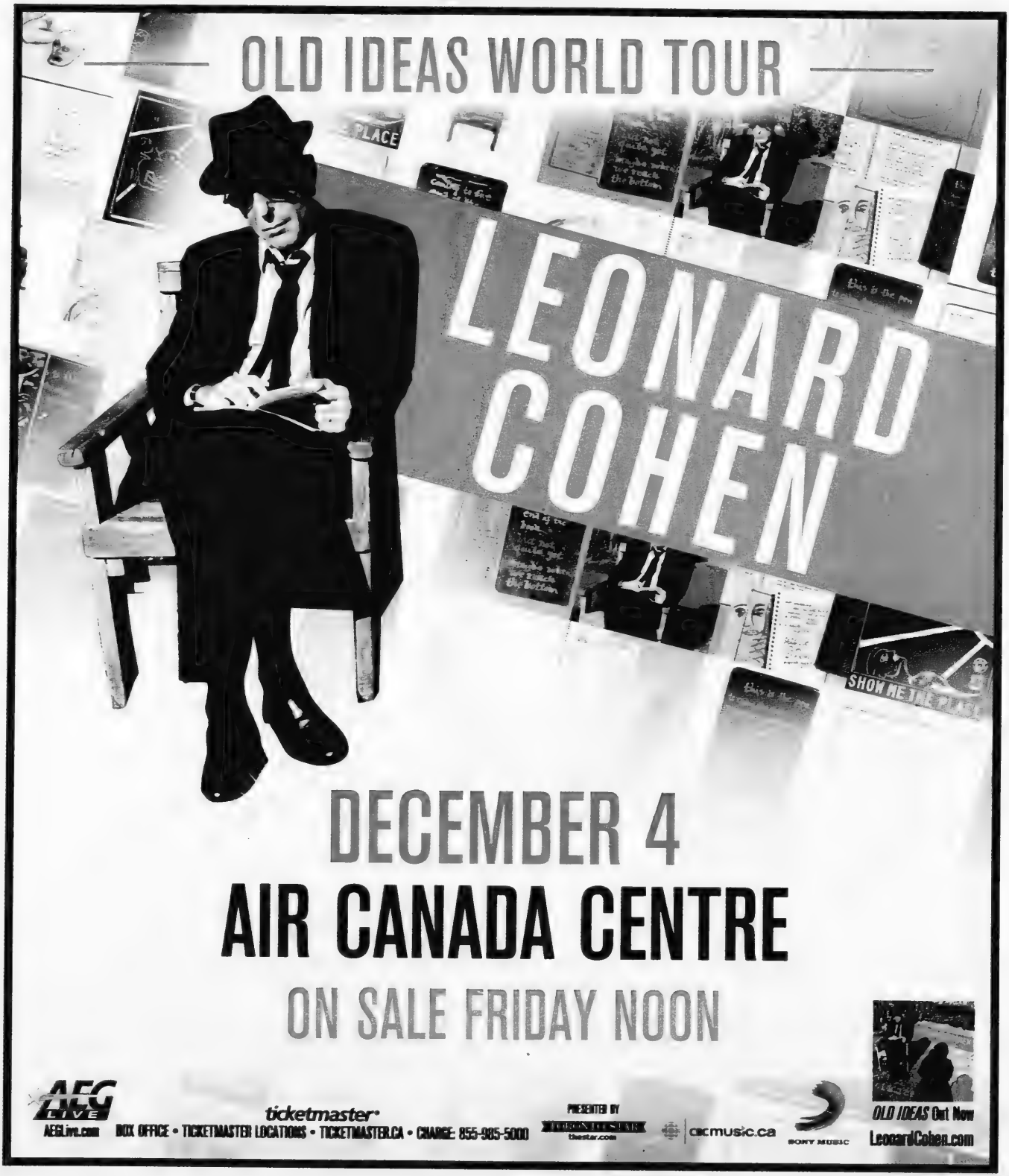
The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EDITH SCHONBERGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 13th at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Tikvah New Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

**BENJAMIN'S** PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Edith Krupski | Apr 20/12 | 179 Honiton Street |
| Bernard Freedman | Apr 19/12 | 118 Clifton Avenue |
| Rhoda Buckspan | Apr 21/12 | 90 Fisherville Road |
| Marie Gruson | Apr 17/12 | 44 Charles Street W. |
| Fred Chapnick | Apr 19/12 | 8 Covington Drive |
| Jenny Volpe Klotz | Apr 23/12 | 77 Dunfield Avenue |
| Gloria Karpel | Apr 25/12 | 7250 Yonge Street |
| Julia Moss | Apr 25/12 | 77 Avenue Road |
| Robert Strom | Apr 26/12 | 28 Evanston Drive |
| Queenie Shagass | Apr 25/12 | 170 Red Maple Road |
| Magdolna Mandel | Apr 26/12 | 80 Antibes Drive |
| Dorothy Grossman | Apr 26/12 | 1555 Finch Ave. East |
| Ken Ain | Apr 26/12 | 129 Barber Greene Rd. |
| Irene Cheslow | Apr 26/12 | 3705 Bathurst Street |
| Dr. Jack Parlow | Apr 26/12 | 38 Avenue Road, |
| Sharon Zack | Apr 27/12 | 311 Joicey Blvd. |

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FELA SHAPIRO ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 13th at 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Adath Shalom Section
*Family and friends are invited to attend*

Watch this space each week for monument dealers & shiva caterers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# Zareinu to host ride to aid terror victims in Israel

Compiled by CJN Staff

Even when the missiles are not falling in Israel and the sirens are silent, terror's grip can still be felt – and its devastating effects can last a lifetime.

In Israel today, there are more than 10,000 victims of terror, many of whom suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. They are bereaved parents, widows and widowers, orphans and children who have lost siblings and parents. But the resilience of the Jewish People and their belief that every life is valued led to the creation in 2002 of One Family Fund, to help terror victims overcome the many challenges they face and return to life.

The 8th Annual Team One Family Fund 50-k Ride takes place on Sunday, June 24 in Toronto, to raise funds to help terror victims (optional 100-k and 100-mile routes are also available).

This year's ride, which is hosted by Zareinu Educational Centre, starts at Holy Trinity School, 11300 Bayview Avenue, Richmond Hill, and follows a scenic route through Durham County. All registrants will receive an $18 Pickle Barrel gift certificate and a Louis Garneau bike jersey. Participants who raise the minimum $1,000 for One Family Fund will be entered into a draw to win a $1,500 credit toward any bike in the Louis Garneau store and receive a free spring tune-up at Cyclepath Norco, 2106 Yonge St.

The One Family Ride took place up north in Stouffville in past years, but this year, One Family is entering a team in the Zareinu Ride to raise money for child victims of terror in Israel.

"This relationship seemed to be a natural fit because Zareinu is committed to helping children with special needs locally, while One Family helps child terror victims in Israel," said Michael Rosen, director of special events for One Family Fund Canada.

"This year's ride will honour the memory of more than 75 murdered children while raising much-needed funds to continue One Family's work supporting thousands of injured and bereaved families, maimed and traumatized youth and young adults in 2012," Jonathan Latsky, one of the ride's co-chairs, said.

For further information or to register, please visit www.onefamilyfund.ca/events-bike, or phone 416-489-9687, ext. 200.

# Family fundraising to cure daughter

Compiled by CJN Staff

Courtney Render, 22, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of cancer that affects white blood cells, two and a half years ago.

Since then, she has been fighting the disease, even while completing a bachelor of education at McGill University.

Right now, she is being treated in a private clinic in Toronto with the drug bendamustine, which is meant to put her as close as possible to a remissive state, but will ultimately not cure her. This month, Courtney will take her last dosage of the drug, having reached the maximum number of dosages permitted.

The Render family has chased all the possible treatments for Courtney in Canada, and they are now looking to take her to the United States for an option that could finally cure her.

The procedure is called an allogeneic stem-cell transplant, and it is generally only given to patients for whom an autologous transplant has failed. The allogeneic transplant will use cells from a donor, most likely Courtney's mother or her eldest sister.

This complicated transplant is offered and best performed by select, well-reputed hospitals, including the Fred Hutchison Research Center in Seattle, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

There is, however, one big problem with this possible cure. On a recent visit to the Fred Hutchison Research Center, the Renders discovered that the cost for the treatment would be about $600,000 upfront. Also, they learned that Courtney's care during recovery (which can take about four months) and the treatment of any complications would require additional funds.

Thus far, the Renders have spent upward of $150,000 on Courtney's treatments. Now, they are reaching out to fundraise enough money to cover this expensive procedure. It must be done as soon as possible after her current drug treatment ends in late May, while her body is closer to a remissive state.

The Render family will be hosting a fundraising evening with hors d'oeuvres, raffles, silent auctions and music on June 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Avenue Banquet Hall, at 1600 Steeles Ave. W., Concord, Ont.

To purchase tickets, call Resa at 647-393-8323 or Carrie at 416-818-2600. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/IrTm07.

**SHABBAT VISIT: Nursery kids at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre celebrated Shabbat with executive director Ellen Cole, left. Along with the blessings and Shabbat songs, Cole read them a story about doing mitzvot. Pictured with Cole, from left, are Charlie Carriere, Dylan Perlis, MNJCC director of early childhood education Cathy Indig, Lily Scnoor and Maraca Drudge.**

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# International

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# Israeli elections set for Sept. 4

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**JERUSALEM** — The Israeli cabinet on Sunday morning authorized early elections for Sept. 4, meaning the current Knesset will soon be dissolved, even though the law doesn't require that elections be held before October 2013.

In speaking of the decision to hold early elections, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the cabinet, "I would have been very happy if we could have completed the term, which was also my goal, but it is no secret that with the start of the government's fourth year, the coalition is fraying somewhat.

"It therefore seems to me that the right thing to do is to go for a brief election campaign. We are proposing Sept. 4, after which, God and voters willing, we will receive a mandate, create stability, and successfully lead the State of Israel in dealing with the great challenges we still face."

Netanyahu said he intends to form "as broad a government as possible" after the vote. Current poll show that his Likud party could garner up to 30 seats, up from its current 27, in the next election.

"For dozens of years, there hasn't been a more stable government in Israel," Netanyahu said. "But it is no secret that with the beginning of the fourth year of this term, there has been some instability within the coalition – between parties and within parties."

Netanyahu said that the weakening of the coalition harms Israel's security, economy, and society, so the right thing to do is "to launch speedy elections."

Meanwhile, Labor chair Shelly Yachimovich said on Saturday she would consider joining a Likud-led coalition only if she would be able to help shape the government's agenda.

Speaking to Channel 2 Television, she said that "only if Likud gets a relatively small number of seats and the possibility of creating a new agenda is at hand will we consider such a partnership. Other parties will rush to join a Netanyahu government at any cost."

Yachimovich added that if she becomes prime minister, she would immediately launch peace talks with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and nurture Israel's relations with Egypt and Turkey.

Kadima party officials accused Yachimovich of co-ordinating her strategy with Netanyahu.

"Yachimovich and Netanyahu are waging an orchestrated assault on Kadima," aides to party leader Shaul Mofaz said yesterday, adding that Kadima, which holds the largest number of seats in the current Knesset, at 28, would no longer put up with it.

"Yachimovich lacks the most basic experience in every field. At the end of the day, this is how it goes: vote Yachimovich, get [Netanyahu]," Mofaz said.

Benjamin Netanyahu

Shaul Mofaz

Shelly Yachimovich

Yair Lapid

In response to Yachimovich's remarks, a Likud official said Netanyahu would turn to Mofaz and centrist candidate Yair Lapid before seeking a partnership with Labor, because her economic policies are not in line with Netanyahu's.

"We have more in common with Mofaz and Lapid than [far-right Foreign Minister Avigdor] Lieberman," the official added, alluding to Likud's current partnership with Yisrael Beiteinu, the party Lieberman leads.

*With files from JTA*

# Johnson defeats Livingstone's challenge

JTA

**LONDON** — Former London mayor Ken Livingstone, who stirred controversy with remarks called antisemitic by the city's Jewish leaders, lost his bid to reclaim his post.

Incumbent Boris Johnson, Livingstone's successor, won the tight mayoral race in London, according to results announced late last Friday.

Johnson, of the conservative Tory Party, garnered 51.5 per cent of the vote compared to 48.5 per cent for Livingstone of the Labor Party.

Upon conceding the race, Livingstone reportedly said that this would be his last election.

London Jewish leaders said Livingstone, in a March meeting, made remarks that they called nearly "classic antisemitism." Livingstone said that the Jewish community would not vote for him because "the Jewish community is rich." The Jewish leaders also said that Livingstone had used the words Zionist, Jewish and Israeli interchangeably and "in a pejorative manner."

Livingstone apologized for the statements and called on the Jewish community to "move on from the 'Ken and the Jews dramas.'"

The meeting was held to discuss Livingstone's support of radical Muslim cleric Sheik Yusuf al-Qaradawi and his accepting money from Iranian state broadcaster Press TV. Livingstone has been a frequent critic of Israel.

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The Jewish Federation of Ottawa is looking for a dynamic, self-motivated and responsible young professional. The ideal candidate is highly enthusiastic about creating a rich, vibrant and empowering Jewish student community on campus. Working closely with student leadership, s/he will build Jewish identity and Israel-related programs, plan events and create experiences throughout the academic year for Jewish students that not only attract new and returning participants, but also engage them in a meaningful way.

**Knowledge Requirements**
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**Required Skills**
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Able to balance and achieve competing priorities
- Basic understanding and competency in fundraising
- Advanced computer skills
- Basic understanding of budgets and bookkeeping

**Preferred Background**
- Undergraduate or graduate degree
- Past leadership or participation in on-campus student programs

As much a lifestyle as a job, the Director is expected to attend Hillel social functions and events, many of which take place during evenings and weekends. This position is best suited to someone with exceptional people skills as s/he will have to interact with students, campus administrators and various other stakeholders within the community. If you're looking for an exciting and challenging position that will advance your career and improve Jewish student life, then 'Director of Hillel Ottawa' is the perfect job for you.

For more information or to apply please contact Jeff Bradshaw, Senior Director of Planning at jbradshaw@jewishottawa.com or by telephone at 613-798-4696 ext 297.

The Federation thanks all who express interest in this position and advises that only those selected for interviews will be contacted.

For a more detailed job description, please see "Careers" at www.jewishottawa.com

Deadline for applications is Tuesday, **May 22, 2012.**

Jewish Federation of Ottawa

# Bat mitzvah gift sends 50 survivors to Jerusalem

**Viva Sarah Press**
CJN Israel Bureau

**TEL AVIV** — Toronto native Noa Weinzweig's decision to donate her bat mitzvah money to Holocaust survivors spiralled her into the Israeli media spotlight and landed her in a seat across from Israeli President Shimon Peres.

Noa, who moved to Herzliya from Toronto with her family 4-1/2 years ago, used her bat mitzvah gift money to finance a three-day vacation to Jerusalem for 50 Holocaust survivors.

All of Israel's major news companies sent out reporters to interview the English-speaking teenager who – as Peres said – managed to "raise the spirits of our entire nation" with one goodwill gesture.

Noa told *The CJN* she hoped "others will start donating to survivors, because they don't get the attention they deserve. These are the strongest people I have ever met. I will never forget them. After all they went through, they deserve happiness, peace and joy."

Noa, who is now 13, said that last year, when her parents, Nirit Gilboa and Jeffrey Wynn, spoke to her about the importance of giving back to society, she knew that she would ask her guests to contribute to Holocaust survivors.

It's a tradition in her family to give bar/bat-mitzvah money away. Her brother, Dean, now 18, donated his bar mitzvah funds to Beit Halochem, which aids Israeli veterans, five years ago.

"Jeff and I felt very strongly that our children's bar/bat mitzvah is an opportunity to educate them to give back to society and introduce them to tzedakah," Gilboa told *The CJN*.

Noa attended Bialik Hebrew Day School and Crestwood School while living in Toronto and now studies at the American International School in Even Yehuda. She lives with her four siblings and mother in Herzliya full-time during the year, while her father commutes from Toronto every five weeks. The whole family returns to Toronto every summer, and Noa still attends Camp Winnebago in Huntsville, Ont.

While donating part of bar/bat-mitzvah gifts is more commonplace, the notion of giving away everything struck a chord with Israelis.

The media storm that accompanied the all-expenses-paid trip for the 50 Holocaust survivors caught the family off-guard, said Gilboa, (who was born on Kibbutz Kfar Menachem and grew up on Kibbutz Degania Alef).

**Israeli President Shimon Peres met with Noa Weinzweig, standing to his left, last week at the president's residence. Weinzweig donated her bat mitzvah earnings to buy a three-day holiday for each of 50 Holocaust survivors in Israel, some of whom are seen here. Peres arrived in Canada Sunday for a four-day state visit.** *[GPO/Flash90 photo]*

After all, Noa celebrated her bat mitzvah last year. But because of the planning and waiting for good weather, the emotion-packed holiday for the survivors only took place at the beginning of this month.

The Holocaust survivors who took part in the trip praised Noa's action, calling it "an act from the heart" and "beyond admirable."

"I was under the impression that people think about us only on Holocaust Remembrance Day and forget about us the rest of the year," one survivor told the *Jerusalem Post*. "But this young lady has given us such a heart-warming experience, simply because she cares."

Even the president cleared his schedule to host Noa and the survivors at his official residence in Jerusalem.

"There are no words to describe my meeting with Mr. Peres. I will never forget this day. He was so kind and made me feel very special," Noa said.

"Meeting President Peres was extremely exciting and very moving under the circumstances. He was extremely pleasant and very welcoming towards Noa," says her mother. "I didn't give the meeting with him much thought, but the outcome has been unbelievable and has created a lot of awareness towards Holocaust survivors, which is very rewarding."

Peres told Noa that she did "something exemplary" and that "sometimes a nation needs to learn from its children. You have taught us an exceptional lesson."

And while praise was heaped on Noa, she feels the winner for having met the survivors.

"All the survivors I met touched my heart. I look at life differently now. This was an experience I will never forget," she said. "I really hope others will listen to my words and start more awareness towards the Holocaust.

"I hope [people] will look up to what I did and will help others. I hope my story will encourage other kids to donate to any causes that they believe in."

## Comment

# *France turns left — a rocky road*

**Anshel Pfeffer**
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

In the end, Nicolas Sarkozy was not so far from achieving an upset victory at the last moment. Two months ago, he was losing in the polls by a two-digit margin, but just before the election, he had managed to narrow it down to less than four per cent.

The March terror attacks in Toulouse and the temporary shift of the electoral agenda to issues of immigration and cohesion gave an opening to "Monsieur Sécurité," but it was simply not enough.

"President Bling" had come up against an immovable barrier of derision and loathing. It isn't so much that mild-mannered "Mr. Normal" Francois Hollande captured the imagination of the voters – too many of them just could not bear to see Sarkozy on their television screens and in the Élysée for even one more day.

The socialists are back in power after 17 years, but they could hardly wish for a less auspicious set of circumstances for themselves. The nation Hollande now leads is fractured and muddled – the fact that his party's traditional voters, the working class, gave more votes to Marine Le Pen's far-right Front National in the first round of voting should serve as a severe warning that the expectations of the French masses have been drastically let down.

Hollande has promised his compatriots he would defy the current trend of austerity being preached in the other capitals of Europe. His generous spending plans, which will cost at least 20 billion euros (according to his calculations), include hiring 60,000 new teachers. His spending plans fly in the face of a bleak fiscal reality. France already spends more of its GDP on welfare (28.4 per cent) than any other developed country and its debt-to-GDP ratio is set to reach 90 per cent this year. While a similar financial crisis in France such as Spain is currently undergoing still seems inconceivable, the new French government may be forced very soon to renege on some of its more outlandish election promises.

The new government will also face some very hard decisions on the future of its relationship with the European Union and especially with its partner in leading Europe – Germany. Hollande will have some tough talks already this week with Chancellor Angela Merkel on his reservations regarding the new tight fiscal restraints Germany has imposed on the Eurozone. If they fail to reach an agreement, and Merkel is unlikely to back down, the joint currency could be back at the brink of meltdown in a matter of weeks.

Hollande, though, may be magnanimous in victory. After all, Sarkozy's remarks earlier this year that France should be more like Germany and the close relationship he enjoyed with the chancellor probably helped Hollande, in his quiet way, capitalize on the hurt feelings of many French voters.

Sarkozy will be missed in Israel where he was always seen as a friendly president without too many demands. French expatriates in Israel voted for him overwhelmingly in the first round (81 per cent). The leader of the CRIF, Richard Prasquier, expressed concerns that some of Hollande's left-wing allies would use their new ruling position to mobilize sentiments against Israel. Considering the problems the new government is facing closer to home, it is a safe bet that Israel will not be very high on its agenda any time soon.

The failure of the moderate-right to hold on to the reins of power and Sarkozy's departure from the political arena leaves the door open to a much more sinister nationalist opposition. Le Pen can claim to have succeeded in some degree to detoxify the Front National brand, and she will mount a battle to take the fallen mantle of leader of the right. If Sarkozy stays around long enough to anoint a credible successor, he will have done France a greater service than anything he achieved during his single-term presidency.

### *Livni leaves Knesset*

Former Kadima party leader Tzipi Livni resigned from the Knesset last week, warning in her resignation address that Israel's leaders are putting the country's existence at risk by choosing to ignore the mounting impatience on the part of the international community. Livni submitted her resignation after she lost the leadership of Kadima to Shaul Mofaz.

### *Assassin's brother freed*

Hagai Amir, 43, who helped his brother, Yigal Amir, plot the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, was released from prison May 4. He had been in jail 16 years and has never expressed remorse for his role in the Nov. 4, 1995, murder of the Israeli prime minister by his brother. Yigal Amir is serving a life sentence for the assassination. Another co-conspirator, Dror Adani, completed his sentence in 2002.

### *Barak raps critics*

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak said the recent spate of criticism by former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's "gang" on a possible attack on Iran's nuclear infrastructure has caused "damage" to Israel. Former Mossad chief Meir Dagan and former Shin Bet security agency chief Yuval Diskin said recently that Barak and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were not fit to lead the country. Olmert called on the government to wait for sanctions to work instead of launching an attack. Barak told *Israel Hayom* that Olmert and his supporters "travel all over the world, and their remarks serve to weaken the not-inconsequential achievement of Israeli policy, which has turned the Iranian nuclear threat into an important and urgent issue, not only for Israel, but for the world at large."

*Files from JTA*

Placing Old Age Security on a Sustainable Path

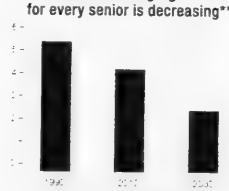
Canadians are living longer and costs for the Old Age Security (OAS) are rising. On April 1, 2023 the Government of Canada plans to start raising the age of eligibility for OAS and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) from 65 to 67.*

**What does this mean for you?**

| | |
|---|---|
| 54 or older as of March 31, 2012 | You may still obtain OAS/GIS at age 65 |
| 53 or younger as of March 31, 2012 | The age of eligibility for OAS/GIS will change gradually between 2023 and 2029 |

Starting in July 2013, Canadians who are eligible for, but not yet receiving OAS will have the flexibility to delay receiving it in exchange for a higher monthly amount at a later date.

The number of working-age Canadians for every senior is decreasing**



**Source: 9th Actuarial Report on the Old Age Security Program

The number of working-age Canadians per senior is decreasing, placing additional pressure on the OAS program.

For a free brochure or more information visit **www.ServiceCanada.gc.ca/retirement** or call **1 800 O-Canada** (TTY 1-800-926-9105)

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Canada

# Doggie daycare keeps hounds happy

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

As the puppies play at Woof and Shloof in midtown Toronto, it's hard to say it's a dog-eat-dog world out there. None of the happy hounds look dog tired, there wasn't one who could claim to be sick as a dog, but, truth be told, it certainly looked like the place was going to the dogs.

But in a good way.

It turns out, today's pampered pooches never had it so good, what with the spa-like grooming services and doggie daycare at their convenience.

As people spend more and more on their canine companions, enter Woof and Shloof, a grooming, daycare and dog-training company located not far from Forest Hill. It bills itself as a "first-class facility [that] is cage free and architected entirely from the dog's point of view."

Jesse Sternberg, founder and owner of the 18-month-old company, believes he has hit on a winning formula that distinguishes Woof and Shloof (Yiddish for sleep) from other facilities catering to canines.

At the heart of it is his uncanny ability to see the world as dogs see it, to relate to them on their own level and to provide them with a stimulating and enjoyable experience that sees them return to their owners calm and peaceful.

It's something they appreciate, he said. The last thing many of them want to do is deal with a hyped-up hound that's been cooped up all day in a house or apartment.

Sternberg can relate to dogs because he's been around them all his life – he jokes he "was raised by a sheepdog" – and has learned to recognize and apply the non-verbal signals they use to communicate.

**Jesse Sternberg and his sheepdog Maydel run the show at Woof and Shloof.**
*[Paul Lungen photo]*

"I can do stuff other people can't do," he explained. "I can take a plate of food off your table and put it on the floor, and [the dog] wouldn't touch it – he'd wait for me to give it to him."

Through his own experience and by following the lead of renowned dog trainer Turid Rugaas, Sternberg communicates with animals through gestures and subtle signals.

"Dogs see us as part of the animal kingdom," he said. "They communicate non-verbally."

"Dogs come from a place where they avoid conflict, where they want to be peaceful," he continued. They avoid eye contact, which can be seen as a gesture of assertiveness.

Since he is sensitive to these hidden clues, Sternberg is able to create an environment in which as many as 30 dogs can socialize without conflict, play, get exercise and expend their energy. His staff is trained to employ his techniques, and his clients love the calmness in their animals when they pick them up at the end of the day. They usually come back for more.

"I'll get crazy, poorly behaved dogs at home, and after they come here, they go home and they're blissfully calm. The owners are amazed and they spread it around by word-of-mouth," Sternberg, 31, said.

"It's a huge part of my business because I have two customers every time someone comes into the store, the dog and the human."

As a result, the business has grown by leaps and bounds. In the 18 months since he opened, more than 1,300 customers have come through the doors. "Every month, the numbers are growing."

"We hit our break-even point," Sternberg said. "It took a while. It took 16 months. Since then, it's basically been exploding."

The April 2012 revenue numbers are triple what they were the same month the year before, he added.

Woof and Shloof's revenue model is based on selling packages for half-day or full-day daycare, as well as providing grooming services and training.

The hourly rate drops as larger packages are selected. A full day is priced at $39 to drop in; $33 a day for a package of 10, or $29 a day for a package of 20.

The competition can't match that value, Sternberg said, not when dog walkers charge $20 just for a one-hour walk.

"The best customers are the ones who are double-income earners who work long days and their dog is essentially their child," he said. "They feel guilty leaving the dog at home. Also, when a dog is left alone for that long, dogs tend to be destructive. They chew the couch and rip the baseboard. So this becomes a solution."

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UJA Federation OF GREATER TORONTO

# Egypt sued over pipeline disruptions

**Ital Trilnick**
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

**TEL AVIV** — Shareholders in East Mediterranean Gas, the company that oversaw the now defunct Egyptian-Israeli natural gas deal, are suing the government of Egypt for violating three bilateral investment treaties, the company announced last week.

The decision to take legal action against the Egyptian government under treaties with the United States, Poland and Germany is the strongest move so far by the group, ensuring that the dispute will be handled diplomatically and not just commercially.

The investors, who include Thai energy giant PTT, U.S. businessman Sam Zell and Israel's Merhav, are also suing the Egyptian oil and gas companies. Together the plaintiffs are seeking up to $8 billion (all figures US) in damages.

Egyptian state-owned oil and gas companies announced April 22 that they were terminating gas sales to Israel, which were part of a 20-year deal, following a year of sabotage and pipeline attacks that had already disrupted supplies.

Israeli and Egyptian officials have tried to play down the ending of the 2005 deal, saying the cancellation of the contract supplying Israel with 40 per cent of its gas needs resulted from a business dispute. However, there have been growing public calls within Egypt to review ties with Israel since the overthrow of president Hosni Mubarak, for whom a peace treaty with Israel was a cornerstone of regional policy.

Announcement of the suit came after months of unsuccessful attempts to resolve the issue in negotiations, one of the shareholders, Ampal-American Israel Corp., said.

"The investors' disputes with Egypt arise out of a series of acts and failures by the government of Egypt that have seriously undermined the value of the investors' investments in EMG," Ampal said in a statement.

The pipeline had been targeted by terrorists in the Sinai peninsula numerous times, halting the flow of gas for most of the past year. Ampal has submitted a request for arbitration to the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes in accordance with the Egyptian-U.S. bilateral treaty.

# Israeli hotels offer enticing vacation packages

**Steve Walz**
Special to The CJN

Spurred by a record-breaking number of foreign tourists who visited the Holy Land during the first quarter of 2012, Israel's burgeoning hotel industry is gearing up for a busy summer tourism season by sprucing up facilities and offering a variety of exciting vacation packages.

According to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, 752,000 foreign visitors entered the country between January and March 2012. That number eclipsed last year's figures by two per cent. The first-quarter figures also represent a one per cent increase over 2010, which Israel's Ministry of Tourism declared was Israel's best year ever for incoming tourism.

Despite the generally optimistic picture, many hotel managers aren't assuming that North American Jewish tourists will reflexively book a vacation to Israel, when there are a myriad of interesting destinations to choose from. In order to attract both veteran and new foreign tourists to their facilities, some of Israel's best-known hotels have undergone a series of-physical transformations in order to broaden their appeal, while others have focused on offering newfangled experiences to both couples and families with children.

**The swimming pool at the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel**

"Both returning and new clientele are quite different from five years ago because of new technologies. Today's tourists are more computer savvy. They can compare prices online in an instant from their computers and make a formal booking from their smartphones, so hotels must be prepared to offer more personalized services, as well as new experiences," Ilan Brenner, the executive assistant manager of marketing and sales at the Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem, said.

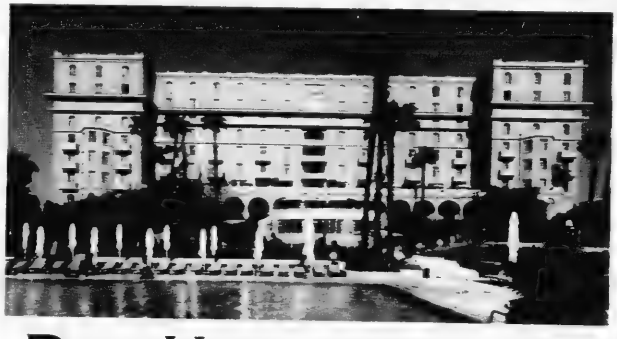
"Our staff knows our clients, and in a growing number of cases, we have literally grown up with entire families. So when a new generation emerges, we already have a good idea about their needs. Both returning and new tourists are always searching for and asking about upgrades, so we are constantly adding incentives, whether it's a free car, a multimedia game room for youngsters, new spa treatments, trendy gastronomic experiences in the dining room, etc."

The Dan Hotel chain recently completed a makeover at its historical King David Hotel in Jerusalem and at its venerable Dan Carmel Hotel in Haifa. Rafi Beeri, the Dan Hotel's vice-president of marketing and sales, was enthused by the renovations, as well as the debut of a unique "hotel within a hotel" concept at the Dan Jerusalem (formerly the Hyatt Regency).

Beeri said, "We have invested heavily in upgrading these hotels in different ways. The King David has undergone a major makeover with a new section of rooms and suites. At the Dan Carmel, which debuted in 1962, we have completed a top-to-bottom renovation which includes new executive rooms, which overlook Haifa Bay and the Carmel Mountains. With the Dan Jerusalem, which we acquired in 2010, we realized that renovating this huge hotel [500 rooms] would have to be done in phases and feature some unique aspects."

Beeri said that with the Dan Jerusalem's unique "hotel within a hotel" concept, guests and groups can benefit from more personalized services and amenities. "It can be compared to an airline's business-class environment.

**Continued on page 36**



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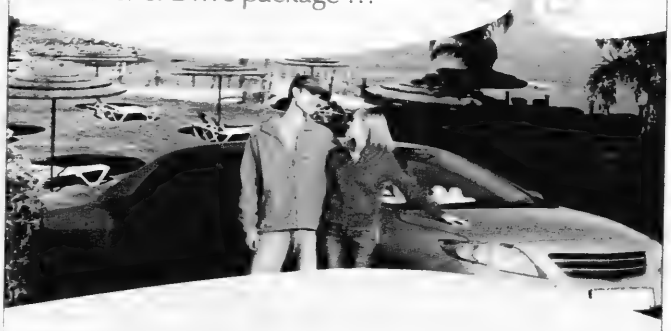

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# In most cases prices have not increased

Continued from page 35

We've upgraded a wing of 120 rooms [executive class], where guests or groups who wish to stay in this section will enjoy a separate check-in area, separate lounge and dining facilities, as well as a special staff that will cater to them in a more personalized manner.

"In addition, as the Dan's chain is sponsoring Israel's ParaOlympics team this summer at the Olympic Games in London, our popular Danyland Kids Club will highlight Olympic-style sports activities for youngsters at many of our hotels."

The Ramada Jerusalem Hotel has acquired a stellar reputation among families with children who seek discounted long-term vacation packages (from seven to 21 days), with a variety of summer activities for adults and children. "Our annual We Love Kids summer program has been a hit with tourists from North America for several years," Yacov Shaari, the general manager of the Ramada Jerusalem Hotel, said.

The Rimonim in Eilat

"If people are staying in the hotel over an extended period, we have to keep the kids entertained, so every day we offer something different, whether it's a magician, petting zoo, etc. During weekdays, we offer complimentary shuttle-bus service to the Old City, which is an attraction for the parents. And, our outdoor American-style barbecues out by the pool area during August always attracts a large audience of both adults and children alike."

The growing Rimonim chain recently re-branded four of its upscale properties to create the "Royal Collection," which includes the Royal Dead Sea, Rimonim Eilat, Ruth Rimonim Safed and Rimonim Galei Kinnereth.

Anat Aharon, Rimonim's vice-president of sales and marketing, said, "During the summer months, the Royal Dead Sea will feature special spa packages that include the hotel's new Royal Lounge. The Royal Serenity Indulgence Package features both a private VIP spa and private beach opposite the hotel. There is also a summer spa getaway at the Rimonim Galei Kinnereth in Tiberias. Guests who book our Ben-Gurion Suite package are pampered with a deluxe treatment in the hotel's spa, unique amenities and special tastings of boutique Israeli wines upon arrival.

"At the nearby Ruth Rimonim in Safed (Tzfat), we invite guests to let their soul breathe amidst the mystic beauty of the hotel's Galilean surroundings. The hotel also features a wine cellar, where you can sample the best Israeli wines. The staff at the Ruth Rimonim can also organize special walking tours through the colourful alleys and art galleries in the Old City, accompanied by klezmer music. In Eilat, we are offering summer Serenity and Action packages to romantic couples and families with children who seek a bit of adventure."

At the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel, where North American, British and French tourists alike converge during the summer months, the accent will be on indulging kids and parents alike. "As a hotel, we are geared for families, providing dedicated areas for youngsters with computers, where they can connect with their friends on Facebook," said Jean-Louis Ripoche, the general manager of the Sheraton Tel Aviv. "Last year we opened a children's pool. This year, we will complement it with a guarded playground with games and toys, where families can relax and enjoy the pool, while their children are playing. We also are featuring our summer kids breakfast-buffet corner featuring a variety of yogurts, colourful cereals, a variety of chocolate drinks, pancakes, mini Belgian waffles, etc. There's also a kids menu on display at the outdoor pool.

"During the summer, we will be extending breakfast hours in the dining room till 12 p.m., so couples and families alike can enjoy a longer, relaxed morning. After breakfast, we offer adults a free bicycle, so they can pedal around the seaside boardwalk area and beyond."

* * *

In many instances, Israeli hotels have not increased their prices since last summer, as general managers are aware that the price of airline tickets has increased by as much as 15 to 20 per cent during the past few months, because of the inflated price of oil, and families are looking to maximize their vacation experience without blowing their budgets.

Here is an abridged guide to some of the hottest summer deals across Israel.

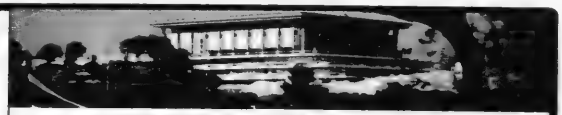
* * *

**Inbal Jerusalem Hotel, www.inbalhotel.com**

July rates begin from $150 per person in a double room, based on a minimum five-night stay. The hotel's website features several unique summer deals.

Continued on page 37

ISRAEL



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# Various deals and special rates available

A delicacy prepared by the Inbal chefs

**Continued from page 36**

**Dan Hotels, www.danhotels.com**

Rates for July and August for guests who book Golden 7 Nights at the King David start from $480 per room (per couple) based on a bed/breakfast excursion. The Golden 7 special includes pampering amenities such as free round-trip transportation between Ben-Gurion Airport and the hotel. Guests who stay a minimum of three nights are entitled to a free voucher to the Dan Lounge at Ben-Gurion Airport on the day of their departure from Israel. At the Dan Jerusalem, guests who book a minimum of three nights in Deluxe Rooms will receive a free upgrade to Executive Rooms, which includes the use of the hotel's new King David Executive Lounge.

* * *

**Ramada Jerusalem Hotel www.jerusalemramada.com**

The hotel's We Love Kids rates start from $198 based on a seven to 14 night stay, with two adults and one child in a room (including breakfast). Rates are discounted even lower based on stays exceeding 14 nights. Amenities include large indoor and outdoor pools, health club and sauna, as well as supervised summer children's camps and a teen corner during July and August. This hotel highlights OU Mehadrin Glatt Kosher cuisine.

* * *

**Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel & Towers, www.sheratontelaviv.com**

The hotel is offering an early-bird package starting from $370 per person, with a minimum booking of five nights or three nights non-refundable. The charge for a child in the room under the age of 17 years old is $30 per child. There is no charge for children under the age of three. There is a limited promotion for guests who stay for a minimum of five nights between Aug. 5 and 25. They will receive complimentary tickets to the Cirque du Soleil, which will play Tel Aviv in August. Rates start from $400 a night based on double occupancy. This special deal can be booked direct via the hotel's website.

* * *

**Rimonim Hotels, http://English.rimonim.com**

Various deals are available for guests who book directly via their website. Rates vary for midweek and weekend vacations. At the Royal Dead Sea, guests staying in suites and preferred room types will enjoy a separate check-in at the lounge and private breakfast and dinner, as well as snacks and drinks during the day. Galei Kinnereth's luxurious spa includes a domed Jacuzzi overlooking the Sea of Galilee. The Rimonim Eilat's Serenity and Action package includes a choice of two hot attractions for the whole family – admission to the Imax theatre and the Eilat underwater observatory when reserving for a minimum of three nights. The hotel's Romantic Serenity deal for couples features pampering amenities, including breakfast for two in your room, a gift dinner and a couples spa treatment, as well as a 45-minute pedicure and manicure.

Ramada Hotel Jerusalem

We Love Kids

June 1 - September 15, 2012 (inclusive)

| Sample Rates: | 7-14 nts | 15-21 nts | 22+ nts |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 Adults + 1 child (1 room) | $198 | $188 | $178 |
| 2 Adults + 2,3 or 4 chd (2 rooms) | $346 | $336 | $326 |

The rates are per night, in US $, including Israeli breakfast and service charge. The rates are for the total number of rooms on the line. Child 2-17 years old

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# *Keret's surreal stories tinged with sad realism*

**Joseph Serge**
Arts Editor

Nothing is too far-fetched in the stories and characters that populate Etgar Keret's fantastic imagination.

A man gets transported back to his childhood; a woman unzips her boyfriend and finds another man lurking inside; a man keeps just about everything in his pocket, just in case someone asks him for something; a goldfish grants wishes, and a gumball machine can transport people to the land where all your lies come to life.

One short story even claims to be a unique Israeli innovation and the best story in the world.

*Suddenly, a Knock on the Door* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) is the latest collection of stories by the popular Israeli writer.

Several of the stories deal with the art of writing itself – of inventing and creating words of make-believe.

The title story, for instance, is about a writer (named Keret) who is forced to tell a story at gunpoint to a bearded Swedish man in his living room.

This doesn't happen to Amos Oz or David Grossman, the narrator thinks, a tribute to other Israeli writers Keret is often compared to.

"Two people are sitting in a room," the writer begins saying nervously, "suddenly there's a knock on the door!" And sure enough, as happens in an Etgar Keret story, suddenly there *is* a knock on the door. In comes a pollster doing a survey who also pulls out a gun and demands that Keret tells him a story.

Eventually, there's another knock, and a pizza delivery boy also joins in the action demanding a story. When Keret (the character) begins telling them about his current plight, the Swede protests. "That's not a story. It's exactly what's happening here right now. Don't you go and dump reality on us like a garbage truck. Use your imagination, man, create, invent, take it all the way."

And take it all away is exactly what Keret, the author, does with these 35 short stories.

They're surreal and imaginative, yet at the same time tinged with slice-of-life realism and sadness.

One of the common themes in these stories is that of characters being drawn to invention and fiction in order to escape their own loneliness and alienation. Such is the case in *Parallel Universes*, in which a heartbroken, suicidal man imagines an alternate reality where nothing bad is happening to him.

This theme is also true of one of my favourites in this collection, *Healthy Start*. In it, Miron, a lonely widower, takes to going to a café for breakfast every morning. One day, a man sits at his table, mistakenly believing that Miron was somebody he was supposed to meet. Miron pretends he is that person and continues the conversation with him.

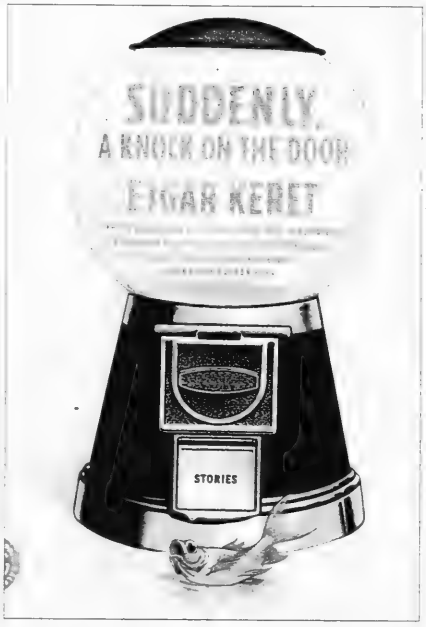
From then on, every morning, Miron pretends to be the person that other people made plans to meet with at the café – a blind date or a man who believes Miron is seducing his wife – and uses these situations to escape his own depressing life.

While many of the stories are light-hearted and humorous, some like *Teamwork* where a divorced father agrees to kill his son's babysitter, or in *Polite Little Boy* in which a young boy witnesses the impending dissolution of his parents' marriage, also have a dark side to them.

In a way, these stories explore all sides of human nature, from love, to lust, loneliness, regret, hatred and revenge.

*People* magazine says that Keret can do more with six strange and funny paragraphs than most writers can with 600 pages, and this is true. Most of these stories are under four pages long. The few longer ones, in fact, are the ones that don't work very well.

Born in 1967, Keret is one of the new breed of rising young artists coming out of Israel, and he's certainly one to keep a close eye on. He's been published in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's* and the *New York Times*. He's also an acclaimed film director and his first film, *Jellyfish*, won the Caméra d'Or prize at the Cannes festival in 2007.

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**The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising** reads as follows:

"In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibits the use of the word kosher or any letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is kosher, if the food does not meet the requirements of the Kashruth applicable to it.

The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

***The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.***

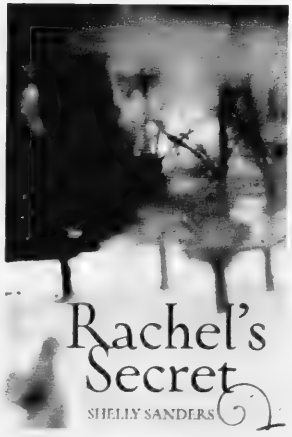
# Powerful descriptions of pre-Revolutionary Russia

In *Rachel's Secret* (Second Story Press), the debut young readers novel by Toronto writer Shelly Sanders, the title character is a strong-willed teenage girl living in 1903 Kishinev, Russia.

Unlike most girls her age and in her time period, the 14-year-old Jewish girl wasn't interested in just growing up and becoming a wife and mother. She had dreams of becoming a journalist and maybe travelling the world.

As Passover approaches, Rachel's life is turned upside down when a Christian friend of hers is murdered in a park. The local newspaper whips up antisemitic fervour by making outrageous claims of blood libel and stating that the boy, Mikhail, was killed by Jews to make matzah.

As you'd expect, the hatred builds up to a boiling point and leads to an Easter Sunday pogrom in which Jewish businesses are torched and Jews beaten and some killed.




The story was inspired by Sanders' grandmother's life in pre-Revolutionary Russia.

The author's strength is her powerful description giving attention to the small details that vividly illustrate early 20th-century Russia. The coachman's tall black hat, for instance, is described as a stovepipe.

Her simple description of a boy Sergei drinking tea shows the unique Russian way of sucking the drink through a sugar cube held between the teeth.

This powerful and educational story, geared toward teenage readers, continues Second Story Press' strong tradition of publishing books with strong female characters for teenagers and young adults.

*–JS*

# *Jewish Film Festival continues until May 13*

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Judging by the dizzying variety of movies, this year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival, a major cultural event in the city, is bound to satisfy a diverse audience.

Toby Perl Freilich's *Inventing Our Life: The Kibbutz Experiment* is a comprehensive account of an iconic Israeli institution, the agricultural commune, the first of which was founded a little more than a century ago by eastern European pioneers dedicated to building a socialist state in what was then Ottoman Palestine.

In the century since then, many kibbutzim have changed tremendously. The outmoded notion of collective child care has fallen by the wayside. The central dining room has been phased out. Industry is more important than agriculture. Differential salaries and private housing are now the norm. Privatization has taken hold as the strict principle of egalitarianism has withered.

As Freiluch suggests, the kibbutz had no alternative but to change with the times. Modern capitalist Israel outgrew the kibbutz, and the traditional kibbutz model no longer fit the country.

Originally founded to provide employment for Jewish pioneers, the kibbutz played an integral role before and after Israel's creation. Kibbutzniks were in the forefront of establishing Israel's future borders. Their crops fed an expanding population. To a large degree, they produced the officer corps of the armed forces.

Freilich examines four kibbutzim: Degania, the first kibbutz; Sasa, the first kibbutz populated by American immigrants; Ein Shemer and Hulda.

Their tough and resilient founders, braving malaria, hunger and Arab raids and lacking such essentials as electricity and running water, sought to build the prototype of the new, fighting Jew. "We felt we were the elite of Israeli society," says one grizzled veteran.

The kibbutz was marginalized by the Likud party, the winner of 1977 election. The new prime minister, Menachem Begin, curtly dismissed kibbutzniks as "millionaires with swimming pools."

Begin's churlish attitude was the least of their problems. A debt crisis in the 1980s, endemic mismanagement and the continued flight of young members placed the kibbutz in jeopardy. Kibbutzim, however, appear to have weathered these challenges.

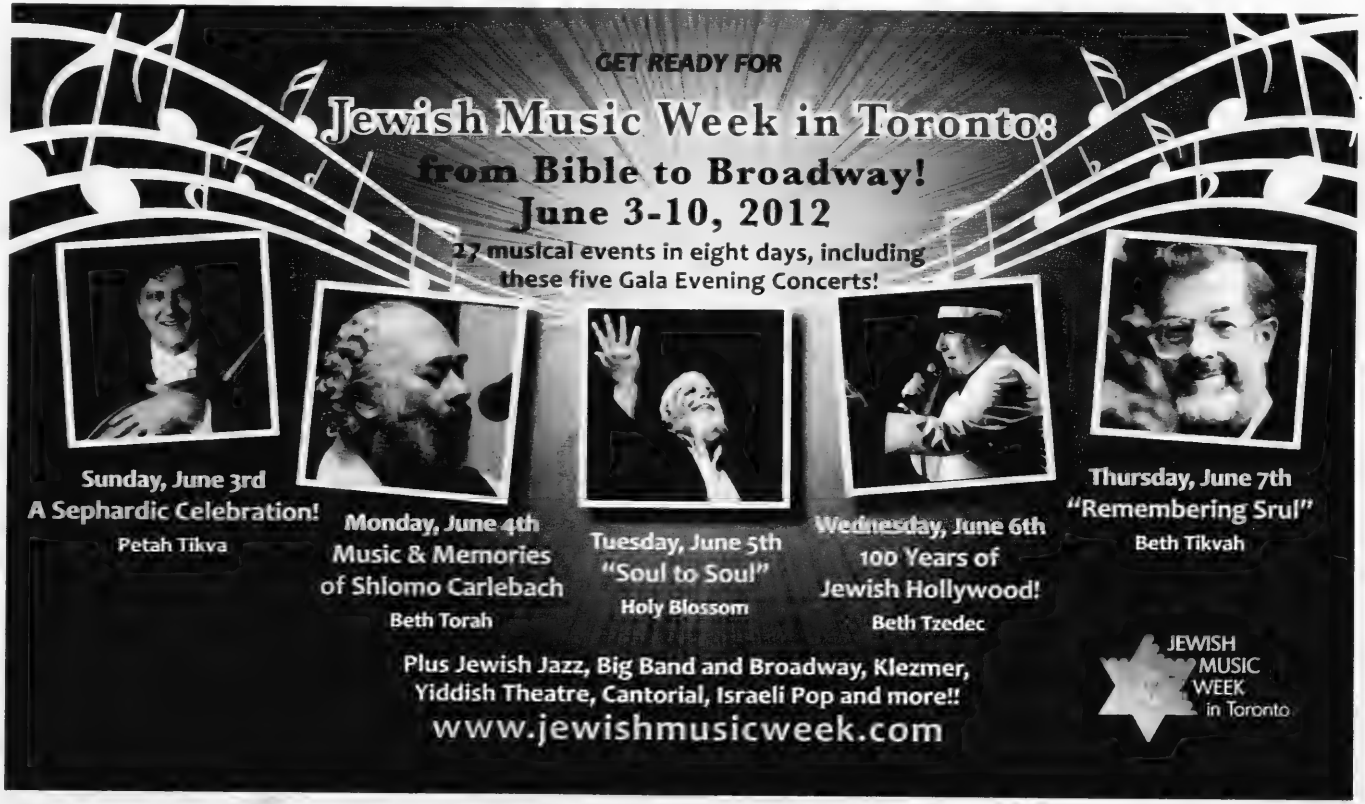
• • •

**The children of Kibbutz Hulda**

Arnon Goldfinger's *The Flat* delves into a family mystery. When Gerda Tuchler died, her descendants, including the filmmaker, sifted through her possessions in her Tel Aviv flat. To their surprise, they found copies of *Der Angriff*, a Nazi newspaper founded by Joseph Goebbels, and letters in German attesting to an unusual friendship.

Tuchler and her husband, Kurt, were German Jews who settled in Palestine after the rise of Adolf Hitler. Shortly after their arrival, they travelled around Palestine with Leopold von Mildenstein – a nobleman and high-ranking Nazi party member who had come to Palestine to write pro-Zionist stories about its Jewish inhabitants – and his wife. Stranger still, the Tuchlers regularly visited the von Mildensteins in Germany after the war.

**Continued on page 43**



# EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

## TORONTO JEWISH FOLK CHOIR TO GIVE ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT

In 1925, an era when Yiddish speakers numbered in the tens of thousands in Toronto, some local Jewish immigrant factory workers founded the Freiheit Gezangs Farein, the Freedom Choral Society, and staged a spring concert in 1926.

That choir was the historic predecessor of the **Toronto Jewish Folk Choir**, which still stages a handful of concerts each year, including its upcoming 86th annual Spring Concert.

The central work being performed is *Dos Naye Lid* (*The New Song*) by Canadian composer **Milton Barnes** (1931-2001), one of several individuals who are being honoured at the concert. The others are **Ben Shek**, **Myrna Levine**, **Mordechai Gebirtig** and **Adrienne Cooper**.

**Alexander Veprinsky** conducts and pianist **Lina Zemelman** provides accompaniment. $25, $20; children 12 and under free. Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave. Sunday, June 3, 3 p.m. 905-669-5906, folkchoir@hotmail.com

* * *

**More Choral Music**

• The 50-voice **Toronto Jewish Chorus** performs *Melodies and Mandelbroit*, a gala concert with **Cantor Benjamin Maissner**, **Cantor Anna Trubashnik**, **Rabbi Noam Katz**, **the Leo Baeck Glee Club** and the **TJC Barbershop Quartet**. The choir director is **Judy Adelman Gershon** (of the children's group **Judy and David**). Temple Emanu-El, 120 Old Colony Rd. Thursday, May 17, 7:30 p.m. Tickets, $20, VIP $36. www.torontojewishchorus.org

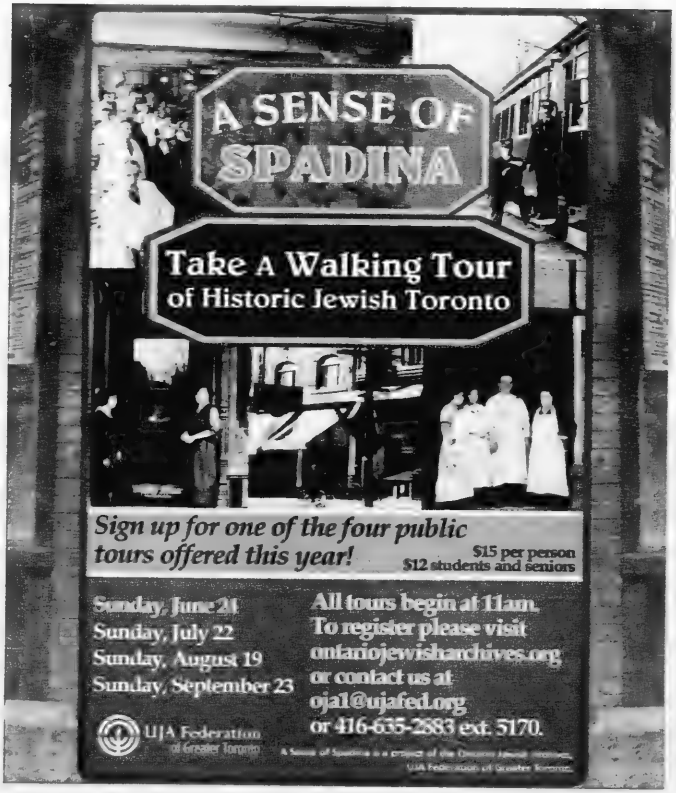
• The Summer Institute for Creative Adults seeks adults with a passion for singing. Instructors **Heather Bambrick**, **Adi Braun**, **Micah Barnes**, **Gillian Stecyk** and others will coach you in choral repertoire, jazz, opera, glee, cabaret, vocal technique and performance strategies. For advanced beginners and above. Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, July 16 to 20. $350. Register at 416-924-6211, ext. 0.

**Arnon Goldfinger's *The Flat* won the TJFF's David A. Stein Memorial Award.**

• **The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir**, **Festival Orchestra** and soloists present three rarely performed 20th-century masterpieces – **Bernstein**'s *Chichester Psalms*, **Poulenc**'s *Gloria* and **Walton**'s *Belshazzar's Feast*. The latter oratorio, from the Book of Daniel, relates the story of Babylon as the captivity of the Jews ends and we are restored to freedom. As well, the *Chicester Psalms* will be sung in Hebrew (with surtitles). Koerner Hall, May 23, 7:30 p.m. $53 to $87; $25 for under-25-year-olds. 416-408-0208.

* * *

**Continued on page 41**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**Continued from page 40**

**David A. Stein Award:** The Toronto Jewish Film Festival has named **Arnon Goldfinger**, director of the documentary film *The Flat*, as winner of the 2012 David A. Stein Memorial Award. The film documents a mystery that unfolds as the filmmaker's family clears the apartment of their deceased German grandmother, finding some Nazi propaganda and evidence of an unusual friendship. *The Flat* also won the Israeli "Oscar" for best documentary.

*The Flat* makes its Canadian première May 10, 5:30 p.m. at the Cineplex Odeon Sheppard Centre, Yonge and Sheppard. It is also being screened May 13, 2:45 p.m. at the Al Green Theatre, 750 Spadina Ave. The Toronto Jewish Film Festival runs until May 13.

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• **Dan Mendelsohn Aviv** launches his new book, *End of the Jews: Radical Breaks, Remakes and What Comes Next* (Key Publishing House). With panel discussion featuring **Lisa Goldman**, **Janis Seftel** and **Isaac Kates Rose**. Free. Miles Nadal JCC, Thursday May 10, 7 p.m.

• The Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company presents **Neil Simon**'s *Lost in Yonkers*, directed by **Jim Warren**, starring **Marion Ross**, **Linda Kash**, **Sheila McCarthy**, **Ari Cohen** and **David Eisner**. St. Lawrence Centre, Jane Mallett Theatre, May 12 to June 10. www.hgjewishtheatre.com

• The Toronto Jewish Film Festival presents film scholar **Eric Goldman** speaking on "The New Yiddish Cinema: Renaissance or Curiosity," an examination of new Yiddish films from France, Israel and the United States. Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St. W. at Bathurst. Sunday, May 13, 11 a.m. Free but ticket required. Other free events offered on May 12. www.tjff.com, 416-324-9121.

• Critic **Adam Nayman** continues his discussion of the films of **Stanley Kubrick** with a look at *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Miles Nadal JCC, Monday, May 14, 7 p.m. $12 drop-in, students $6. 416-924-6211, ext. 606.

• *Hana's Suitcase* author **Karen Levine** speaks at the Forest of Reading Festival of Trees to mark the 10th anniversary edition of Canada's most-awarded children's book. Harbourfront Centre, Wednesday, May 16. www.readings.org, 416-973-4000.

• **Rabbi Yossi Sapirman**, of Beth Torah Congregation, presents his original art and talks about "Judaism and the Arts: Storytelling Through Pictures." Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC, Thursday, May 17, 1:30 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 155.

* * *

**At the Galleries**

• The **Bruce Cassidy Ensemble** displays the paintings of **Judy Singer**. $15. Trane Studio, 964 Bathurst St. Thursday May 10, 8 p.m.

• The **Israeli Artists Group of Toronto** presents its fourth annual art show. J. E. H./ Thoreau MacDonald House, 121 Centre St., Thornhill. May 17 to 20. Opening night May 17, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Free admission. www.israeliartistsgroup.com

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# Golfer paying his dues on minor league tour

**Dustin Pollack**
Special to The CJN

Ben Silverman remembers going to the driving range with his dad, Howard, as a 10-year-old, but it wasn't until he was 14 that he really got hooked on golf.

During a visit with his grandparents in Vancouver one summer, he decided to try a one-week junior golf clinic.

"The first four days were all about putting, chipping and hitting balls, but then when we got out onto the golf course on the last day, I realized all the different intricacies of the game, how difficult it was and how many different aspects to it there were. That's what drew me to it," Silverman said.

Today, the 24-year-old is playing on the Golfslinger.com Tour, formerly the Minor League Golf Tour in Florida, a training ground for PGA hopefuls. At the Abaco April Open, Silverman finished tied for 13th after shooting a 71. He earned $155.84 (all figures US). The winner took home $1,000. At the April Lake Worth Open a week later, Silverman shot a 70 and tied for seventh, earning $201.25.

Most recently, Golfslinger.com reported, Silverman received a $1,000 bonus as the leading money winner over a two-week period in April, with $2,651.25. Most of it, $2,000, came from winning a 36-hole tournament at Fountains Country Club in Lake Worth. The bonus period also included four 18-hole events. He tied for seventh in a Golfslinger.com Tour event at the Evergreen Club.

Silverman knows there are no guarantees on his road to the PGA, but that isn't stopping him from pursuing his dream.

"It's just I've realized once you get to a really good level how long it takes to slowly climb the ladder and get better and better," Silverman said. "It takes a lot of time, because the guys at the top are really, really good.

"I feel I'm good enough, and I'm getting better each day. I'm just going to go for it full on, and I'm not thinking about what might happen by the time I'm 30. I'm just all for right now."

**Ben Silverman**

When he was a youngster, golf was just another sport Silverman was good at. He played a lot of sports, but when he got back to Toronto from Vancouver, all he wanted to do was be on the course. He quit hockey – a sport he had played competitively – and when he was 16 he joined the Vaughan Secondary School golf team. By the time he was a senior in high school, Silverman, who had been named the school's athlete of the year, had quit the baseball and basketball teams so he could dedicate more time to golf.

His time on the course paid off. He was accepted to Florida Atlantic University, where he played on the schools' Division I golf team.

Making the jump to being a pro is another matter. It's not just his talent or the skills of his competitors that he has to worry about. Beyond playing well in tournaments, Silverman also has to earn enough money to be able to travel and pay tournament entry fees. The entry fee for a one-day tournament at the minor-league level is around $250. A two-day tournament costs $450. If he wants to compete at a higher level in the minor leagues, entry fees can run upward of $1,000. Silverman has to rely on caddying and private lessons as well as tournament winnings and some financial support from his parents to help pay his way.

"Some friends I know are lucky enough to meet an investor who wanted to set up a deal to try and give them money," he said. "That's the part of the minor league game – the money issue – that a lot of people don't know about, which makes it difficult to climb the ladder.

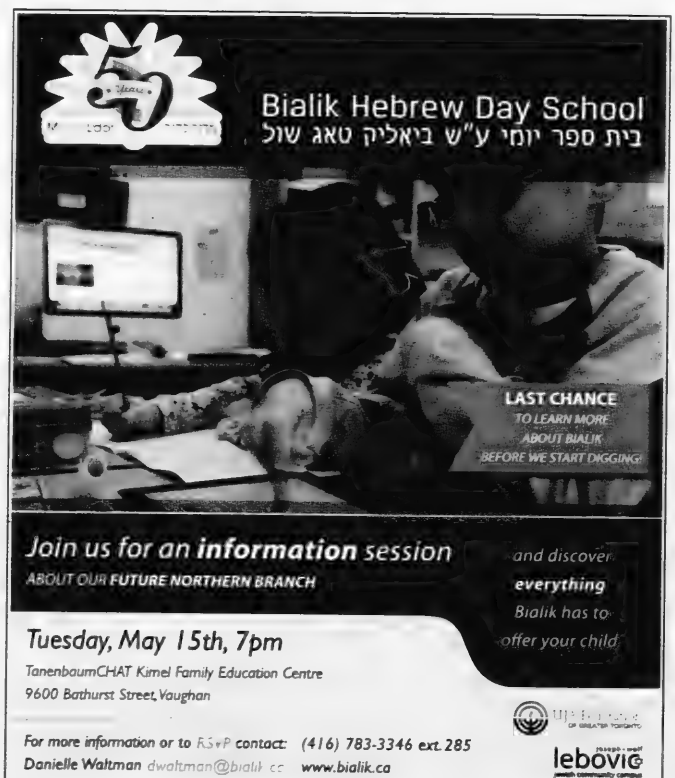
"If you don't have money, you pretty much just have to wait until the PGA Tour tryouts at the end of the year."

Silverman tried out for the PGA Tour for the first time last year. He made it through the pre-qualifying stage by finishing 15th in a three-day tournament, but he was eliminated in the first of three stages in the qualifying tournament.

Even though he was unable to take the next step at the PGA Tour tryouts, he isn't putting a timeline on his career, and he still has high hopes for his future in golf.

"I'm looking forward to trying out for the Canadian Open this summer. I'm coming home to Toronto to qualify for that. I'd also like to try out for the Canadian Tour, and tryouts for that are in California in about a month.

"I'm 24 now, and my goal is to be at least on the Nationwide Tour [which feeds players into the PGA Tour] in the next three years and hopefully on the PGA Tour by the time I'm 29 or 30."




# *Maccabi Canada rounds out hockey coaching staff*

Compiled by CJN Staff

The coaching staff for Maccabi Canada's men's hockey team is set.

Greg Gilbert and Mike Pelino have been named assistants to head coach Mike Keenan.

Gilbert won Stanley Cups as a player with the New York Islanders and New York Rangers. He has coached in the NHL with the Calgary Flames, and was recently named OHL Coach of the Year for his work with the Saginaw Spirit.

Pelino has coached in the NHL with Florida and New York, and is the current head coach of the Peterborough Petes in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL). Pelino has also coached Team Canada at the World Junior Championships and the World Championships, and was an assistant with the gold-medal-winning team at the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympics.

"There are NHL teams that would be envious of a coaching staff like this," said Team Canada hockey chair Mark Goodman. "I can't say enough about the staff that Mike Keenan and GM Alex Voihanski have put together."

The Maccabi Games, also known as the Jewish Olympics, take place every four years in Israel, and feature more than 9,000 athletes. Hockey competition will take place in July 2013 in the northern city of Metulla.

Tryouts for the hockey team will be held in Montreal on May 25 and 26 at Bonaventure Arena and in Toronto on June 8 to 10 at Pavilion Arena.

# Festival will satisfy all tastes

**Continued from page 39**

In his riveting film, Goldfinger tries to make sense of this seemingly bizarre relationship, questioning his incurious mother, talking to von Mildenstein's daughter (who claims he was not a Nazi) and interviewing historians.

• • •

Evi Kurz's *The Kissinger Saga* takes Henry Kissinger and his lesser-known brother, Walter, back to Fuerth, their hometown in Germany, on a sentimental journey. "We still feel connected to Fuerth," says Henry, probably speaking more for himself than Walter who, unlike Henry, never speaks in German.

Like their late parents, Louis and Paula, the Kissinger brothers were born in Fuerth, a town of half-timbered buildings in the state of Franconia from which Kurz also hails.

In this competently crafted documentary, Henry and Walter recall their childhood, the rise of Nazism, the humiliations they endured, their parents' lives, their emigration in 1938, their new home in New York's Washington Heights enclave and the adjustments Louis and Paula had to make to survive.

Kurz hardly dwells on Henry's dazzling career as an academic and diplomat, nor on Walter's career as a businessman. The brothers, particularly Walter, couch their comments in careful, measured language, indicating they have not forgotten their German roots.

• • •

Fabienne Rousso-Lenoir's *Cabaret-Berlin. The Wild Scene* explores the nightclub and theatre scene of 1920s and early 1930s Berlin, a mecca of modernism in which German Jews played a pivotal role. Composed of jaunty film clips and revelling in cutting anti-authoritarian humour, the film moves along to the beat of catchy tunes, features a tableau of sexy chorus girls and gives a viewer tantalizing glimpses of the future Hollywood actor Peter Lorre and of an alluring performer named Marlene Dietrich.

• • •

Lisa Ohlin's melancholy feature film, *Simon and the Oaks*, takes place in late 1930s and 1940s Sweden as Europe edges closer to war.

Simon Larsson (Bill Skarsgard), a bookish and withdrawn Swedish boy, befriends Isak Lentov (Karl Martin Eriksson), a German-Jewish refugee. Their bond is cemented when Simon defends Isak from antisemitic bullies during a school break.

After a fire engulfs the Lentov home, Simon's mother, Karin (Helen Sjoholm), invites Isak to stay with them indefinitely. Isak's father, Ruben (Jan Josef Liefers), a prosperous bookstore owner, gratefully accepts her invitation.

These events occur as Germany invades Poland and Norway, imbuing the film with an ominous tone. Can neutral Sweden be next? Further layers of uncertainty pop up when family secrets are revealed and Simon discovers his real identity. Simon and the Oaks is a film of stark simplicity and depth.

• • •

William Karel and Livia Manera's *Roth on Roth* offers the great American novelist Philip Roth a platform to reflect on his life. Although Roth is notoriously reclusive, he opens up here, discussing his family, novels and anxieties.

He defends his first published story, *Defender of the Faith*, from charges of self-hating antisemitism. He remembers he could not converse with his grandfather, who spoke not a word of English. He admits he annoyed his father when he chose writing over law. He talks about his hellish first marriage. He discloses he had to "prepare" his parents for the publication of *Portnoy's Complaint*, which made him financially stable. He discusses his disciplined work habits and acknowledges he is unhappy when not working. He says he faces the prospect of death with fear, sadness and resignation.

• • •

Stephen Fischler and Joel Sucher's *Dressing America – Tales from the Garment Center* comes off as an ode to New York City's fabled and fiercely competitive ready-to-wear rag trade, which was founded and nurtured by Jewish immigrants in the late 19th century.

Manufacturers liken the garment district to a small town, where bumping into a familiar face is a common experience. The filmmakers claim that the industry, built on bolts of cloth, has managed to adapt to changes in taste. Surprisingly, they say precious little about the formidable challenge posed by Asian competitors.

• • •

Paula Markovitch's *The Prize* is a feature film set in 1970s or 1980s Argentina, when the army-backed government was conducting a "dirty war" against the left. The movie is infinitely sombre and bleak.

A mother and her young daughter live in a simple cabin amid the wind-swept sand dunes of a lonely stretch of beach. They seem like castaways in purgatory.

The mother, taciturn and monosyllabic, is secretive, as if some disaster looms on the horizon. She has reason to be tense. Her husband has disappeared, presumably having been arrested and perhaps even murdered.

"We are here because they want to find us," she tells her daughter, Cecelia Adelstein, in ominous tones.

Before Cecelia sets off to school, she is told by her insecure mother what to say to the teacher. And when Cecilia, a bright girl, wins an essay contest sponsored by the armed forces, her mother is mortified, insisting she boycott the award ceremony.

*The Prize* is short on character development, and the back story is vague. But the atmosphere is thick and enveloping.

*The festival runs until May 13. For locations, dates and screen times, visit www.tiff.com.*

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# Tough training doesn't faze prospective RCMP officer

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Bonnie Phillips has spent the better part of the last two years chasing her career dream. But Phillips' dream is not your average career: she hopes to join the RCMP.

"I'm actually doing this, I can't believe it," said Phillips, 23, of her recent acceptance to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) training program.

After graduating from forensic sciences at the University of Toronto's Mississauga campus, she dedicated her time to preparing for the long, multi-stage tests that would eventually allow her to join the RCMP. The tests included a written assessment, an interview, a psychological assessment, a lie detector test and a test of physical fitness.

Phillips said that because the application process took so long, and there were so many stages, she kept pretty quiet about it, not wanting to get herself and her friends excited about something that she wasn't sure would materialize.

"I was just looking at it like 'I just have to pass this next step,'" she said.

It was about two months ago, after spending extra hours in the gym with a trainer to prepare for her final physical test, that Phillips found out she had been accepted and would be leaving to Regina for intensive training in mid-April. "I'm completely excited," she told *The CJN* a few days before leaving.

Wearing the uniform of the RCMP was not always on Phillips' list of goals, but in her third year of university that quickly changed. She attended a career fair for federal government jobs, where she learned about the more than 300 specialties you can choose from after completing two years of policing.

Phillips realized that joining the RCMP would allow her to put her forensic psychology studies to good use. "When they were talking about it [at the career fair], it sounded perfect," she said.

When she told her family of her plans, they were supportive, if a bit intrigued. "They were like, 'OK, that sounds interesting,'" Phillips said with a laugh.

Now, they couldn't be more excited for her. Her family has been jokingly referring to her training as a master's program because of all the work they know lies ahead.

"Getting in is one thing, but passing the training is another step," Phillips said. Phillips has joined about 32 other new RCMPers-to-be in her training troupe.

The men and women, many of whom are quite a bit older than Phillips and pursuing a second career, will be doing six months of paramilitary training, supplemented with mounds of homework and assignments. "They call it a constant job interview – everything you do has to be a pass," she said.

But the tough training isn't enough to scare Phillips away. She said she is eager to meet the many different types of people brought together by the RCMP.

Phillips knows she is likely to be one of the only Jewish women there, even though the trainees are coming from all different walks of life.

However, despite the lower number of Jewish people in the RCMP, during her interview process, Phillips met the first female Jewish officer in the RCMP by pure chance. Fran Saltzman is not only an RCMP officer, but also a rabbi's wife. Meeting Saltzman helped Phillips realize she would not be alone as a female Jew in the RCMP.

In addition to meeting new people, Phillips is also excited to get involved with sports teams and the band, two of her many hobbies.

Throughout university, she made an effort to play pretty much any sport available to her.

"I dabbled in every sport because they always needed girls," she said, remembering her eagerness to learn sports she had never played before, like lacrosse.

Phillips also plays flute, trumpet and guitar in her spare time. When she heard about the athletic and musical opportunities that would be available to her in the RCMP, it made the idea of training in Regina even better.

"It kind of fits all my interests," she said. "It's kind of perfect."

Though Phillips lived on her own in residence in Mississauga, she said moving to Regina will be an even greater level of independence. While she knows she'll miss her family and friends, she thinks the temporary move will be good for her.

After training, she will eventually be placed to serve in another part of Canada.

Phillips has already been told that she won't be able to serve in Ontario or Quebec, and she is hoping that she will be sent to either the West or East Coast when the time comes.

But for now, she's focused on her journey to Regina, the first step along a rewarding career path.

From there, she said, she'll be able to move forward with her goals in the RCMP.

"I'm kind of excited for the adventure."

*More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca*

**Bonnie Phillips** ***[Jordana Phillips photo]***

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# Cohabitation vs. marriage

**Dear Ella,**

My granddaughter Megan, a bright and beautiful 25-year-old, has been dating Carey for the past year. They have recently finished school and have started new careers.

They are ready to move on to Phase 2 of their relationship: cohabitation. Now that they both have an income, they can move out of their parents' homes and afford to rent something modest.

When I asked Megan why she wanted to live with Carey instead of getting married, she looked at me like I had two heads.

"It's a test, Bubbie, to see if we are compatible for marriage. Everyone lives together first." She was so excited about this new venture I didn't have the heart to burst her bubble.

***Ask Ella***

***By Ella Burakowski***

I'm not old-fashioned, but I don't believe that living together before marriage is a good test to see if a couple is compatible. It somehow blurs the lines of commitment. There are far better ways to tell if the person you are with is the right one.

I don't want Megan to make a mistake that will cost her years of her life. Am I wrong?

**Bummed-out Bubbie**

**Dear Bummed-out Bubbie,**

Many people, like Megan, feel that living together is the first step to take before committing to marriage. You get to see how grumpy your partner is in the morning, how messy they leave the bathroom sink, and how they handle day-to-day finances and regular household chores. But does that prepare them for a lasting marriage?

Statistics show that the majority of young adults in their 20s will live with a romantic partner at least once, and more than half of all marriages will be preceded by cohabitation.

It usually starts quite innocently. You date, you spend more time at each other's homes, and then you move to regular sleepovers. The next natural and most convenient step is to move in together. But there are pros and cons to cohabitation before marriage. Living together does allow you to "try it on" before making the final purchase. Does it suit you? Is it a good fit? Does it bring out the best in you? Is it trendy or something that will never grow old?

Living together as a test can also backfire. Often couples will get comfortable in a cohabitation lifestyle, and you're right when you say this can blur the lines of commitment for some. When two people vow to stand under a chupah before God, family and friends, there's something very solid about that as a commitment versus simply saying, "Let's move in together."

There's a more lax attitude that comes with living together. It allows you to think you can leave easily, but once you've melded your finances, bought furniture, enjoy the same friends and invested so much time in each other, you may feel it's easier to just get married than to start all over.

It's hard to get young people to listen. Growing up means making decisions, even if some of them end up being mistakes. Your job as her bubbie is to be there for her no matter what. You can certainly help by offering articles, books and statistics, but in the end, Megan will do what she feels is best. Either way, there are no guarantees.

*Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN, e-mail: ellacjn@gmail.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor who brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of family wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

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**1/2 tsp vanilla extract**
**1/2 tsp cinnamon**
**4 slices cinnamon-raisin bread**
**1/4 c mashed banana**
**Strawberries and blueberries (optional)**

Combine cornflake crumbs and almonds in bowl. Combine egg whites, vanilla extract and cinnamon in another bowl. Dip 1 slice bread in egg batter, coat on both sides with cornflake crust; repeat with remaining bread slices. Spread mashed banana on 1 side of 2 pieces of crusted bread; top with remaining 2 bread slices to make 2 sandwiches. Cook sandwiches on greased griddle or fry pan until golden brown, 2 min. per side. Cut in half and serve with fresh berries, if desired.

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*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

Educator Armand Abécassis who talks about the new educational model being introduced by the Alliance Israélite Universelle.

French comic Dieudonné, who has been found guilty of racism and antisemitism several times, is scheduled to present his latest show in Montreal, even though it is currently under investigation in Belgium.

*Exclusive to cjnews.com*

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa talks about Israeli elections: "It appears that most Israeli governments never complete a full term."

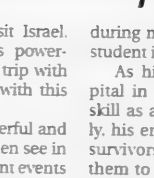
At the first annual Jerusalem Post Conference in New York, former prime minister Ehud Olmert says Israel shouldn't seek Palestinian recognition of a Jewish state in peace negotiations.

Prof. Efraim Inbar, left, director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies (BESA), based at Bar-Ilan University, says that an air strike on Iran's nuclear enrichment facilities is the appropriate action. He said it should be carried out "in the medium term."

# Israel provokes moving memories

It never fails. Whenever I visit Israel, something happens that evokes powerful memories and associations. A trip with a UJA mission last fall, my 10th with this group, was no exception.

This association was very powerful and reminded me of the reactions I often see in my older patients when they recount events that bring back memories that are profound and emotionally overwhelming.



***Senior Side of Life***

***Michael Gordon***

One experience in particular triggered enormous emotion in me. I was attending the recently opened Eichmann trial exhibition at Jerusalem's Yad Vashem. The guide, an expert historian on this period of history, was explaining a display of pictures of the many prosecution witnesses used to recount the hideous crimes of Adolf Eichmann. I saw a name and picture at the right lower part of the exhibit that I recognized. It was of Dr. Aharon Peretz, an obstetrician-gynecologist who had a profound impact on my life. He was my teacher and mentor during my first visit to Israel as a medical student in the 1960s.

As his student at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa, I observed his enormous skill as a physician but more importantly, his empathy for the female Holocaust survivors that he examined in order for them to claim German reparations. After attending the special clinic devoted to this population where he signed every affidavit in the affirmative, confirming that their obstetrical and gynecological problems resulted from their Holocaust experience, I asked him if all their problems could be attributed to those experiences. He answered as he looked at me with pain and sympathy, "Yes, all of them, every one of them."

I finished a month in his service. He allowed me to assist at almost every procedure he did, which was very exciting – to be the first assistant to a highly skilled surgeon as a medical student was astonishing. When I left, I told him I would love to return, and his farewell to me was very emotional. Due to a confluence of circumstances surrounding my final oral examination in midwifery (as it was called in my medical school in Dundee, Scotland), I received a prize that allowed me to return to Israel six months after I finished the first half of my Scottish internship.

The departmental chief had an interest in history. He asked me to explain why I had a Scottish name. With 10 minutes for the oral examination, I spoke of the influence of a famous Scottish mercenary general who fought for Czar Peter the Great. In recognition of the mercenary's success, two shtetls in Lithuania acknowledged his prominence and many Jewish inhabitants took Gordon as their family named rather than the typical "-ovich" as the end of the father's first name.

The professor seemed enchanted, and after I finished the 10-minute oral, he gave me top marks and, as a result, a 500-pound prize, which I used to return to Rambam and Prof. Peretz for a five-month internship.

It was then I learned indirectly of his fame as a witness at the Nuremberg trial, but I did not realize until last year's trip that he was also a key witness at the Eichmann trial. Looking at his picture at the bottom of the large display revived all the emotion of my time with him and reminded me that it was partly his influence that resulted in my returning to Israel and ultimately moving there in the late 1960s. It was one of the combinations of moving memories that one internalizes forever.

*Dr. Michael Gordon is medical program director of palliative care at Baycrest and co-author with Bart Mindszenthy of Parenting Your Parents (Dundurn Press). His latest book, Moments that Matter: Cases in Ethical Eldercare, follows his previous book, Brooklyn Beginnings: A Geriatrician's Odyssey. All can be researched at his website: http://www.drmichaelgordon.com.*

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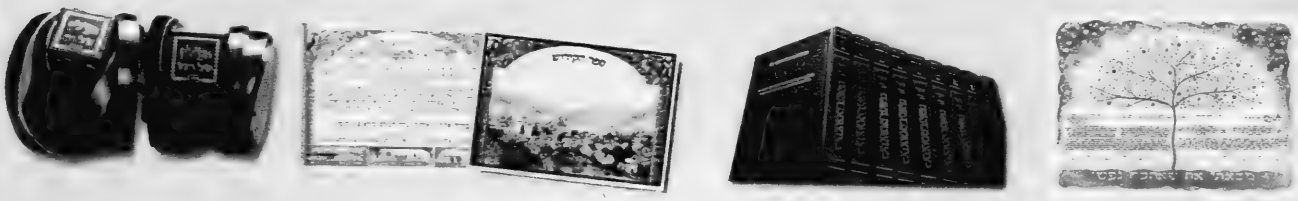

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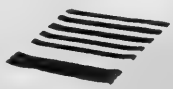

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# Myths and realities of retirement-home living

Lauren Kramer
Special to The CJN

We asked a number of retirement homes about the myths surrounding retirement-home living. Following are some replies from a select group of local retirement homes.

**Lisa Ludmer, director of sales and marketing, Kensington Place Retirement Residence and Living Life On The Avenue Retirement Residence**

**Myth:** Retirement Residences are filled with sick, old people sitting around or sleeping. Hallways and rooms smell of urine, hospital-type food is served and entertainment consists of a weekly movie and a weekly concert. A retirement home is a place where people grow older and deteriorate faster. It's a depressing environment for family and friends to visit.

**Reality:** Kensington Place Retirement Residence and Living Life on the Avenue are bright, clean, happy places where active seniors live together to share in physical, social and intellectual activities. Lectures, fitness classes, entertainment and outings allow residents to maintain a busy lifestyle. Delicious, healthy food is served in a beautiful dining room, where friends and family can join as guests.

* * *

**Danny Joseph, VIVA Thornhill Woods Retirement Community**

**Myth:** Most people envision repetitive menus and bland food, served in dining rooms where people are forced to sit in the same seat with the same people at the same time every day.

Photo courtesy of Kensington Place Retirement Residence

**Reality:** Our VIVAlicious approach to dining aims to ensure our community members are eating food that is both nutritious and delicious. Three meals daily are freshly prepared by our executive chef and culinary team, meals made with fresh ingredients, including some picked from our on-site Victory Garden, and from recipes that have been selected with the assistance of a certified senior health dietician. VIVA's open seating concept enables community members to dine with friends or enjoy a quieter meal with a good book. Providing choice is at the heart of what we do, so VIVA offers a lengthy à la carte menu in addition to two or three specials at each meal. At our VIVA Thornhill Woods Retirement Community, we offer Jewish-style dining with meat provided from a kosher supplier.

Photo courtesy of Hazelton Place Retirement Residence

**Myth:** Retirement communities are essentially the same as nursing homes – dated, dark and depressing institutions.

**Reality:** VIVA's retirement communities are vibrant, dynamic and very social. We provide an inspiring range of amenities to suit any lifestyle, such as an indoor heated saltwater pool, bistro-style café, fully-licensed pub, big-screen movie theatre, and a garden – just to name a few. Our purpose at VIVA is "making today great"! We do this by surrounding our community members with caring team members and an enriching environment that gives them a renewed sense of purpose and fulfilment.

Continued on page B3


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# A retirement residence for everyone

Continued from page B2

For anyone who hasn't stepped into a retirement community since they visited their own grandparents in an "elderly home" decades ago, VIVA Retirement Communities will transform their perception and they will realize just how wonderful retirement living can be. The new reality of retirement living is light years apart from the idea many carry from experiences they had with their own family members years ago.

• • •

**Andrew Walker, Canterbury Place Retirement Residence**

**Myth:** Retirement residences are unaffordable.
**Reality:** We help you make a list of monthly expenses such as heating, electricity, gas, insurance, water, taxes, house repairs, entertainment, groceries and exercise fees. It really does add up! Preparing three meals a day can be stressful and take a real toll on your health, not to mention the waste when you shop and cook for one. You throw out more than you eat! Gardening, house repairs and snow removal are far too much work for seniors, and the cost associated with those services can be daunting. Once people review these expenses, they realize they will be better off financially at Canterbury Place

**Myth:** I will lose my independence at a retirement residence and my health will continue to decline.
**Reality:** We see it all the time – seniors not managing very well on their own, forgetting medications, taking the wrong medication etc. The burden often falls on family members. At Canterbury Place, we have a nurse practitioner on site, as well as a registered nurse, physiotherapy,

Photo courtesy of VIVA Thornhill Woods Retirement Community

Photo courtesy of Dunfield Retirement Residence

massage therapy, social programs, exercise classes and brain gym. What a difference all of this extra care makes to the senior. Families are noticing their loved ones are more fit, both emotionally and physically.

**Myth:** Downsizing from my home is too overwhelming and stressful.
**Reality:** We can help with that. We work with several organizations that specialize in downsizing and de-cluttering. As part of our early bird move-in initiative, we will pay for that service and have everything arranged in a new suite while new residents are enjoying a delicious hot meal in our dining room.

• • •

**Lee Wine, Amica at Thornhill**

**Myth:** Living in a luxury retirement residence is too expensive.

Continued on page B4

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# Remain independent and well taken care of

**Continued from page B3**

**Reality:** This, of course, depends on many personal factors, however, the fact is, when you consider current living expenses such as utility bills, the cost and time of arranging for outside services to come in to help with housekeeping or activities, food, entertainment and getting to and from social activities, you would be surprised how quickly those expenses add up! There are many hidden costs that over the course of a year can change or increase as your needs change. So take the time to review your true cost of living, then look at an all-inclusive retirement lifestyle that is more affordable and manageable than you think. Amica at Thornhill provides potential residents with an understanding of the all-inclusive cost and surprising affordability of living in our beautiful community. With a wide variety of suite sizes and prices from which to choose, we are able to provide options to meet your needs, expectations and budget.

* * *

**Delmanor Northtown**

**Myth:** If I move to a retirement residence, I cannot keep my pet.
**Reality:** At Delmanor Northtown, we've always known how impossible it would be to leave one home for another without bringing that all-important family member: your pet. That could mean years of missing out on enjoying life without the drudgery of housekeeping chores and being part of a residence of people having too much fun to act retired. From the very beginning, we've made a point of welcoming pets as well behaved as yours so that you can experience life at Delmanor Northtown as soon as you'd like. After all, we know

Photo courtesy of Constantia Retirement Residence

you don't live in our building – we work in your home.

* * *

**L'chaim Retirement Homes**

**Myth:** A retirement residence won't help my parent's dementia. It will only get worse regardless of where she's living.
**Reality:** That's not necessarily true. At L'chaim, we've achieved amazing results with the Montessori methods for dementia. While dementia is by definition a progressive disease, there are some non-pharmaceutical approaches that can slow its progress and compensate for loss of cognitive ability. Many of our residents, 80 per cent of whom have dementia, have achieved amazing results with this method. Resident Evelyn Sher was able to speak and respond after three years of being non-verbal.

* * *

**Deborah Goldshaw, Marketing Manager, Constantia Retirement Residence**

**Myth:** I'll lose my freedom and independence in a retirement home.
**Reality:** One of the fears commonly associated with moving into a retirement residence is the loss of freedom and independence. At Constantia, the reverse is true. Your life will change – for the better. With no housecleaning or cooking obligations, you'll have more freedom and time for your preferred activities and hobbies and more quality time with family. Our residents are not giving up their life, they're taking it back – and celebrating their newfound independence!

* * *

**Leslie Westlake, marketing manager, Hazelton Place Retirement Residence**

**Myth:** I'll lose my independence in a retirement home.
**Reality:** We encourage people to be independent as long as possible. Hazelton Place is in a perfect location for walks, shopping, theatre and art galleries. There are taxis outside our door. We also keep people busy with stimulating activities such as book clubs and bridge. We have a recreation department that encourages input from residents.

* * *

**Continued on page B14**

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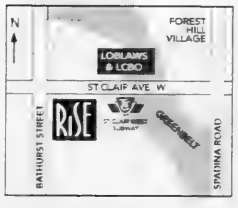


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# You're not far from your ideal kitchen

**Michelle Bitran**
Special to The CJN

When it comes to kitchens, some things never go out of style. One of those things is good organization.

Marianna Keselman, creative director at Gliding Shelf Solutions (905-553-7895, 1-877-895-9766, glidingshelf.ca), said that an effectively organized kitchen can save a lot of time and space.

"You're not shifting and moving things to find something in the back," she said, explaining that the pull-out shelves that Gliding Shelf Solutions installs into existing cabinetry help people to make the most of their space, and to keep their kitchen environment uncluttered. The shelves fully extend, so people can see the entire contents of the cupboard at once.

Keselman said that she often sees seniors as well as new mothers who are looking to make their kitchens more accessible. Another group of people flocking to Gliding Shelf Solutions are baby boomers who are downsizing their houses into condominiums, where "every inch of space is prime real estate."

She explained that the pull-out shelves create more shelf space in a single cupboard, making the most of a small kitchen.

According to Keselman, gliding shelves help to spruce up a kitchen without the hassle or the cost of a full renovation.

"Some of the kitchen cabinets have good bones. It's a shame sometimes to demolish them," she said.

But for those people who are more than ready to get rid of old cabinets, the latest trend in kitchen cupboards is off-white. Manny Y, the interior designer at LogArt kitchen manufacturers (905-709-2722, www.logart.ca), said that most of his customers have been leaning toward lighter cabinets, with about half preferring to add a glaze to the cabinet doors, giving them a more traditional look.

Manny suggested that in kitchens with an island, it's a good idea to keep the island in dark wood, contrasting the off-white cabinets. "That will give a lot of character to the kitchen," he said.

He added that it's best to go with solid wood, because it will make the cabinets last for decades. When it comes to countertops, Manny recommends granite or quartz, "absolutely not laminate," he said, explaining that laminate countertops are no longer in style.

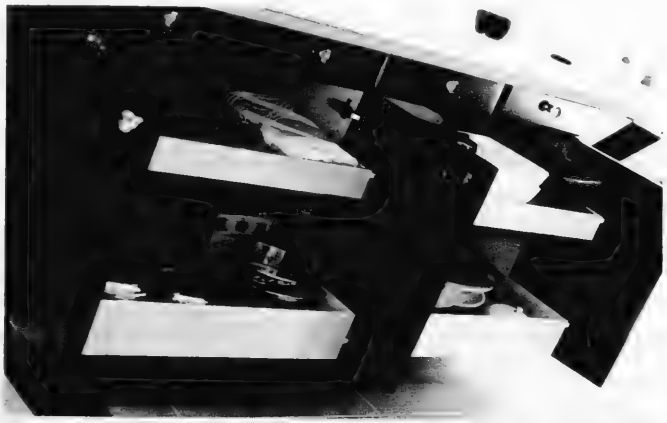

Photo courtesy of Gliding Shelf Solutions

Because LogArt manufactures its cabinetry on site, and also does full renovations, there is a lot of choice for kitchen-hungry customers.

Manny, who has been in the kitchen manufacturing business since 1976, said it's important to know your budget and how much renovation you are willing to do.

With a lot of careful planning, some good organization and some helpful advice about the latest styles in kitchen design, you could be just a few steps away from whipping together a meal in your dream kitchen.


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# *New heights in elegance with RISE Condominiums*

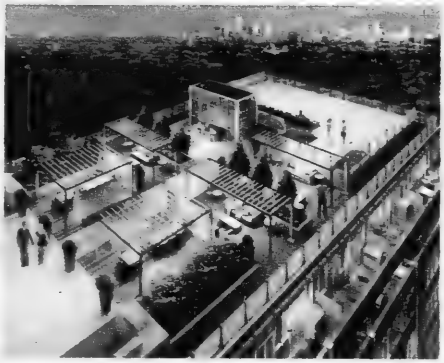
**Laura Fixman**
Special to the CJN

St. Clair West has become an attractive location for young professionals who want to move back into the neighbourhood where they grew up and those who want luxury and easy access by car, by subway or on foot to all that the city has to offer.

RISE Condominums at the south-east corner of Bathurst Street and St. Clair Avenue (416-546-7399, risecondos@bakersales.info) provides them with the opportunity to do just that.

The condos, by Reserve Properties, offer a long list of amenities including an infinity pool that spans the width of the building, an outdoor terrace connected to intimate dining and lounge spaces, an exercise studio and an entertainment area.

"We created a project that would make you feel like you're going to a five-star resort when you go home at night," said Shelley Fenton, president of Reserve Properties.



Another aspect of RISE Condominiums designed with luxury in mind was the grand lobby. Geometric shapes are sculpted throughout, furniture and wall textures combine industrial and organic materials, and contemporary chandeliers add to a building design that evokes a luxurious, world-class welcome.

Photo courtesy of RISE Condominums

Fenton said the neighbourhood's active outdoor lifestyle and value for green space – the area is home to boutiques, bakeries and restaurants as well as a nearby park – were taken into account in the building's contemporary courtyard garden with sculpture and water features.

"Everything comes together great," he said. "The architecture, the varying suite sizes and the amenities work together to make it fit into the neighbourhood."

The building is also appealing because of its great views in any direction, he said, and the architecture was designed with the natural views in mind.

This project has a personal significance for Fenton, which he said made it special.

"This is my backyard. I grew up there for 54 years," Fenton said. "My son and daughter were a part of this project, and it was great to share that experience with them and give back to the community I grew up in."

With studios, one- and two-bedroom suites ranging from 437 square feet to 865 square feet starting in the mid-$200,000, Felton said that since the condos are affordable, there has been a great response.

The sales centre opened in late November 2011, and 230 units were sold in the first four months. Fenton said the positive response indicates that they were right in thinking there was a need for condos in the area.

"The most important thing is that there's a strong need for quality condominium units," Fenton said. "We decided... to give RISE a high-end feeling so it brings this neighbourhood into the spotlight."

For more information about RISE Condominiums, visit the sales centre at 501 St. Clair Ave. W. or go to www.risecondos.com.

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Photo courtesy of Adenat Homes

# Adenat does more than build

**Stephen Sweet**
Special to The CJN

It's hard to categorize Adenat Homes. Sure, the company is heavily involved in real estate – but that only tells a bit of the story.

From home sales and rentals to custom kitchens and pretty well everything else related to property, Adenat has things covered.

"It's an integration of all of the different parts that makes Adenat what it is," said Adenat founder Israel Schwartz.

With a sizable footprint in the Toronto area, up to Huntsville; South Florida, Israel and Paris, Adenat does more than just build homes.

And because of the amount of work Adenat has in selling and renting properties, there are always people on staff who are able to get things done.

Cheryl Berger

"We always have electricians and handymen and snow-removal people on hand," Schwartz said. "It's not really a problem for us to come to your property because we are already in your neighbourhood."

Specializing in custom homes as well as custom kitchens and cabinets seems to be a perfect combination for Adenat.

"When you buy a place, if you are looking to add a kitchen after that, it could be nine months until it's even ready for you to use in your house," Schwartz said. "You don't want that.

"But when you do it through us, we can start it right away, so it's all ready at the same time."

It's part of Adenat's all-in-one capability and mentality.

"When you see Adenat, you don't just see a landlord of many rental apartments, or a developer, or a kitchen-maker or a bricklayer," Schwartz said. "You see a full, complete package, with an amazing broker and agents with integrity."

The "amazing broker" he refers to is Cheryl Berger, who, like the company she works for, is quite multi-faceted and talented.

Schwartz considers Berger, who has worked at a law firm and is educated in interior decorating and design, to be the multi-faceted broker who gives his company an edge.

Berger, an Osgoode Hall Law School graduate and real estate lawyer, is able to work on all aspects of the process from start to finish, leaving Schwartz to focus on purchasing and developing.

And with that, the founder of Adenat – which was named for two of his oldest children, Adena and Nathan – has some big plans for a popular Jewish area.

"I own 1.2 acres of land on Wilson, by Bathurst, at the Highway 401 exit," Schwartz said. "I'm likely looking to develop that land as condominiums or old-age homes, but also to put up a hotel of at least 140 rooms."

This hotel, which would still be a while in the making, would service a location that doesn't have anything else currently in place.

"There's no hotel in the area that a frum family can walk to and from shul," Schwartz said. "Going up to Sheppard and then down to Lawrence, it's a very Orthodox area."

As an observant Jew himself, Schwartz is aware of how difficult it can be when trying to have a simchah in the area.

"If you keep Shabbat, there's no way to do a bar mitzvah or bris or wedding within that area, because there's no single place to host that many guests," Schwartz said. "People are scattered at dozens of homes."

Schwartz has a number of ideas for the hotel that he plans to run with.

"Things such as Shabbat elevators, separate swimming pools, a large enough kosher facility, all of those things," he said. "They have that in Brooklyn and in Israel, of course, but not yet here."

And given the burgeoning population of young Orthodox Jews in the area, a new condo would fill a need.

"It's almost impossible for new buyers [in that area] in the Orthodox community," Schwartz said. "Even a tiny bungalow these days goes for $800,000."

Adenat can be found online at www.adenathomes.com. Its real estate brokerage can be reached at 416-785-8555, while Adenat Cabinets Inc. is available at 416-784-4440 and the custom homes direct line is 416-633-3833.

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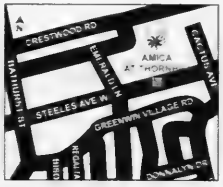


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# Outdoor living trends for the summer

**Vicky Tobianah**
Special to the CJN

Utilizing outdoor space wisely is more important than ever, as families look to escape in their own backyards. According to a survey done by the American Institute for Architects, the demand for outdoor renovations has increased greatly over the last few years.

Dave Reburn, the owner of Deck & Dock, an outdoor furniture company serving Toronto for over 15 years with a 16,000-square-foot showroom at 1200 Castlefield Ave. (416-781-4887, deckanddock.ca), said he is seeing a lot more people transform their patios into living spaces.

"What we're seeing a lot of is creating an outdoor room, complete with a fire pit or barbeque, and outdoor sectional seating," Reburn said.

Photo courtesy of funscapes.ca

Some of the biggest trends for 2012 are fire pits and lighting with LEDs and fluorescents, a cost-effective and eco-friendly way of lighting your outdoor patio, and more built-in seating areas.

"In the last few years, we have seen a change. Instead of sticking to one material for outdoor furniture, now almost all of the suppliers we work with will use a combination of materials, such as woven and stainless, or woven and teak," Reburn said.

For families who want to re-do their spaces without spending a lot of money, he said, there are many affordable choices. "We have some families who come to us, and they don't want something disposable, but they're in their early 30s, they have just purchased a house, so they will pick something a little more moderate which they can upgrade in a few years."

For those families, Reburn recommends Deck & Dock's "backyard bargains," a selection that offers new designs, in fabrics that are quality products, but may last five years instead of 10.

While parents want to create living spaces outside, having a place for kids to play is also important to many.

"The backyard playground industry, is, and always has been, on the rise, and this seems to be a better time than ever to get kids active," said Nicholas Stein, owner of funscapes.ca, a manufacturer of playgrounds that's been around for 30 years, in partnership with Jungle Gyms Canada.

"Parents may not want to walk to the park. They want to be able to look out the window as they're making dinner and watch their kids play," he said.

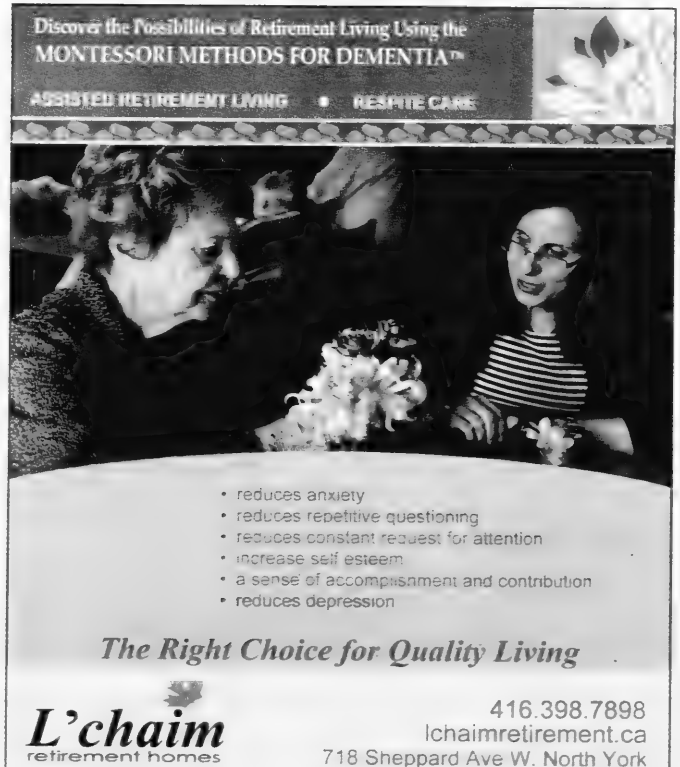
Photo courtesy of Deck & Dock

The new playgrounds are mostly cedar, unlike the older metal equipment, and they have a fun, cottage-like feel, he said.

Families can also choose from a variety of playground sets in different price ranges. For families on a budget, Stein recommends their Dreamscape Jungle Gyms, which allow you to mix and match components and add more sections later on.

"Even if people are cutting down their spending, they're still spending money on their kids. So any money they do have tends to go toward their children's safety and entertainment. What better investment for their family than a play system that their kids can grow up with?"

For more information, visit funscapes.ca and deckanddock.ca.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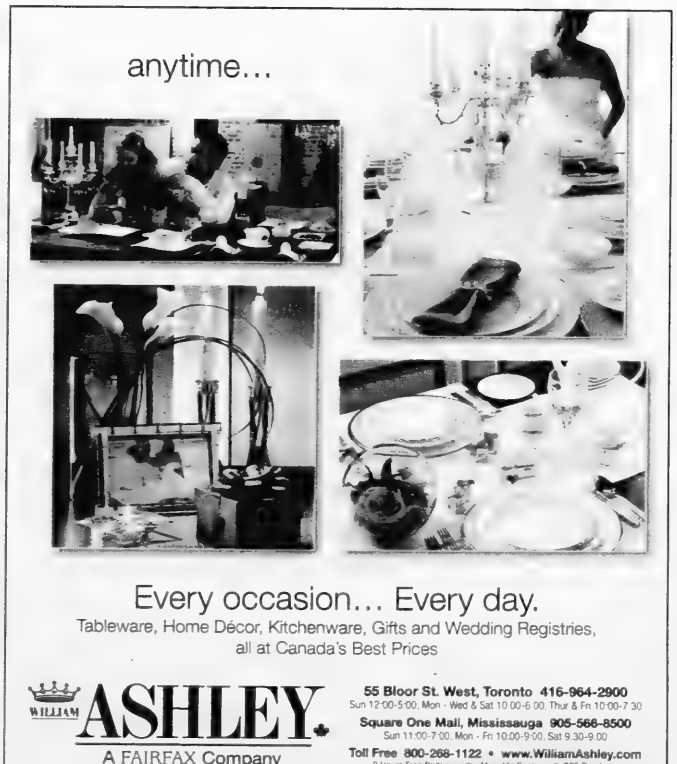
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# INTO Electronics makes life easier

**Stephen Sweet**
Special to The CJN

It's almost like looking at a house or business from the future.

Touch screens and remote control are becoming more and more common everywhere you go these days.

But INTO Electronics has been using them for more than 20 years already.

"Our company was founded in 1991, and we primarily do high-end residential homes," said Rod Wechsler, creator and majority owner of INTO Electronics.

The company, which is about 80 per cent commercial, has gone from just doing consulting to installing systems as well.

"We expanded to have a 24/7 electronic management centre, where we can manage remotely," Wechsler said.

That means INTO can open gates and doors to let people in, and can look in to see what's happening if need be.

But INTO will only do that if permitted by the consumer, of course.

"We're able to look in at cameras, but only if we have the authority to do so," Wechsler said. "If not, we do not.

"Usually, it's in the case if there's an alarm or if it's somewhere like a parking garage."

While INTO has been using touch screens since the start, recent technology allows people to comfortably use their own versions of it to manage their home or business.

"Everything's become pretty easy today with the use of iPads, tablets and iPhones," Wechsler said. "In the last two or three years, you can control anything from a tablet now.

"Most of the things are already set up, and you just have to follow the prompts. It's pretty easy and nowadays people know how to do it."

INTO Electronics' staff working at the electronic management centre
*[Photo courtesy of INTO Electronics]*

It gives customers incredible flexibility.

"If you've got an iPad, it becomes your touch screen," Wechsler said. "They can unlock doors from it.

"People like to control their heating or their cooling for their cottage when they're not there."

It's something that allows people to better take care of their place, even while they're away.

"If the alarm goes off, you can flash your lights," Wechsler said. "If you're on vacation and on your way back home, you can bring the heat back up.

"It's more of a convenience than anything."

An advantage for those who keep Shabbat is that they don't have to break it to turn anything on.

"We do things for Shabbos as well with automated alarms, where people don't have to arm or disarm them during Shabbat," Wechsler said. "It's just part of the automated cycle and programming data."

And there's plenty of product support available from INTO Electronics.

"We have a 24/7 help desk, so if any clients need assistance or tech support, we're there," Wechsler said. "They're not forwarded anywhere else."

INTO can typically do whatever needs to be done from its offices in North York.

"All of our programming and client systems can be accessed remotely, so we don't have to send programmers or technicians to all of our job sites," Wechsler said.

"We're also able to program things like key fobs or access cards from here. So if, for example, a business needs a door unlocked while they're away, or it was for an emergency, we're able to unlock certain doors from here."

Being a business involved so heavily in remote work, INTO Electronics prides itself on how good of a job they do at being there for the consumer – no matter what time of day.

"Our main focus is level of service and the way we respond," Wechsler said. "We've always got people available and we have our 24/7 control centre, and that elevates us to a different level of service for our clients."

INTO Electronics, which does work across Canada, including in Montreal, can be found online at www.into-electronics.com or by phone at 1-800-445-9949.

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# No carpet burn from Dominion Rug

**Stephen Sweet**
Special to The CJN

When entering someone's living room, people will look up, around – and down.

And a high-quality rug or carpet will make the difference when they turn their necks.

Dominion Rug, which has been in business for more than 70 years, gets that.

"It's the fifth wall, basically," said Ben Baum, who purchased the company in 1996. "It's like having artwork on your floor if you have a nice area rug or broadloom, and it's the base of your room and it lifts your room.

"Carpeting is as important as anything in the room, and it can definitely make or break the whole ambience of your room."

That's why Dominion Rug aims to present the finest rugs available.

"We carry everything in carpeting, but naturally we learn more towards the higher end," Baum said. "We have the largest selection of quality carpeting in the city, bar none."

Baum knows that because he's travelled far to gather his inventory.

"I shop the world for products, so we have the most unique and updated products out there right now," he said.

And he's got a group of people in-store to help customers understand what's right for them.

"One of the neat things about us is that no one in the flooring industry can match the experience of our sales staff," Baum said.

"I have two salespeople who have been here over 50 years, and our least experienced person has been here almost 20 years."

That experience comes shining through on the floor.

"We all have the knowledge and expertise to guide the consumer to the right choice," Baum said. "We tell people what to expect from their purchase and what the proper purchase is for the space they want it in."

And after a carpet or rug has been decided on, Dominion Rug continues to offer service and care.

"We have an after-sales department," Baum said. "We offer free spot cleaning for a year, which is added value, and it's the little things we do that the other stores don't do.

"People bring in their leftover carpets and we bind it, no charge."

Dominion Rug has a workroom where custom hand-knotted and fabricated rugs are made.

"Not too many stores do that in-house," Baum said. "We're known for it, too, and that's why a lot of designers shop here.

"We do a lot of things with carpet that you couldn't even dream of doing."

That includes working with a lot of new materials, many of which are environmentally friendly.

"There are more and more products that are green, even on the synthetic side," Baum said. "There are also some synthetic yarns available today that are incredibly soft."

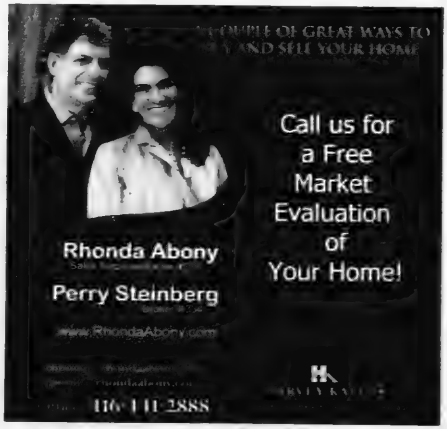
Dominion Rug will have more space to create and sell at the end of May, when it moves to a 21,000-square-foot facility with plenty of parking space at 52 Samor Road, just off of Dufferin Street and a stone's throw away from the Yorkdale Shopping Centre.

"We're doubling the size of our space and can offer even more products now," said Baum, who will be sending his experienced staff out into an 8,000-square-foot showroom.

That extra space will allow Dominion Rug to continue to try to improve on everything it does.

"We always try to be better and that's our goal," Baum said. "We want to be the best in service and product."

Dominion Rug, whose wide variety of products includes Tibetan rugs, vegetable-dye rugs, shag rugs, contemporary, transitional and traditional designs, can be found online at www.dominionrug.com or reached by phone at 416-485-9488.



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**Continued from page B4**

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9 a.m. Morning stretch class with certified trainer
• 11 a.m. Aqua-fit class in the warm water therapy pool
• 1 p.m. Total body workout
• 2 p.m. Bridge
• 3 p.m. Book club
• 4 p.m. Lecture
• 4-5 p.m. Happy hour (sample a new featured cocktail)
• 7:30 p.m. Feature movie (different movie every night)
• 7:30 p.m. Alchemy Chamber Music Concert
• 10 p.m. Last call at the the Dunfield Bistro (great for meeting up after the movie)

***Care to squeeze in a quick manicure, pedicure or massage at the spa? Now you know why the Dunfield calls this "Un-Retirement"!

# *Fill your day from morning until night*

Photo courtesy of Canterbury Place Retirement Residence

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Photo courtesy of L'chaim Retirement Homes

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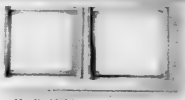

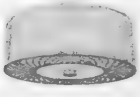

Semi Flush
12"D x 7 ¼"H
Reg. 99.99
$79.99 SALE

Vanity Light
12"W x 6"H
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Outdoor
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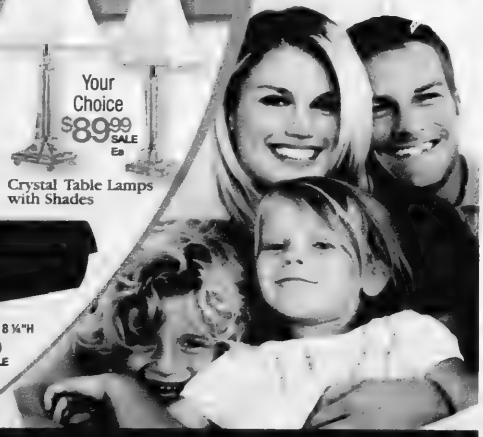

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416•782•1129 royallighting.com

Photos may not depict exact product. Light bulbs are not included unless indicated. Sale ends May 31, 2012. While quantities last. All sizes are approximate

Sun.: 12 pm - 5pm; Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat: 9:30 am - 6 pm; Thurs: 9:30 am - 9 pm

# Yorkdale Village to offer affordability in the city

**Lauren Kramer**
Special to The CJN

When Marc Eichorn joined his father's business 10 years ago, the 20-year-old was keen to learn the tricks of the trade from David Eichorn, a well-known Toronto real estate broker.

During this period, Marc became an expert in the field, brokering some $250-million worth of real estate transactions.

Last year, he brought his expertise and knowledge to a new level by partnering with local developer Mike Siskind, with whom he formed Decade Homes.

"I wanted to expand the services my father offers by providing brand new, quality construction at affordable prices," Marc says.

"The biggest challenge in Toronto is for people to enter the real estate market at a price range that they can afford, and that's where we come in."

Decade Homes' newest project is Yorkdale Village on Wilson Avenue, near Dufferin Street.

When sales launch this month, Yorkdale Village's first phase will consist of 75 townhomes ranging from $250,000 to $450,000. The second phase will follow, for a total of 175 townhomes.

The one- and two-storey homes will offer a variety of configurations, many with rooftop terraces or balconies with modern, spacious interiors. "These townhomes are stylish, functional, high quality and affordable," Marc says.

Marc Eichorn

"That's a rare find in this market, to get quality with affordability in Toronto."

As he watches his son become immersed in real estate development, his father is looking on proudly, Marc says.

"My father is excited and encouraging about this project, because he sees the need and potential for it. The real estate development industry in Toronto is making global headlines right now, and the new home market here is one of the hottest in the world. So we're excited to be a part of that."

For more information, visit www.yorkdalevillage.com or www.decadehomes.com.

# App helps home buyers

You don't have to leave your couch to shop for a new home or condo.

The New Home Buyers Network has launched an iPad app that gives you a one-stop shop to explore many different developments available in southern Ontario. Last count, there were just under 500 developments listed in the Toronto area.

As Homebuyers.com is still fairly new, many of the developers have not yet posted their information. The ones that have posted their details give you information such as price, location, sizes, models, floor plans, amenities, finishes, upgrades, promotions, priority registration, contact information and a GPS map.

There is even a tab to make notes, and you can bookmark your favourites for easy access later. You don't have to keep the information to yourself, either. The app allows you to share your finds by e-mail, Facebook and Twitter, or you can send a request for more information. Another helpful feature is the mortgage calculator.

It's brought shopping for a home into the 21st century. Best of all, the app is free at the App Store.

No.18
Brilliant design in a great neighbourhood.

Make your friends insanely jealous with your new place at Minto30Roe. It's not just the amazing architecture and incredible design that will wow them. They'll also turn green with envy when they see the Movement Haus fitness space, the four-season outdoor oasis and the party-ready social spaces. All smack in the middle of Yonge & Eglinton. They better start sucking up to you ASAP if they want an invitation to the housewarming.

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Ask about our Early Bird Incentives!

It's easy to stay fit when you're among friends

Say hello to V!VA Thornhill Woods, an entirely new all-inclusive rental retirement community. With thoughtfully designed amenities, spacious suites, three freshly prepared meals daily featuring Jewish-style cuisine, and a V!VA team ready to make your day great, retirement living really doesn't get any better than this.

Every V!VA community has state-of-the-art facilities, from our indoor heated saltwater pool to our V!VA*fit* stretch & strength rooms featuring equipment specially made for older adults. We also offer personalized wellness programs and have a full range of health professionals on-site for your convenience. With all these features and more, V!VA has everything you need to keep you feeling your best.

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# *Great prices, huge selection at Royal Lighting*

**Barbara Silverstein**
Special to The CJN

Walk into Royal Lighting (416-782-1129) and prepare to be dazzled by the huge array of chandeliers, sconces, table lamps and other types of lighting on display at the sprawling showroom at Avenue Road and Lawrence Avenue (1549 Avenue Rd.).

In fact, the biggest challenge for Royal Lighting customers may be deciding on what to buy, because the selection of gorgeous light fixtures and lamps is so impressive.

And you won't blow your budget either, says general manager Michael Gladstone. "We have the best prices."

Gladstone takes great pride in the store's wide selection of lighting options. "At Royal Lighting, we are very committed to and passionate about lighting.

"Our selection and service makes us the ideal showroom in Canada for all of your lighting needs."

Indeed, the showroom offers so many lighting choices from chandeliers, sconces and pot lights to outdoor lighting, ceiling fans and lamps, (www.royallighting.com), that making a selection could be very tough.

If you're looking for a crystal chandelier, Royal Lighting carries traditional styles with tear-drop crystals, described by Gladstone as "timeless."

But the store also has some new takes on the classic styles. For instance, you can find the traditional candelabra style with round or pear-shaped crystals, or one of the showroom's most elegant fixtures – a traditional candelabra with carved crystal leaves.

You may also want to check out the showroom's modern chandelier designs with their creative use of crystal. Firstly, the shapes of the actual crystal vary from design to design. So you can find fixtures made up of strings of small octagonal shaped crystal in rectangular shapes or similar shaped chandeliers made up of rectangular crystals.

Then there is an array of rectangular chandeliers of various sizes made of different shaped crystals hanging in rows that give off a shimmering light.

The chandeliers can be made of chrome, brass and even solid crystal blocks, and they can also have shades made of silk or brass.

Royal Lighting also carries an array of fixtures mounted on rods and round hat-boxed shaped fixtures that evoke an Art Deco feel. For look from an earlier era, there is also a selection of Tiffany lamp-style fixtures.

Chandeliers are no longer relegated to dining rooms and foyers, says Gladstone, noting that they're used in bedrooms, kitchens and even bathrooms. He adds that many of the chandeliers in the showroom have matching flush-mount lights.

He says there are several lighting options for kitchen islands. Pendant lights on wires or mounted to rods are a traditional choice, but many designers are now using chandeliers. He points to a rectangular-shaped chandelier with a four-foot span that he says would work well over an island.

If you're in the market for outdoor lighting, there's a big selection of fixtures, including traditional lantern-style lights, "for a turn of the century-look," says Gladstone.

He advises people to include vanity lights in larger bathrooms to supplement pot lights.

If there are two sinks he suggests two sources of vanity lighting. Wall sconces are another option.

Gladstone says floor lamps and matching table lamps are still popular options for family and living rooms. In bedrooms, swing wall lamps are a frequent choice.

As for ceiling fans, Royal has more than 70 styles, he says.

There's also a huge number of lampshades – in cloth and cotton – to choose from. "We have the biggest selection of lampshades in Canada."

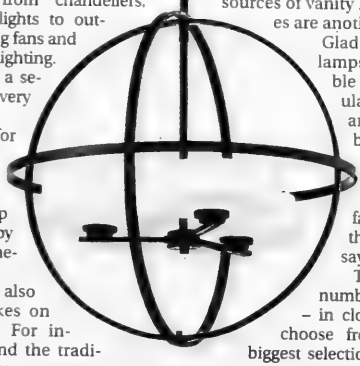

Photo courtesy Royal Lighting

Royal Lighting carries a wide array of desk lamps and offers various lighting options for children. A stand-out choice for that young hockey fan is a light that replicates the Maple Leaf scoreboard and clock at the Air Canada Centre.

You'll also find all kinds of lighting hardware, from coloured switch-plates and dimmers to an assortment of light bulbs.

If you're replacing incandescent lights, Gladstone recommends halogen lighting. A 43-watt halogen light replaces a 60-watt incandescent light.

He also suggests using North-American-made, low-voltage halogen bulbs in pot lighting. "They're 30 per cent brighter and they can last two to five times as long."

As huge as the choice may be at Royal Lighting, there are always new items coming in, Gladstone says. "Things change every year. We get on average about 100 new items a month."

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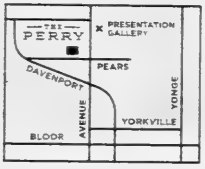


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# Minto30Roe: life in motion at Yonge & Eglinton

Advertising Feature

Minto30Roe is now open at 30 Roehampton at the heart of Yonge and Eglinton.

With stunning architecture, superb interiors and an outstanding location, Minto30Roe offers everything you could ask for in a new condominium. And if that isn't enough, Minto30Roe will feature a truly phenomenal fitness centre that has yet to be seen in Toronto.

Say goodbye to fluorescent lighting, motivational stock images and out-of-date equipment. Minto's 6,000-square-foot *Movement Haus* fitness centre will shock and awe, transforming the typical condo gym into a truly unparalleled experience.

To develop the fitness facility at Minto30Roe, Minto partnered with Mark Stables, the driving force behind the *Movement Haus* concept – an idea that's revolutionizing fitness in condominium living and providing a multi-faceted and all-encompassing facility that's much more than your typical workout.

Minto30Roe will be a true "wellness community," with the opportunity for fitness classes, training and even gourmet nutrition classes in the caterer's kitchen. Classes like these will be offered à la carte, at your convenience. There's no need for a health-club membership when everything you need is right here.

Photos courtesy of Minto30Roe

Minto envisioned designihg and allocating such a large portion of amenity space to a fitness centre because they saw that improvements could be made to give their residents a more encompassing and enjoyable experience. "Today's condominium residents are more design savvy and health conscious than ever. They need more than a few pieces of equipment in a room with a mirrored wall," says Stables.

The physical setup of the space marries function and design. "Working in close partnership with Minto and the II BY IV Design team, we focused on activities that we know purchasers are looking for – gravity, spinning, TRX, strength training, yoga and more – the active lifestyle they're wanting and seeking to cultivate," notes Stables.

One of the highlights of Minto30Roe's fitness centre is a groundbreaking Kinesis Wall that is one-of-a-kind for Canadian condos. In this esthetically pleasing, "flow" oriented environment, six separate stations are located against one wall for optimum circuit training.

**Continued on page B20**

Eleanor loves Frank Sinatra.
Her favourite food is chocolate.
It's also her favourite colour.
She's been a ballet lover since '68.
And a widow since '92.
She starts the day with a yoga class
and finishes with a glass of sherry.
She's Living Life

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**Thales** 3 seat sofa
design Sacha Lakic

Photo Michel Gilbert Special thanks: TASCHEN

*3 seat sofa as shown, upholstered in Verona leather. Offer valid until May 31, 2012, not to be used in conjunction with any prior offer. Price does not include decoration cushions, other accessories or pieces unless stated otherwise.

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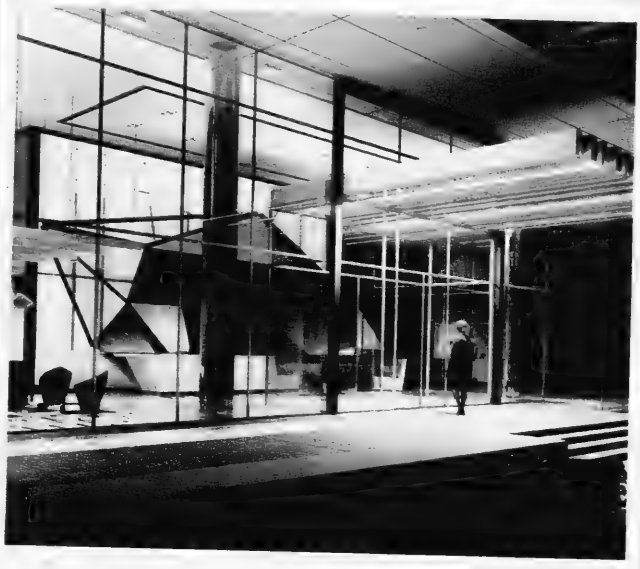

# Enjoy mid-town living

**Continued from page B18**

And for those who need a moment to unwind post workout, beside the fitness area, a "breakout room" with Wi-Fi is a great place to relax.

Though Minto invested on average, three times more on the Minto30Roe fitness centre than other condo developers, the cost to manage and maintain the space is equal, keeping maintenance fees down. "Minto deserves huge kudos for their forward-thinking approach," Stables says. "I've worked as a personal trainer for 15 years in the condominium market and this is truly groundbreaking."

Minto30Roe is a great place to break a sweat and the location is just as fab! Along with the Minto30Roe *Movement Haus*, the condo features stunning architecture by Rudy Wallman and sophisticated interiors by II by IV Design. With one- and two-bedroom suites and townhomes starting from the mid-$300s, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

Luxurious features include sleek and contemporary Euro-styled kitchens with designer-selected granite countertops and ceramic-tile backsplashes, stainless steel appliances and much more. Plus, enjoy incredible amenities, including a spectacular outdoor courtyard with barbecue and fireside lounges, 24-hour concierge and a party room with a caterers' kitchen.

Minto is an industry leader in innovative and sustainable urban development. Minto30Roe will be built to LEED® gold standards and will include many green innovations. With an amazing location, fabulous design and exciting amenities, there are so many reasons to love Minto30Roe, including the *Movement Haus* fitness centre. Minto30Roe is truly setting the benchmark. Visit the sales centre today and shift life into higher gear!

1 + 2-bedroom suites and a collection of townhomes start from the mid-$300s.

The sales centre is at 30 Roehampton. For more information, call 416-915-3812, e-mail: 30roe@minto.com and/or visit online at www.minto30roe.com.

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# *Moving your memories the easier way*

**Jennifer M. MacLeod**
Special to the CJN

Moving is one of the most stressful things you will ever do. Whether staging your house for sale, relocating a busy family, or downsizing to a condo or retirement community, you'll need to sort through your precious possessions. While you can't wave a magic wand and make the work go away, you can call Red Coats Moving Solutions (www.redcoatsmoving.com, 416-920-1317) and gain an experienced and compassionate ally to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Working in marketing for a retirement residence nearly 10 years ago, Vicky Keyes, whose background is in hospitality, couldn't help noticing how traumatic the move was for clients who "were often overwhelmed at the thought of downsizing… and didn't have somebody to help them."

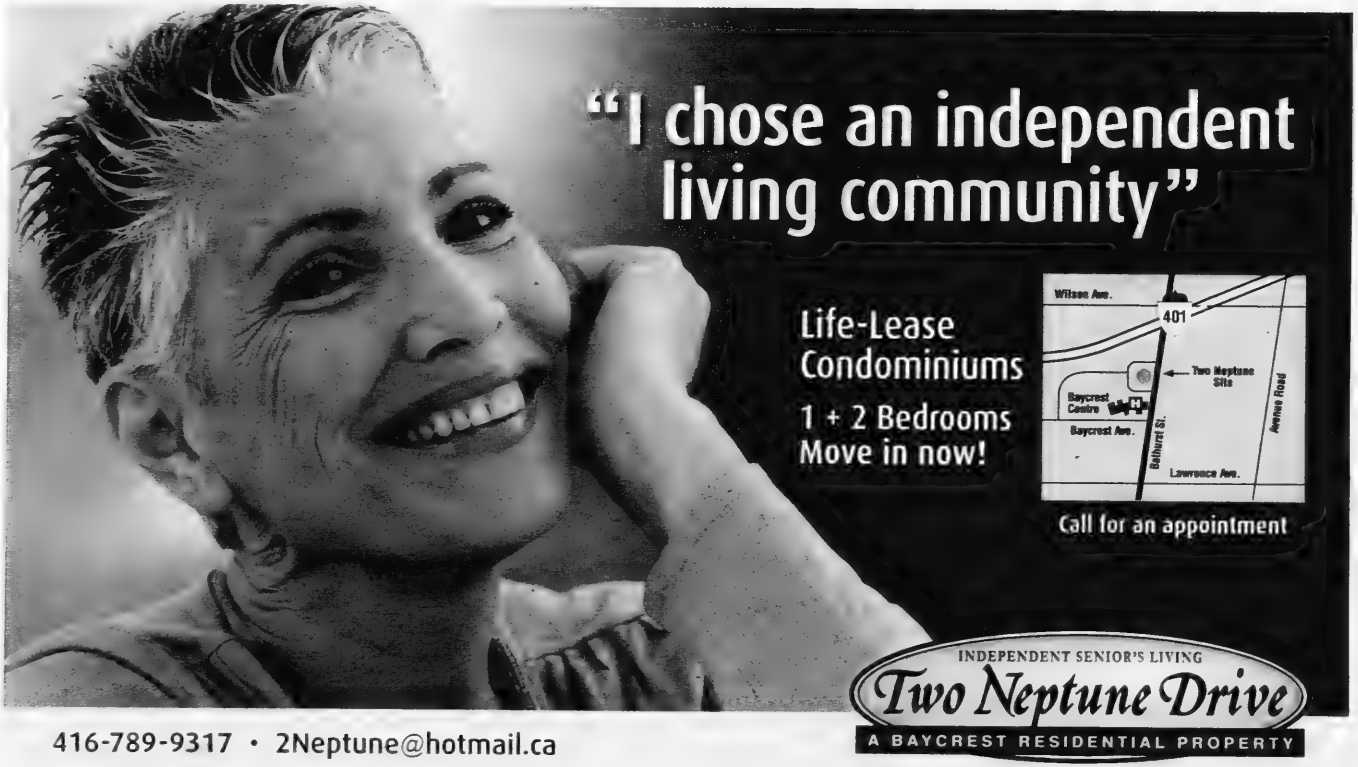
Downsizing a lifetime of possessions, Keyes says, can be fraught with emotional landmines. And with adult children far away or busy with their own careers, she noticed a need and stepped in to help. "There were companies doing this in the States," but there was nobody locally to call on.

In 2004, Red Coats became the first Canadian company to join the U.S.-based National Association of Senior Move Managers, and Keyes and her crew have been hard at work ever since.

Without help, it's easy to get overwhelmed, particularly when you're moving into a smaller home or retirement community.

**Continued on page B22**

**Vicky Keyes, left, works with clients** *[Photo courtesy of Red Coats Moving Solutions]*



# Red Coats Moving Solutions moves memories

Continued from page B21

"We try to work through the whole process with them," Keyes says, beginning with a floor plan of the new location. "If people bring the wrong furniture, or too many things, they'll be surrounded by boxes they can't even unpack. They'll become even more anxious and stressed."

Most importantly, Keyes says, the client's wishes come first. The focus at Red Coats is on empowering clients to make their own decisions and set their own priorities, while at the same time, deciding what to bring or give away.

Clients' wishes come first. In one family, a daughter couldn't understand why her mother was upset at her offer of brand-new furniture. "The mother said to me, 'That's the chair that my husband always sat in when he was alive. That's why I want to bring that chair with me.' We always make sure, even if the children are there to help out, that we really listen to what the client wants."

Each item may have its own emotional connections: "memories of trips they've been on, pictures that might trigger memories of different times in their life. They might have brought their children up in the house, might have had weddings and family celebrations there."

Leave more time than you might expect if you are going to sort through a lifetime of memories. It's more than just tossing things into boxes.

**Clients' wishes come first**

One client, Keyes says, "showed me a photo of a Lancaster bomber and its crew. He said, 'On this day 60 years ago, I flew my first bombing raid into Germany.' It was important for him to share his experience, his life and his youth, and then move on."

Those memories can be draining, both physically and emotionally, she adds.

Realistically, not everything can come along with you. But that doesn't mean giving up on your passions. "You may not have room for your collection of figurines, wall masks or beer cans, but you can select a few of the best and make an interesting corner with them."

And not every decision is a painful one: some can even be fun, like picking new furniture to save space. And "don't forget what almost every single client I have worked with over the last year has purchased... a new flat screen TV!"

After consulting with clients, Red Coats does its best to take care of the actual move as seamlessly as possible. The day before the move, Red Coats staff arrive to pack items carefully, and they will also deal with the moving company on the day of the move itself. At the new location, Red Coats comes in, unpacks and sets everything up.

"If we've done everything properly," Keyes says, clients "can start living in their new place the very next day. The beds are made, everything is put away, the television is connected, Internet hooked up... They can start enjoying their new life."

Keyes notes that Red Coats is not a moving company. "Anybody can move people – we're about moving people's memories and their lives."

Instead, they work with a number of local moving companies, "small family businesses... They know what our expectations are." All staff are bonded and insured, and most have been with Red Coats for four years or more.

In addition to downsizing, Red Coats is also a certified ReDesign and Staging specialist, offering staging services that will highlight your home's best features and help you sell faster.

"We are professionals from the very beginning to the very end."

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# 2 Neptune's 'residents have become mishpachah'

Carolyn Blackman
Staff Reporter

Monty Mazin, 85, says he counts living at the Reuben Cipin Healthy Living Community at 2 Neptune Dr. among his life's blessings.

"When Baycrest built the building more than 10 years ago, I was told it would be ideal for me and my wife, Blema. We moved in three weeks after it opened, and it has been a blessing ever since.

"The residents have become mishpachah, and I am proud to be a part of this exciting place. I can't walk down the hall without greeting someone. I'm never lonely."

The building, a 120-unit life-lease building, is designed for active and independent seniors. The life-lease concept allows seniors to maintain a right to occupy their residence. At any time, the resident can sell this right at an appraised market value and keep the proceeds from the sale.

A journalist who worked in public relations, Mazin says that almost immediately upon moving in, the residents formed a council, of which he became vice-president. "One of my accomplishments was starting a shuttle bus service to No Frills at [Bathurst Street and Wilson Avenue.]"

He said that he has always emphasized the importance of team effort, "and that has been our strength. We have built on the talents of each person to create a fantastic team. Countless unpaid hours have been put in, and it has certainly 'paid' off."

Mazin, who also handles fundraising and public relations for the building, says that his "greatest satisfaction was raising funds through his participation in the annual Baycrest Boardwalk, a two-kilometre walk by staff, volunteers and family, around Baycrest. "I went door-to-door for six years straight and received a 95 per cent response rate from the appreciative residents."

Monty Mazin

He says he been a life-long volunteer for such organizations as Baycrest, B'nai Brith Canada, Salvation Army and Rotary International. "[Community service] was instilled in me at an early age from my dear Bubba. She was an Orthodox Jew and an activist, and the lesson I learned from her was to 'be a mensch.'"

He's proud, he says, to be an ambassador for the building, "and helping to promote it as *the* place to live."

He is also proud to be a Baycrest ambassador. "At every opportunity, I talk about the extraordinary work done there by its leadership, staff, and thousands of volunteers who have helped make it a global leader in health and aging."

Salya Rabow, 76, who has lived at 2 Neptune for two years, says she wears "a few hats" in the building, including chair of the program committee.

She helped organize the building's Kozy Korner, a spot for residents to congregate at any time of day. "It's such a simple concept, but so important. They come to sit, read, talk or work on a puzzle which is always on the table."

Salya, who came to Toronto via Montreal, Las Vegas and Florida, said she loves living at 2 Neptune, because she can be as busy and sociable as she likes. "From the beginning, I didn't stop. I got involved right away, and made friends.

"One of the most popular programs is a monthly Sunday picnic held in the social hall. The residents bring food, and we provide coffee. We hold it on Sunday, because it is typically a hard day for people who live alone. This way, they come out and have company."

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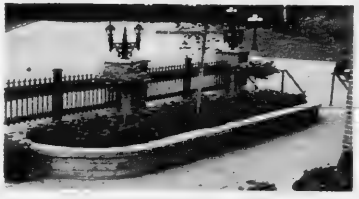
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# Real estate in Israel: facts and fiction

**Lauren Kramer**
Special to The CJN

Israel has always been a magnet for Canadian Jews. Some retire and plan on spending a few months here or there in the Holy Land, while for others aliyah is centre-of-mind and the only complexity is working out the details.

Both groups of travellers have something in common: they need accommodation, and the high cost of hotels means an apartment quickly becomes a necessity, whether you're looking to purchase one outright or rent one for a long- or short-term period.

How you do that begins with your budget, says Ilana Nelson, the broker/owner of Integrity Real Estate in Jerusalem. "If you're looking for a shorter-term rental and your budget is around $1,000 per month or less, I recommend looking on local Anglo websites such as craigslist and janglo," she suggests.

Prospective tenants have to be very careful about deals that look too good to be true and rely strongly on their gut instincts when they do so, however. That's because there are many rental scams going on. Fraudsters pose as Israeli homeowners, post images of their so-called homes for rent and accept deposits wired into their bank accounts.

That happened to Marla Gordon, a Vancouver physician, last year while she was hunting for a short-term apartment rental for her family. After extensive e-mails back and forth with the "owner" of the apartment she liked, she paid the deposit by credit card. "But it seemed too good to be true all along," she confessed afterward. More research confirmed she had been scammed on the deposit. Luckily, her credit card company reimbursed her for the money she had paid, but it was a close call.

Ilana Nelson

It happens a lot, says Nelson. "I fell victim to a scam myself a few years ago, and it only became clear that the 'renter' was a fake after weeks of e-mails," she recalls. "I'm happy I didn't lose any money, but I wasted a lot of time with him."

Truth is, there's no real trick to figuring out if the person you are dealing with online is trustworthy or not, she adds. "When it seems too good to be true, it is, so be wary of anything that looks like a bargain," she warns. "Nothing comes cheap in the Holy City."

If your budget is $1,500 per month or more for a rental, it becomes worthwhile to look for an agent, and agents can easily be found on websites or by referral from a friend or acquaintance. But be warned, short-term or vacation rentals vary in price depending on the size, location and extent to which the apartment has been renovated. They could cost up to $5,000 a month.

"I have a gorgeous three-bedroom vacation apartment across from the Inbal hotel that an American bought as an investment," says Nelson. "We rent out the apartment for $3,000 per month and for over $5,000 for holiday periods like Passover and Sukkot."

The difference between paying $2,000 and $5,000 per month often lies in the quality of renovation, or what Nelson refers to as the difference between an "Israeli" renovation and "American quality" renovation. The apartment size and amenities such as parking, Shabbat elevator and sukkah balcony are also factors.

"The most difficult transition for North Americans is the need to adapt to a much smaller living space," she says. That's because a typical three-bedroom apartment in Jerusalem is between 90 and 100 square metres, and most North Americans are not accustomed to living in such a small space.

"I'm working with a family making aliyah in the summer, and they're looking for a four-bedroom apartment in Rechavia for them and their five children," Nelson says. "The general size of a four-bedroom apartment in the area is around 150 square metres, and the minimum cost for a renovated apartment of that size is $1.5 million. For a family moving from a 300-square-metre home, it is shocking to visit a 150-square-metre apartment, especially when that apartment is worth more than the huge home with a pool they are selling in North America. I have to explain to our clients that Jerusalem is comparable to Paris, London and Manhattan in terms of the high cost per square metre."

If your budget is a little more modest than $1.5 million, you may need to steer away from luxury projects and opt for a building where there's neither elevator nor parking. "Here, especially in the more established neighbourhoods, there is only street parking available, which can be a nuisance when coming home with groceries or suitcases," Nelson says. "Older Jerusalem buildings generally do not have elevators. Buyers need to consider whether or not they are prepared to walk up one or two flights of stairs to their apartment."

**Real estate tips for Canadians buying or renting in Israel**

- Property tax, known as the *arnona*, is paid either monthly or annually and is set according to the size of the apartment, ranging between 70 to 80 shekels ($18 to $20 Cdn) per square metre. Long-term renters are responsible for paying the tax themselves.
- An additional eight per cent cost is added to the price of a purchased property to cover the lawyer's fee (one to two per cent, plus value added tax – VAT), agent's fee (two per cent plus VAT), and purchase tax (about four to five per cent). Unlike North America where only one side pays commission to the realtor, in Israel the buyer pays two per cent and the owner pays two per cent.
- Looking for a deal? Steer away from high-demand neighbourhoods such as Emek Refaim, Talbieh, the German Colony and Shaarei Chesed. "The farther away the apartment is from the high-demand neighbourhoods, the cheaper rental you will find. However, short-term vacation apartments are harder to come by in peripheral neighbourhoods because there is simply less of a demand," says Nelson.

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BRUNO

# Menkes introduces Bloom Park Towns

Advertising Feature

The Bathurst and Finch neighbourhood is blooming, now that Menkes' newest community, Bloom Park Towns, is about to be launched for previews this spring.

Located in an established neighbourhood north of Finch, just off Bathurst on Antibes Drive this master-planned community is adjacent to the verdant Antibes Park and G. Ross Lord Park lands system – which also served as inspiration for the community's name. TTC is accessible right on Antibes Drive and directly links to the Finch subway station. An abundance of shopping and conveniences are located along Finch, Steeles and at the nearby Promenade Shopping Centre. There's dining, movie theatres, the North York Civic Centre on Yonge Street and the Prosserman JCC's Sherman Campus, all located close by.

"This is an excellent opportunity for first-time buyers to own a home in a superb established neighbourhood," explains Steven Menkes, president, Low-Rise Residential. "Whereas most townhomes in North York now start well over $400,000, Bloom Park Towns will be attractively priced, beginning from the mid-$300s."

The first homes to be released for sale later this spring will be the Woodland Collection of one- and two-level townhomes ranging from 629 to 820 square feet and the design-forward three-storey Parkside Collection of townhomes ranging from 1305 to 1676 square feet. The townhomes will have special touches that include patios, private rooftop terraces or balconies, to suit different lifestyle needs and budgets.

Photo courtesy of Bloom Park Towns

Bloom Park Towns will feature brick, stone and stucco exteriors set along a harmonious, pedestrian-friendly streetscape. Interiors will boast open-concept living spaces with nine-foot ceilings, European-styled kitchens and premium appliances. The community also offers an outdoor swimming pool, landscaped patio and loggia for summer enjoyment, underground parking and much more.

To preview the Bloom Woodland Collection, visit www.menkes.com to register or call 416-642-8955 for their upcoming preview.

Founded more than 50 years ago, Menkes continues to raise the standard for outstanding design and exceptional value as a fully integrated, multi-disciplinary real estate development company.

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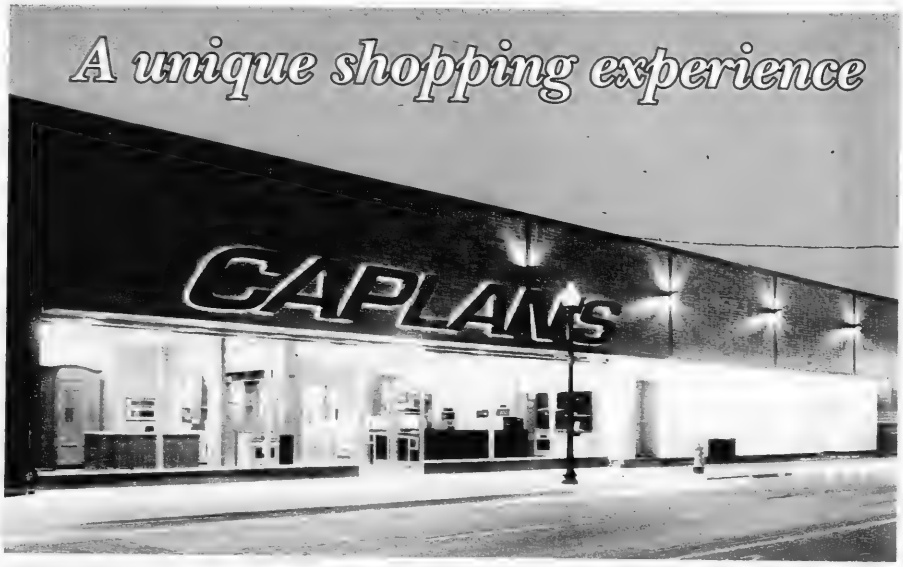



Photo courtesy of Caplan's

**Barbara Silverstein**
Special to The CJN

On a Saturday morning, the smell of freshly baked cinnamon buns wafts through Caplan's, the premium appliance centre that has occupied a sprawling storefront at 1111 Weston Rd. for some 60 years.

Customers are encouraged to have fresh coffee and a nosh, says company president Robert Caplan. "We're a destination store. We try to make the experience worthwhile." (416-767-1655, www.caplans.ca)

Indeed, there's a professional pastry chef on site preparing the cookies, buns and whatever goodie is on the menu that day.

It's a way for customers to see how the appliances work, Caplan explains. "We'll show them what it's about."

He says the company takes that experience one step further at the Miele Gallery (mielegalleryCaplans.ca), the stand-alone European appliance centre across the street from the main store. "It's an extremely unique retail experience."

The gallery has a full-time chef on hand preparing seasonal foods on the Miele appliances. The cooking demos offer customers a hands-on experience, Caplan says. "We encourage people who buy Miele to come back. We have events happening all the time.

"We want our customers to really love our products and we want them to get the most enjoyment from these appliances and learn with us."

He says the company prides itself on its competitive prices and excellent customer experience. "People coming here are spending big money on appliances. They expect premium service.

"We're all about presenting value at the high end. That takes a dedication to service."

The company often advocates with the manufacturers on behalf of its customers. "We use our leverage to get manufacturers to look after our customers properly. People don't want to be passed off to a 1-800 number."

Caplan's specializes in such premium brands as Sub-Zero, Wolf, Thermador, Viking and Jenn-Air, he says. "We pretty much carry all the major high-end lines. We start at a higher level than most stores. Our entry level starts with a Kitchenaid."

Most of their appliances are manufactured in the United States, but Miele, is produced in Germany. "People will pay more for better-made products."

Caplan points out that there is also an outlet division on the premises. "We offer special buys and we bring exclusive offers to people. We have substantial discounts on new, fully warrantied premium products.

"Items from trade shows are also discounted. The only difference from regular priced items is that the discounted appliances are not coming in a box."

Caplan's was founded by Herb Caplan in the early '40s. Herb's son Martin developed and expanded the business over a 50-year period, says Caplan, the third generation to run the family business. He's been at the helm for the last 10 years

His father, Martin, is now retired, but Fran, his mother, continues to be involved.

Between the sales, warehouse and delivery departments, the company employs about 30 to 40 people.

Caplan praises his sales team, describing them as a knowledgeable and experienced group that does not pressure people into making quick purchases. "Our objective is to educate the customers and help them find the product that's right for them. We don't believe in a pushy sales approach.

"Sometimes a sale can take weeks or months. There's a lot of product. People can make a decision without feeling that they're being rushed."

Caplan's may be 70 years old, but the store is constantly upgrading, Caplan says. We have a lot of intense competition. Unless we're at the top of our game, we're not going to survive.

"Our objective is to be the No. 1 premium appliance destination in Canada."

He notes that the store has updated its image by developing a strong online presence. "We wanted to show that the business is evolving."

Other changes include the newly remodelled outside façade and the two-year-old Miele Gallery – "it's the first of its kind in North America" – which, according to Caplan, has proven to be an innovative retail experience.

He says Caplan's relationship with its customers spans multiple generations. "Many customers come because their parents came here."

And there's a high degree of trust, he adds. "People call us up and say, 'I need a new' washer. Send whatever one you think is best.'

"We have built up a lot of trust with our customers over the years. They feel we have the right products and they know we'll look after them."

# Builder's business is his passion

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

John Sopta, owner of the family run Sopta Group, custom homebuilders since 1996, has been swinging a hammer since he was four years old.

"My father, Jozo, who just turned 80, was in construction all his life. He became an apprentice in the former Yugoslavia when he was 14, and I have many memories of working next to him. [The business] is in my blood."

Sopta says he has worked in a number of fields that have prepared him for this business. "I have been a lender in a bank, a project manager for a builder, and I have worked in the trucking industry. Each job moved me closer to where I am today."

The Sopta Group is an A to Z business, he said. "We do everything from zoning amendments or changing building plans, through to design, completion and occupancy. We also have houses on the go that can be purchased."

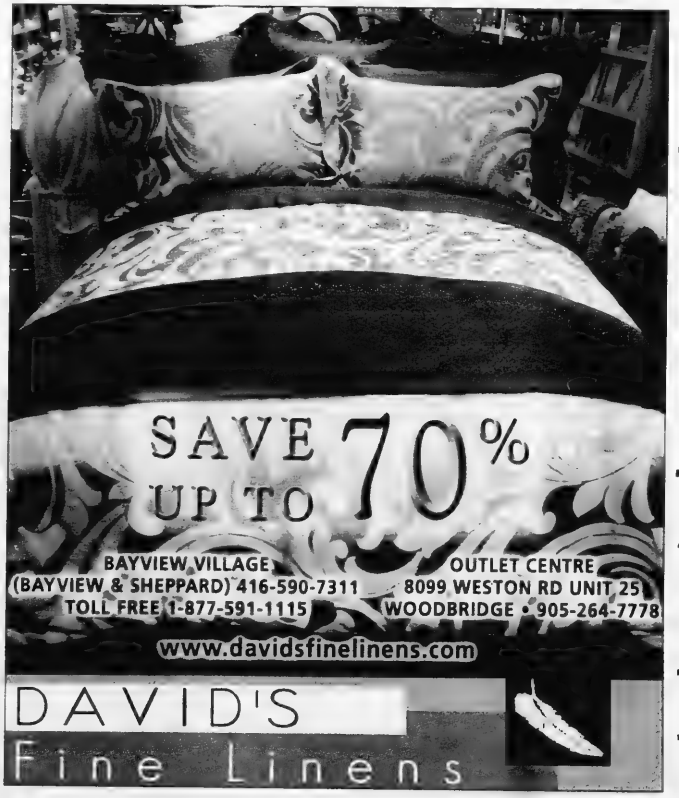
Currently, the Sopta Group (905-761-3383, www.thesoptagroup.com) has three houses in Kleinburg, a small condominium project in Mississauga, and two homes in Laurelwood, an executive community in Waterloo, Ont.

"We appreciate that your new home is one of your greatest investments, so we are satisfied only when you are satisfied. We strive to make the building experience an enjoyable, creative one for all our clients, and welcome your involvement and suggestions every step of the way."

Photos courtesy of Sopta Group

Part of his company's success, he says, is the longstanding relationships he has with tradespeople, "many of whom we've been working with since 1996. We value and respect their skills and contributions, which results in the highest standards of craftsmanship in all our homes."

His wife, Janice, a partner in the business is the director of décor, he said. "She deals with decorating and design, and is always happy to work within a budget. Anyone who calls can be confident that they'll get what they want, and what they need."



# New luxury living: The Perry

**Michelle Bitran**
Special to The CJN

Luxury living in Toronto is no longer what it used to be. Many people seeking fine living are now looking for a boutique, tailored upscale residential experience, and not the huge, impersonal luxury condominiums that currently line many of the city's streets.

"The level of luxury and of quality living in the city has evolved," said Nargues Mansouri who, along with her sister, Maryam, is vice-president of Mansouri Living, a commercial and residential development company.

The Mansouri sisters saw this change in the luxury living market as an opportunity, and worked hard to put together a unique boutique condominium project called The Perry (www.theperry.com).

The Perry, which is expected to be built in March of next year, will be on the northern edge of Yorkville, and will feature 45 suites ranging from 650 to 3,950 square feet. "People are looking to be in the heart of things, but not in the hustle bustle of Yorkville," said Mansouri, explaining that the building's quieter location, steps away from restaurants and coffee shops, will allow residents to relax, even in the centre of Toronto.

In fact, The Perry will be tailored to giving residents a relaxing experience, no matter what it is they're setting out to do.

The building is equipped with a 24/7 white-glove concierge to help residents with their needs at any hour of the day or night. Additionally, residents will receive a one-year membership to Quintessentially, a private member's club with worldwide round-the-clock concierge services, ready and waiting to accommodate requests both at home and abroad.

"We really did a lot of research trying to get the best of the best," said Mansouri.

The far-reaching concierge services are an extension of the amenities offered by the building itself. The sleek, modern and inviting condominium complex will feature top-of-the-line design as well as furniture and appliances, including pieces from Poliform and Gaggenau, chosen both for their superior quality and sharp esthetics.

Photos courtesy of The Perry

"There are these buildings in downtown Toronto that claim to be luxurious, but when you analyze the finishings, they really fall short," said Mansouri. She explained that, in planning The Perry, no luxury was spared, even in the small details.

The tasteful, elegant interior design of The Perry extends from the suites to the communal areas, including the piano lounge, a private dining room with a caterer's kitchen and a serene garden terrace designed to create an outdoor escape in the heart of Toronto.

"We really try to target people who have an appreciation and an affinity for design," said Mansouri said, adding that the entire building was designed with the style-savvy resident in mind.

For Mansouri Living, the importance of style and design is accompanied by an environmental awareness.

The Perry, Mansouri explained, was designed using green materials and building processes. "It's not an afterthought. It was really integrated from step one," she said of the importance of being environmentally friendly.

Mansouri feels that The Perry will naturally attract design-lovers looking to lead a green, luxurious lifestyle in Toronto, but even more than that, she believes its residents will be community-focused.

"They want to live in a community, they want to know their neighbours," she said.

The Perry's boutique size, and its uniform high-end finishings (no matter which size suite you live in) create an intimate, shared setting within the building, a place where Mansouri envisions a thriving mini-neighbourhood.

For her, that is the most unique and exciting part of the new project. "It's all cohesive. It's all one community."

For more information visit www.theperry.com.

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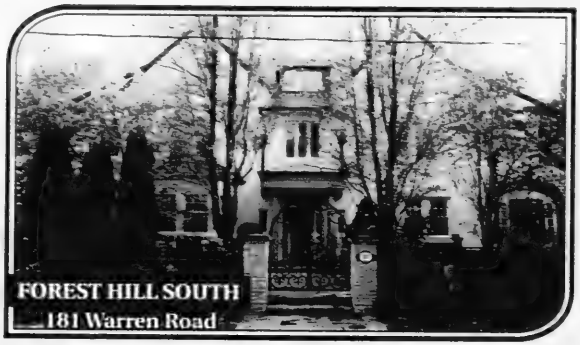



**List Price** $4,398,000
**Taxes** $34,983.71
**Details** 6 beds, 7 baths

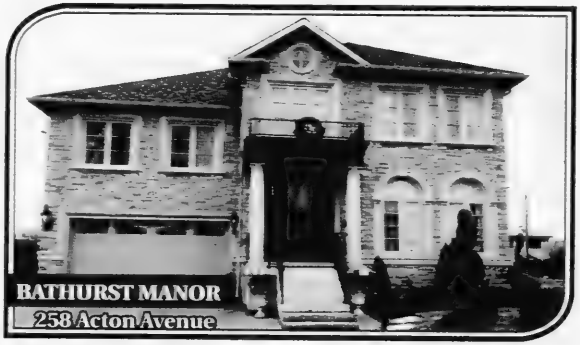
**Selling Price** $3,950,000
**Days on Market** 16

Listing Agent: Elise S. Kalles, Broker
*Harvey Kalles Real Estate Ltd., Brokerage*

**Listing price** $249,900
**Taxes** $1,723.05
**Details** 1 bed, 1 bath

**Selling price** $240,000
**Days on Market** 9

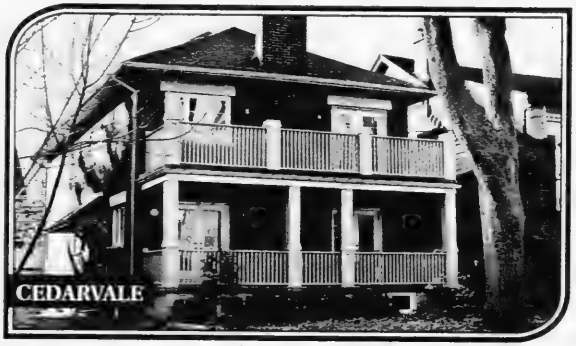
Listing Agent: Robert Kroll
*Re/Max Realtron Realty Inc., Brokerage*




**List Price** $1,099,000
**Taxes** $7,474.20
**Details** 4 beds, 5 baths

**Selling Price** $1,082,000
**Days on Market** 8

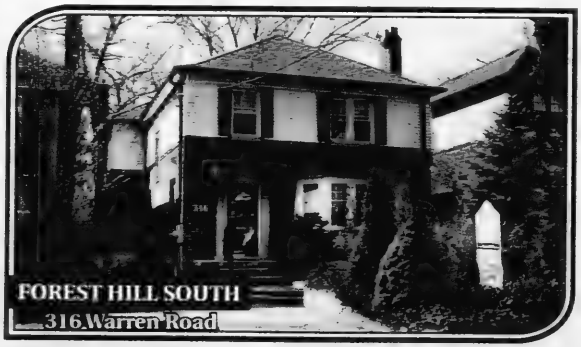
Listing and Selling Agents: Abe & Donna Seidman
*Seidman Real Estate Limited, Brokerage*




**Listing price** $1,449,000
**Taxes** $6,385.14
**Details** 4 + 1 beds, 5 baths

**Selling price** $1,651,000
**Days on Market** 7

Listing Agents: Michael Loewith and Jennifer Greenberg
*Harvey Kalles R.E. Ltd., Brokerage*




**List Price** $998,000
**Taxes** $7,663.59
**Details** 4+1 beds, 4 baths

**Selling Price** $1,281,000
**Days on Market** 10

Listing Agent: Sandon Schwartzben, MSW, Broker
*Forest Hill Real Estate Inc., Brokerage*

**Listing price** $314,900
**Taxes** $1857.42
**Details** 3+1 beds, 2 baths

**Selling price** $310,000
**Days on Market** 7

Listing Agent: Larry Allan Wronzberg
*Alan Newton Real Estate Ltd., Brokerage*

# Linens from the best

**Stephen Sweet**
Special to The CJN

Touch is as important a sense as any when it comes to the home.

And a lot of that comes from things such as bed linens, table linens and towels.

That's why places like Deblins and David's Fine Linens specialize in those items.

From one little shop 35 years ago to two "big-box style" stores, Deblins focuses on mid- to high-end bed, bath and table items, giving consumers plenty of reasons to go there rather than a department store.

"There are a lot of differences," said Deblins' Sari Rajsky. "Our depth and range of product is much wider and much nicer.

"Some (department stores) might show one bedding design, but don't actually have stock of it. We try to keep things in stock in all of the sizes."

They don't pull any punches when it comes to cost, either.

"Our pricing is very different than department stores," Rajsky said. "They usually sell stuff 'on sale,' marked at 30 to 50 per cent off.

"Because of our low markup, that sale price there is actually our full price."

And of course, the staff at Deblins know their goods, which come from more than 25 regular suppliers from places such as Israel, China, Portugal and Turkey.

"If you go into those other places, they don't actually have service people working in the area," Rajsky said. "You may not be able to find people to help or who can answer questions about the product and how to care for it.

"Our salespeople know bedding and towels," Rajsky said of the staff, some of whom have been working at Deblins for more than 25 years. "That's what people love about coming to the store."

For the bathroom, the same knowledge comes in handy when discussing towels or matching collections.

"We have between 75 and 80 different bath accessories collections," Rajsky said. "We have so many different collections."

Deblins began in the table-linen business and remains in it, although some of its focus has changed.

"We still cater to those looking for very high-end table linens, lace and high-end fabrics that we custom order," said Rajsky of her company that still stocks tablecloths over 212 inches long.

"But as consumer taste has moved towards easier care, we've also moved that way, and now have a very wide range of easier-care fabrics and younger-looking ones, too."

Photo courtesy of Deblins

If only the most exceptional items will do, then David's Fine Linens is right up your alley.

"This is the best stuff that you can get," said David Saini. "There is no higher end than what we sell."

That includes such names as Hugo Boss, Emanuel Ungaro and, coming in the fall, Roberto Cavalli. And David's Fine Linens will be the only place in the country carrying the high-demand product.

"We've got a lot of exclusive products to Canada at David's Fine Linens," Saini said. "The best linens in Europe are the ones we get, and we only bring in the best brands."

If you want to sleep like a star, this is where to go.

"The products we carry are the ones that celebrities use," said Saini, who says the same for their silk duvets, down duvets and towels that are considered the finest in the world.

"We are not about price. We are about quality."

Naturally, a knowledgeable sales staff is required when selling such exclusive products.

"We have top-notch service, and you have to go in the store to experience it," said Saini.

"We have a lot of highly qualified people with experience designing bedrooms and can put everything together."

David's Fine Linens can be found online at www.davidsfinelinens.com or reached by phone at 416-590-7311. Locations include the Bayview Village Shopping Centre and a new store at Highway 7 and Weston Road.

Deblins, which has locations on Orfus Road (near the Yorkdale Shopping Centre) and in Vaughan, Ont., can be reached at 416-782-2910 or on the web at www.deblins.com, where you can also make online purchases.

Photo courtesy of David's Fine Linens

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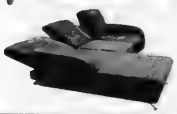

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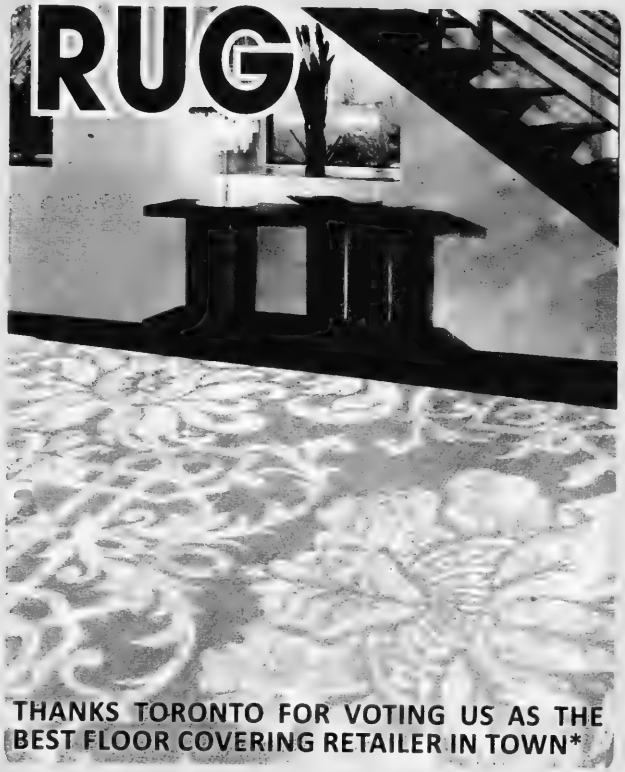

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# *Peres state visit*

**Israeli President Shimon Peres is greeted by Grade 7 students from Ottawa's Jewish Community School shortly after his arrival in Canada. For more coverage, please see pages 3, 6, 7, 8, 9.** *[Mark Neyman photo]*

# Israelis protest social conditions

**Ilan Lior**
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

**TEL AVIV** — Social justice rallies were held across Israel this past Saturday night, with the largest taking place in Tel Aviv, where thousands of people gathered in Rabin Square.

The protest marches in Tel Aviv began in the Shapira, Levinsky, and Hatikva neighbourhoods before joining together and continuing on to Rabin Square. Demonstrators chanted, "We want justice, not charity" and "Taking from the poor, giving to the rich, what a country of corruption."

"The message is one against the political system that does not count the citizens," Orli Barlev, a rally organizer, said. "What we saw this week [the unity government deal] were moves that resulted from personal interests of power and control.

"This government has greatly deepened social gaps," she added.

Rallies were to be held in cities throughout Israel, including Jerusalem, Haifa, Kiryat Shmonah, Nahariya, Pardes Hanna and Eilat, under the banner of "Returning the country to the citizens."

Similar rallies were held throughout the world on Saturday for "Global May," an international day of protest marking the anniversary of the protest in Puerta del Sol, Madrid, where a massive people's assembly took control of the famous square in 2011.

**Continued on page 32**

**Israeli police arrest a demonstrator in Tel Aviv.** *[Flash90 photo]*

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**Havdalah: 9:25**
*Greater Toronto Area*

*Egyptian presidential hopefuls slam peace deal – please see page 32*

## CANADA

### Students Visit Israel

**SASKATOOON** — Sixteen students from the University of Saskatchewan's Edwards School of Business visited potash mines in Israel and Jordan and learned about overseas entrepreneurship on an 11-day tour earlier this month. They went as part of a new international course that traces Saskatchewan exports. It will run every May and will visit different destinations, such as Chile and India, business dean Daphne Taras told News Talk 980 in Saskatoon. The trip was subsidized by PotashCorp, the university and the province.

## WORLD

### Vidal Sassoon Dies

**LOS ANGELES** — Celebrity hairstylist Vidal Sassoon, who battled antisemitism and fought in Israel's War of Independence, died May 9 at home in Los Angeles at age 84. He had been fighting leukemia. In 1982, he established the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Sassoon, a London native, grew up in a Jewish orphanage from the age of three after his father left the family. He left school at 14 to become an apprentice hairdresser. In 1948, at 20, he joined the Haganah and fought in Israel's War of Independence. He opened his first salon in London in 1954 and later more in England and the United States. In 1973, he created a line of shampoos and styling products, appearing in TV commercials using the slogan, "If you don't look good, we don't look good."

### Gay Stand Praised

**WASHINGTON** — A number of Jewish groups praised U.S. President Barack Obama's endorsement of gay marriage, and an Orthodox group expressed disappointment. "History will regard his affirmation of this core right for the LGBT community as a key moment in the advance of civil rights in America," the Reform movement's Religious Action Center said May 9. Also praising Obama's endorsement, made May 4 in an interview with ABC, were the National Council of Jewish Women, Hadassah, the National Jewish Democratic Council (NDIC) and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. The Orthodox Union, however, said it was "disappointed." However, the OU statement also "appreciated" Obama's support for laws that protect institutions that dissent from same-sex marriage. Obama did not accompany his endorsement with any legislative initiative, and he has said the matter should be left up to states. Agudath Israel of America, another Orthodox umbrella body, didn't directly address Obama's statement. But it blasted the NDIC for saying the statement advanced "tikkun olam," the imperative to repair the world.

### Children's Author Wrote Iconic Book

Maurice Sendak

**NEW YORK** — Maurice Sendak, author and illustrator of the children's book *Where the Wild Things Are*, died May 8 in Danbury, Conn., at age 83.

Sendak, who wrote and illustrated more than 50 children's books, reportedly suffered a stroke May 4.

Sendak, the son of immigrant Polish Jews, grew up in Brooklyn and said he spent his childhood thinking about the children dying in the Holocaust. "My burden is living for those who didn't," he told Associated Press.

Sendak, who did not attend university, became a window dresser for Manhattan toy store FAO Schwarz in 1948. A self-taught illustrator, he was commissioned to illustrate the book *Wonderful Farm* by Marcel Ayme in 1951 and, in 1957, began writing his own books.

In 1964, the American Library Association awarded Sendak its Caldecott Medal for *Where the Wild Things Are*. He received the international Hans Christian Andersen medal for illustration in 1970, and in 1983, he won the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award from the American Library Association. In 1996, he won a National Medal of the Arts in for his body of work.

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# Israeli president calls for caution on Iran

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Israel should proceed with caution in its increasingly tense confrontation with Iran, Israeli President Shimon Peres said last week.

Iran is a regional "menace" and its nuclear program poses a "real danger" to the Jewish state, but Israel should exhaust all possible options before resorting to military force, said Peres, a former prime minister and defence minister.

"It's better to start with non-military efforts than to go straight to war," he said, striking a moderate tone and describing his position as "a reasonable policy."

Speaking to a near capacity audience at a community event sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and held at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, Peres hewed to the high road.

While agreeing that "all options" should remain on the table," Peres said that economic sanctions and political pressure should be allowed to work before Israel considers a strike on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Visiting Toronto in the course of a state visit to Canada, Peres said the campaign to stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear arsenal should be spearheaded by the United States and countries such as Canada.

Rather than exclusively being an Israeli source of concern, he added, Iran's atomic ambitions are really a world problem.

**Continued on page 7**

**Israeli President Shimon Peres, left, took questions from David Frum at a community event at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts last week.** ***[Jen Arron photo]***

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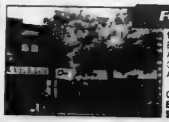
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# *Madrassah apology said unsatisfactory*

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

The Canadian Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) has rejected an apology from a Muslim organization for distributing a school curriculum that reviled Jews.

"They apologized," said SWC spokesperson Avi Benlolo. "We rejected the apology based on the fact that we do not believe that removing the curriculum and getting a new group of scholars [to re-examine it] is sufficient. The onus is on them to convince the Jewish community, Ontarians and Canadians that they're sincere."

The FSWC and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) are concerned about a curriculum of the East End Madrassah that called Jews "treacherous," "crafty," accused them of conspiring to kill the prophet Muhammad, and in a section on jihad, compared the beliefs of the Jews with those of Nazis.

York Regional Police's hate crimes unit is investigating the curriculum as possibly promoting hatred of Jews. The FSWC had asked police to look into the material.

The curriculum was removed last week from the website of the East End Madrassah. The madrassah rents space for its classes at the David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute, a public high school in the Lawrence Avenue and Brimley Road area. The madrassah is run by the Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat (ISIJ), located in Thornhill.

Although the East End Madrassah pulled the curriculum from the web, it was, however, still available elsewhere online. The curriculum acknowledges that, "This textbook is based on the Islamic Law & Ethics series by Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi and material from www.madressa.net."

A report in the *National Post* linked passages in the curriculum to books published by two Iranian foundations, the Al Balagh Foundation and the Mostazafan Foundation of New York. The United States alleges the latter was a front organization for the Iranian government.

"As Canadians, we are deeply troubled at the notion that children in our country are learning from materials published by an organization that, according to the FBI, is directly controlled by the ayatollahs of Iran," said CIJA chair David Koschitzky.

Responding to concerns about the curriculum's content, the ISIJ ran a "communiqué" on the front page of its website (jaffari.org), signed by Imam Rizvi. It states that the ISIJ has long been involved in interfaith dialogue and has won a Harmony Award with its neighbour, Temple Har Zion, for promoting Canadian values.

The document also states: "While the revelation of the existence of inappropriate language used in the material on the East End Madrasah (EEM) website is hurtful to the Jewish community, and an unreserved apology has been offered to them, it was also hurtful to us, because we sense that this may have disappointed our fellow citizens who have known us and what we stand for. The EEM has acknowledged a failure within its internal system that has enabled unauthorized content to be included in the textbook without appropriate review. We are committed to improve the system to ensure that such mistakes are not repeated.

"As of this moment, we have reached out to the representatives of Jewish organizations and others to work with our community partners to foster better understanding and relationship between the faith groups... We are also internally reviewing our policies, procedures, and the curriculum to understand what went wrong, and how to avoid similar incidents in the future."

Benlolo, however, said, "It appears to me that over the years, they've talked about interfaith relationships, but clearly from the course, they're involved in teaching material that is hateful and antisemitic. We've made that known to them. You can't teach hatred against another group. You can't call Jews treacherous, conniving or [like] Nazis. It's wrong."

CIJA spokesperson David Spiro said he is concerned there is no way to know how long the material was on the web, how many people saw it and whether similar material is being taught in other schools. "We want to make sure it does not go on, that these kinds of lesson plans full of hatred and vilification of Jews should not be used on TDSB premises," said Spiro.

The school board issued a news release stating that it "does not support or tolerate any group that promotes hatred.

"We will continue to work with police on their investigation and will take appropriate action pending the conclusion of the investigation."

The release also noted that the permission given to third parties to use TDSB facilities includes a provision against breaking the law or promoting hatred, breach of which could lead to cancellation of the permit.

Benlolo said "we've been in contact" with the East End Madrassah, and, "it's not friendly."

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## CHAT HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING FOR GUTTMAN FAMILY SCIENCE WING

**The Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto held the official groundbreaking for its $7.5-million Guttman Family Science wing on May 11. The 15,000-square-foot facility, scheduled to open in September 2013, will house five science labs, a greenhouse, a science garden and a courtyard. Participating in the groundbreaking were Allan, left, and Helen Guttman, after whom the science wing is named; TanenbaumCHAT general studies principal Helen Fox, behind them; and, beside her from left, TanenbaumCHAT director of education Paul Shaviv; honorary chairs of the science wing's fundraising initiative, Warren Kimel, Debbie Kimel and Larry Tanenbaum, and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto CEO, Ted Sokolsky.** ***[Sheri Shefa photo]***

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# Ontario, Israel urged to boost brain research

Carolyn Blackman
Staff Reporter

Israeli President Shimon Peres says Ontario and Israel should increase their research co-operation in developing new treatments for neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Peres spoke at a roundtable sponsored by Baycrest in partnership with the Ontario Brain Institute and the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation during his state visit to Canada last week.

Addressing the panel, Peres said that "we live in a new age with an old mind. There is a disharmony between how we live and what we have to face."

In modern human development, he said, land has suddenly stopped being humanity's major provider. "It has been replaced by science, and science is totally different. The army can't control science, and science doesn't have borders.

"The brain is the most brilliant instrument we possess. It guides us, but we don't have any idea how it functions. We know what is happening around us, but we don't know what is happening inside us. We have to try to understand this mechanism. [It contains] one of the greatest secrets of our lifetime."

Also participating in the roundtable were experts in various areas of brain research and the commercialization of applications related to it.

They included University of Toronto president David Naylor; Peter Carlen, senior scientist at the Toronto Western Research Institute; Rafi Gidron, founder and chair of Israel Brain Technologies; Randy McIntosh, director of Baycrest's Rotman Research Institute, and John Soloninka, president and CEO of HTX – the Health Technology Exchange.

**Israeli President Shimon Peres, left, is greeted by Dr. William Reichman, president and CEO of Baycrest, at a brain research roundtable in Toronto on May 9.**

Each spoke briefly about their respective areas of research or expertise, and each praised the potential scientific, medical and other benefits to Canada and Israel of increasing such high-level collaboration between the two countries.

In introducing the roundtable, William Reichman, president and CEO of Baycrest, said that two years ago, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty led a trade mission to Israel and the West Bank to promote Ontario's innovative life sciences companies, as well as to attract investment and strengthen cultural ties.

It was during that mission, Reichman said, that participants realized the world was on the threshold of a new age.

"Whoever we are, we are enabled by a healthy mind, and a healthy mind is supported by a healthy brain. We must find the next generation of therapies."

He said that if the onset of Alzheimer's disease can be delayed by five years, the prevalence of the disease could be lowered by 50 per cent.

"If it can be delayed by 10 years, it could be eradicated," Reichman said.

"We must do for brain [research] in coming years, what we have done for heart research."

Panel facilitator Henri Rothschild, president of the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF), said that brain research spans a range of disciplines, from research to application.

The panel, he said, represents a road map of what Canadians are capable of doing as partners with Israel.

Soloninka, the self-described "business guy" on the panel, said that globally, Ontario stands fourth in neuroscience research. "Israel and Ontario [share a vision] and have the ability to contribute to each other. The Brain Institute embodies that collaboration."

# 'The test of this government is if it works for peace'

**Continued from page 3**

Peres, 88, delivered his comments against the backdrop of media speculation that Israel may be preparing to launch a preemptive attack on Iran.

Looking somewhat physically frail but completely mentally alert, he was formally introduced by Canadian filmmaker Robert Lantos, who called him "the personification of the Zionist dream and Israel's ambassador to the world."

Taking questions on a bare stage from conservative Canadian journalist David Frum, Peres was asked his opinion of Israel's new coalition government, headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and bolstered by the addition of the centrist Kadima party, headed by Shaul Mofaz.

"The test of this government is if it works for peace," he said in a reference to the stalled peace process with the Palestinians.

But Israel's government will also be judged by its stance on Iran, he noted.

Peres, who recently praised Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas as "a worthy and serious partner [who] can deliver the goods," expressed hope regarding the prospects for peace.

Noting that the PA has embarked on a program to build up its economy and a network of institutions in the West Bank, Peres advised Israel "to conclude this process" with a formal peace agreement.

Warning that a peace accord will exact a price from both sides, and may even be imperfect, he observed, "To make peace, you have to make concessions."

Commenting that compromise is the essence of negotiations, Peres likened peace to romantic love: "You can't achieve [it] unless you close your eyes a bit."

Peres, claiming that the gap between Israel and the Palestinians has narrowed by a considerable degree, declared that an agreement should be based on a two-state solution in which Israel and a future Palestinian state coexist in peace and mutual understanding.

"There is an Israeli consensus that peace should be based on two states."

If Israel managed to forge a peace agreement with Jordan, there is no reason why Israel cannot live in peace with a Palestinian state, he said.

Asked whether Israeli settlements in the West Bank are provocative, Peres, once a champion of settlements, deflected the question, saying he saw no sense in "criticizing the past."

Implicitly defending the expansion of existing settlements to accommodate population increases, he suggested that Israel's retention of settlement blocs should be enshrined in a peace agreement.

In reply to questions about current developments in the Arab world, Peres said he expects Israel's peace agreement with Egypt to hold and the Baathist regime in Syria to fall.

He also claimed that the problems besetting Arab governments today turn on economics rather than politics.

Peres acknowledged that Israeli Arabs – a minority comprising 20 per cent of Israel's population – suffer from economic discrimination because the high-tech revolution that has changed Israel has virtually passed them by. But Israel is trying to remedy this problem, he said.

Turning to Israel's bilateral relations with foreign countries, Peres described its relationship with the United States as "very warm." As he put it, "Israel enjoys friendship and admiration in the United States." Still, he admitted, disagreements emerge from time to time.

In a brief survey of Israeli diplomacy, Peres said Israel has good relations with China, India, the Vatican, Canada and the nations of Europe.

He then thanked the Jewish community in Toronto for being so loyal to Israel.

Recalling Israel's birth in 1948, he mused that Israel hardly stood a chance against the combined might of seven attacking Arab armies. "We were outmanned and outgunned," said Peres, who played a key role in procuring weapons for Israel at the time.

In philosophical and humorous reflections about Israel's early days and the hardships Jewish pioneers endured in settling an inhospitable land short of water, Peres quipped, "We have two lakes. One is dead, the other is dying."

Warming to his topic, he said, "We had nothing, and that made us a great people. The people enriched the land."

Peering into the future, he said, "Israel will live more and more on science. We will succeed on the basis of science, daring and a will to improve. We are the people of Facebook."

In conclusion, Peres maintained that "the force of ideas is greater than the strength of armies," and said that Israel's quest for perfection is well worth pursuing, even if it falls short of the mark.

Outside the Sony Centre, with police looking on nervously, pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian groups held aloft Israeli and Palestinian flags and waved placards inscribed with such slogans as "Support Israel" and "Stop Israeli apartheid."

With the Palestinians and their supporters chanting "Free, free Palestine" and "Viva, viva Palestina," a man on the opposite side of the road roared into a megaphone, "Israel has wanted peace from day one! Israel strives for peace!"

**Israeli president addresses Montreal's Jewish community. Please read complete account on our website at cjnews.com**

**Please see pages 8, 9 for more coverage.**

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# A historic visit

By any and every measure, the recently concluded state visit to Canada by Israeli President Shimon Peres must be hailed as a pointedly moving and even far-reaching success. As our staff writer in Montreal noted about Peres' visit there, "Israel's ninth president was received as a revered and iconic historical figure."

This observation was true of the Jewish community members with whom the 88-year-old president met in his three-city tour and also of the broader community – politicians, scientists, professionals, academics, entrepreneurs, industrialists and businessmen – with whom he met.

Indeed, Peres' visit may very well have redefined the notion of bilateral relations between the two sovereign states. To be sure, the conventional markers of Canada's diplomatic and intergovernmental relations with Israel were heartily and demonstrably confirmed to be strong and sturdy.

But so great a proportion of the president's visit was spent with men and women steeped in biological sciences, high-tech industries and all manner of knowledge-based spheres of endeavour that the seeds were planted of a new paradigm of bilateral relations comprising a vast life-improving, society-enhancing network between Canada and Israel of myriad, interconnected, science-based filaments of contacts, joint ventures, cooperative explorations and partnered programs.

One of the guests who attended the state dinner in Peres' honour was so impressed by the non-political, non-conventional nature of the focus of the many public meetings in which the Israeli president took part that he told *The CJN* "the Peres visit represented a turning point in Canada-Israel relations."

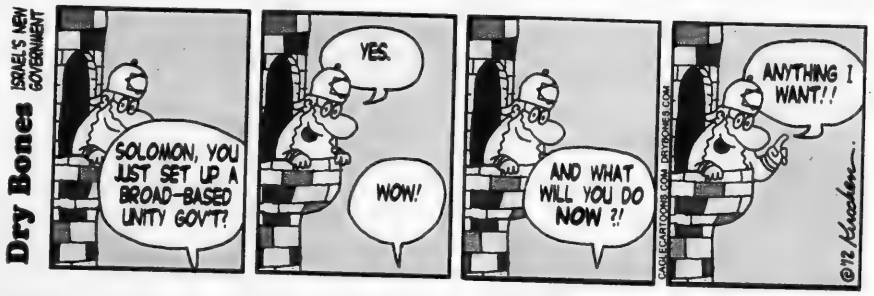
The president's participation at the very outset of his visit in the signing of an agreement between the Royal Society of Canada and the Israel Academy of Sciences was a clear indication that this visit would be different than state visits of the past. The emphasis that Peres personally brought to his Canadian hosts was a singular stress on matters of the mind, not of material, on harnessing the vast potential of the human being's yearning to seek and discover rather than on the human being's yearning to acquire and possess.

Peres and Gov. Gen. David Johnston painted a new, grand design for bilateral ties between Canada and Israel that reimagines strategic relations resting upon much sounder footing than "mere" pillars of defence and security.

Their design includes far longer-lasting and more profoundly substantive pillars such as bilateral trade in knowledge, partnered technological development, collaborative scientific innovation, binational institutions of joint research and all that yet remains to be discovered and applied in the inexhaustible realm of human need, curiosity, science and knowledge that will lead to mutual economic benefit and, far more importantly, to untold humanitarian benefit for all mankind.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Jehan Sadat, wife of assassinated Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, urged Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat to emulate her husband's visit to Israel as a gesture toward peace. Sadat, who was in Montreal to speak to the Jewish community, also urged Israel to recognize the PLO.

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## Tribute to Israel

Reborn out of the ashes of the worst period in human history, Israel has blossomed into a country that should truly be and in many ways is the envy of the world. While it has produced one of the world's most robust and dynamic economies, a flourishing civilian army and has exported life-saving medical technologies around the globe, we must never forget Israel's role as a safe haven for global Jewry. Reports indicate that violence against European Jewry has increased, and Canada witnessed 68 hate crimes against Jews in 2011. If history is any guide, there's no indication that such acts will decline in the future. With the recent Jewish day-school shooting in Toulouse, France, and the rash of antisemitic incidents that plagued Brooklyn, N.Y., last November, we are constantly reminded as to how much we need Israel.

Although the rest of the world routinely subjects Israel to the gravest of double standards in the court of world opinion, and kindergartners in Sderot and Ashkelon routinely spend their afternoon recesses in bomb shelters, Israel continues to flourish as the world's only Jewish state, while justly and vehemently defending itself, even though the odds are and have been stacked against it.

We thank you Israel for all you have done for us these past 64 years. You have been there for us and we will always be there for you. There will never be a time when you will be taken for granted, forgotten or neglected by the Jewish People. We need you at 64 more than ever and will continue to celebrate the days of your rebirth for eternity.

**Justin Abrams**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

* * *

## Turkey cast Jewish refugees adrift

Although Israel was cleared by the United Nations of any wrongdoing in the 2010 flotilla incident involving the Mavi Marmara, Turkey continues to press for a formal Israeli apology and financial compensation for the deaths of nine Turkish activists, using its veto power to bar Israel from next week's NATO summit in Chicago ("Turkey nixes Israeli involvement in NATO summit," April 26).

Turkey need not hold its breath. We are still waiting for an official Turkish apology and restitution for its shameful role in the tragedy of the S.S. Struma 70 years ago. Packed with Romanian and Bulgarian Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust during World War II, the ill-fated Struma limped into Istanbul harbour in December of 1941. Instead of offering those poor souls refuge or allowing them overland passage to safety in British-controlled Palestine, the supposedly neutral Turks towed the hapless and inoperative Struma and its human cargo into the Black Sea and cast it adrift. All of its 769 passengers, save for one sole survivor, perished on Feb. 24, 1942, when the Struma was torpedoed and sunk by a Russian submarine. Perhaps Turkey ought first to finally apologize and offer redress for the S.S. Struma before continuing to make similar demands of Israel for the Mavi Marmara!

**Ralph Schleichkorn**
**Montreal**

### *LET THEM GO...*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

* * *

## Pollard is dying

Over 27 years have passed since Jonathan Pollard was sentenced to life imprisonment for spying for Israel. He is the only person in American history to receive a similar sentence for passing classified information to an ally. Such a harsh sentence is in large part due to then-U.S. secretary of defence Caspar Weinberger's well-known personal antipathy to Jews and the State of Israel. Since then, Pollard has spent almost half of his life in prison. His health has deteriorated tremendously. In the meantime, important U.S. officials and members of the security establishment have called for his release, including former CIA director James Woolsey, former secretary of state George Schultz, former deputy defence secretary Lawrence Korb and Senate select intelligence committee chairman Dennis Deconcini. I ask, where is Canadian Jewry? Where are our leaders? Why have they not added their voices publicly to the call for Pollard's immediate release? Pollard is dying. When will Canadian Jewry join with Jews worldwide in saying: "Enough is Enough! Justice for Jonathan Pollard"?

**Russell Sitrit-Leibovich**
**Montreal**

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# Canada welcomes a president

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Israeli President Shimon Peres was in Canada from May 6 to 10, during which he met with many politicians and dignitaries, and addressed the Jewish communities of Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto.

After his state visit ended, it was revealed that midway through, Peres, 88, had developed a hernia that, according to *CJN* sources, kept him in constant pain for the duration of his tour.

Despite this, he refused to cancel any of his scheduled meetings.

He was slated to meet Quebec Premier Jean Charest last Thursday prior to his return to Israel – where he underwent successful surgery on his hernia shortly after his arrival – but the premier cancelled due to a scheduling conflict.

Pictured are some of Peres' key encounters on his four-day visit.

Clockwise from top left, Peres signs the Senate and House of Commons distinguished visitors guest books, with Prime Minister Stephen Harper in the background *[Jill Thompson photo]*; Peres inspects a Canadian honour guard; Gov. Gen. David Johnston, far left, looks on as Peres plants a ceremonial tree at Rideau Hall; Peres meets Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, and Peres, far right, witnesses the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Royal Society of Canada and the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities. *[Mark Neyman photos]*

# In praise of civil servants

In this age of cutting jobs in the public civil service, both provincially and federally, I thought it was time to look at the reasons why we have civil servants, and what, if anything, our tradition offers to the discussion.

Full disclosure: for more than 20 years I was a Jewish civil servant, at Hillel, then Canadian Jewish Congress' Pacific region (alas, no longer in existence, a development worthy of an article all on its own), then with the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver. I dabbled in the public sphere, working for the Vancouver Health Board in one of its iterations, as well as other non-profits.

Let's look at what the bureaucracy does for us as citizens.

Start with the minister – any minister. They get placed in a portfolio about which they may know nothing – who can't think of a multitude of examples? Usually, a portfolio is awarded not for the expertise of the person receiving it, but for the political reward (or punishment) it represents. Far down the rung are things such as multiculturalism and status of women, or family and child services (in a provincial career-killing portfolio) and of course aboriginal affairs.

The high-status stuff? Foreign affairs, treasury or defence, except for those planes and submarines, which have large albatrosses painted on their sides.

Who, then, is in charge of the store, making sure that the ministry runs smoothly, on a time track and within budget, delivering the services we expect in return for our taxes? Who labours to preserve the environment, look after children and families in crisis, make sure that our roads, parks, and other amenities are properly shepherded? Civil servants, who know the ministry and can make sure things get done.

***Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver***

When less gets allocated, less gets done. With less, you can only do less.

I look at the current call for slimming, or in some cases, gutting the federal civil service, and I note that most of it currently focuses on things like the environment, services benefiting more vulnerable populations, and "frills" such as national archives and parks. After all, who cares about the nation's history or Canada's green and pleasant land when there's oil to be routed, mines to be dug, rivers to dam, planes to fly?

And for a government that says, "We don't govern by statistics," I guess there's little need for Statistics Canada.

But I'm here to write about Jewish Canadian issues. Well, the environment, water, trees, animals, people with needs, our history, and information about these things *are* a concern for us as Jewish citizens of Canada.

As a community civil servant, I was mentored by people who cared deeply about the Jewish community. They also cared deeply about the welfare of the general community and the health of the state. They saw that we have an obligation that goes beyond our own interests and extends outward to the people, air and water all around us. If one part of that whole becomes stunted or ill, it infects the entire body of the greater community.

As Jewish bureaucrats, we were fortunate to have many volunteers to work with. Government services don't have that luxury. It's up to the civil servant to do her master's bidding, but it's the responsibility of the worker to make sure the minister (or deputy, more often) has the tools to make good decisions. And it's the responsibility of elected officials to know how to use the continuing expertise of the bureaucrats wisely, so that the citizens benefit from the workings of government.

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So let's not dump on the bureaucrats, or toss them out like last year's phone book. Without them, we'd be sunk in short order.

"Rabban Gamliel, son of Rabbi Judah Hanasi taught: ... All who work for the community should do so for the sake of heaven, for their ancestral merit will support them, and their righteousness endures forever." (Pirkei Avot 2:2)

The rabbi meant, of course, the Jewish community. But let's not forget that Judah Hanasi worked very closely with the Romans, to the benefit of his people.

And should we want to extend it to today's very ramified community structures, give the civil servants their due. Without them, we would be a poorer, less well-served, nation, ignorant of our past and our present. Believe me, civil servants earn their salaries and more.

# Challah links us to personal and national memories

Why does the smell of a challah baking bring such wonderful memories?

As I walked in to my local bakery the other day, I was overwhelmed with thoughts of home and grandparents. I remember both my grandmother's kitchen and my Bubby's. Each was different. Each was filled with wonderful years of family, joy, laughter and definitely good food. Why is it that the aroma itself can immediately stimulate such intense feelings and nostalgia? Sometimes it seems that our heritage is wrapped up in that distinctive fragrance and taste, one that has so many variations, yet so many identical formulations. I hope my grandkids will have similar neural pathways – from nose to memory's heartland.

(If you want to sell your house quickly, bake a challah for the open house. Let the aroma filter throughout. It works like a charm, or so a real estate agent once told my mother-in-law.)

The braided-challah tradition has for generations earned our esteem for its symbolic presence on our tables, and for its absolute sumptuousness. But it was not always so. The rich braided egg bread so easily identified as challah is actually a German/Austrian (Teutonic) invention – not Jewish at all. It was called *holle* and Jews picked it up in the 15th century. Gil Marks writes all about it in his very erudite and fascinating *Encyclopedia of Jewish Food*.

Isn't it amazing to learn that what we think of as uniquely ours, as indigenous to our tradition, is in fact borrowed? So many people know this bread as Jewish bread. We have made it so. Not only is it untrue historically, but there are many Jewish communities that have used different bread forms for their Sabbath and festival challot. Some used different words for different kinds of breads, like *berches*, *dabo* and *chapatis*. Some Middle Eastern communities use large pita breads for this tradition. Today, even among some with other customs, the braided egg challah is spreading. It's truly a scrumptious custom.

There is dispute as to the actual meaning of the word challah. It might mean portion, or thick, or pierced. It also refers to the portion of dough that's burned in memory of the tithed bread given to the priests, the *kohanim*. Challah in the Bible referred to the 12 loaves in the Temple. There are some beautiful prayers said at the time of challah baking, *tchines*, private petitional prayers that women said as they put their challot into the oven.

The tradition of eating challah emanates from a biblical story told of the Jews wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. During that time, they ate manna from heaven. They were commanded to rest on the Sabbath – no work, not even that of collecting their food, was to be done on Shabbat. The solution: a double portion of manna was "delivered" on Friday. In acknowledgment of this act, Jews put two breads on their Sabbath and festival tables to start their meals. The Sabbath loaves are covered, just like the manna was covered by the dew for protection.

***Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal***

Thus the symbolic meaning of the challah links the individual diner to history and to a national tradition of biblical proportions. It brings forward the glory days of a nation at its elemental beginning, finding its liberation from slavery, its moment of revelation at Sinai and then its slow growth in a long march to full nationhood. By linking challah to manna, certain vital themes are refreshed and established anew for each individual. All this through a lovely piece of bread.

Eventually, these loaves of bread come to dominate notions of festive meals and shared family times. The smell of the bread baking reminds people of all sorts of lovely times with siblings, cousins, parents and grandparents. The smell alone evokes the sense of belonging and longing. That is the essence of nostalgia.

It behooves us to learn about our rich and varied culinary customs. In recipes, we can see a heritage played out between symbolic food items and incorporated foreign items. The foods and associated customs indicate our historic intermingling among the nations. We have managed to keep our kashrut forms while learning the designs and tastes of others. We expanded and diversified and somehow made them uniquely our own. There is a wonderful story hidden in each of our culinary cultures.

# *Israel wary of second round of nuclear talks*

***Sheldon Kirshner***

***in Toronto***

The widely anticipated second round of talks on Iran's controversial nuclear program, set to take place in Baghdad on May 23, will be watched by Israel with a mixture of skepticism and wariness.

Israel, having threatened to launch a pre-emptive attack on Iranian nuclear sites in the face of international opposition, is profoundly concerned that the negotiations will not yield satisfactory results and let Iran off the hook.

Israel's objectives are clear: Iran must transfer its stock of 20 per cent enriched uranium to a third-party nation and ship most its low-enriched uranium out of the country. To Israel, enrichment is the key issue: uranium refined to 20 per cent purity is only a few steps away from bomb-grade uranium.

Iran's ambition to become a member of the exclusive nuclear club, to which Israel belongs, might never have been a burning issue had Iran been willing to coexist with the Jewish state. But since Iran's leaders do not accept Israel's existence, have repeatedly called for its destruction and engage in Holocaust denial to boot, Israel is understandably worried by the spectre of an Iranian atomic bomb.

Iran claims that its nuclear program is peaceful in nature, designed to generate electricity and produce medical isotopes. To Israel, this claim is preposterous. The six world powers – the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany – that will engage Iran next week in Iraq are, to say the least, skeptical about its intentions.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is wary, too.

Last November, the IAEA released an ominous report expressing "serious concerns regarding the possible military dimensions" of Iran's nuclear program and noting that Iran "has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device."

Meanwhile, the director of the U.S. National Intelligence office, James Clapper, has warned that Iran's advances in uranium enrichment "strengthens our assessment that Iran has the scientific, technical and industrial capacity to eventually produce nuclear weapons."

The big unanswered question, he added, is whether Iran has the political will to manufacture such weapons.

Both sides, Iran and the six powers, were satisfied with the first round of talks, held in Istanbul on April 14 and hosted by Turkey.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has likened Iran to Nazi Germany, disagreed with the upbeat assessment, saying Iran had been given a "freebie," or yet more time to enrich its stockpile of uranium.

Israel's defence minister, Ehud Barak, has sounded a similar theme. Having asserted that the six-power talks "do not fill me with confidence," he has dismissed the likelihood that Iran will succumb to diplomatic pressure and end its suspected militarized nuclear program.

"We're not playing games here," Barak declared, suggesting that Israel's threat to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities by military means is not merely rhetorical. "Israel cannot afford to be duped."

Netanyahu, rightly or wrongly, is concerned that the six powers may suspend or ease sanctions against Iran in exchange for an Iranian promise to partially freeze uranium enrichment.

In an attempt to soothe Israel's fears, Catherine Ashton, the foreign minister of the European Union and the co-ordinator of the talks, visited Israel last week and told Netanyahu about the Istanbul talks and preparations for the second round.

Ashton's visit was arranged by Netanyahu's national security adviser, Yaakov Amidror, who conferred recently with her deputy, Helga Schmid, in Brussels.

With the talks in Baghdad just a week away, both sides appear fairly optimistic that a breakthrough is possible.

In Tehran, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi voiced optimism that the impasse can be settled. As he put it late in April, "If one step ahead was taken in Istanbul, we will certainly take several steps ahead in Baghdad."

In Vienna, the headquarters of the IAEA, the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council – the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France – expressed hope that "a sustained process of serious dialogue" can be launched and that the Baghdad talks can lead to "concrete steps toward a comprehensive negotiated solution which restores international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program."

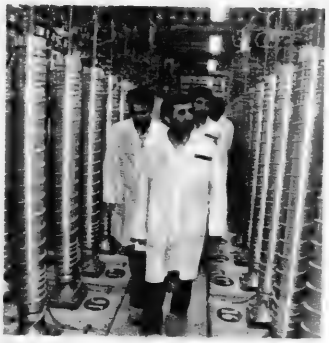
Given Iran's spotty track record in previous negotiations, skeptics have yet to be convinced that the Iranian leadership is sincerely interested in resolving this problem. Indeed, critics argue that Iran has used talks only to buy time and improve its technical capabilities.

Nonetheless, as U.S. President Barack Obama has observed, "there is still time to pursue a diplomatic solution."

According to a recent report in the Times of Israel website, the vast majority of Israel's political, military and intelligence leadership believes that Israel should not act hastily and give sanctions and diplomacy a chance to work.

American officials who dread the prospect of U.S. involvement in a war between Israel and Iran share this belief, saying that biting sanctions, the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists and cyber warfare have induced Iran to adopt a more conciliatory approach.

Iran's sanguine portrayal of the Istanbul talks and its positive spin of the forthcoming negotiations in Baghdad may be significant. Iran, perhaps, is preparing Iranian public opinion for a historic deal on the nuclear file.



**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad inspects the Natanz uranium enrichment facility.**

True or not, the Iranian issue has unleashed deep-seated passions in Israel.

Meir Dagan, the former director of the Mossad, has warned that an Israeli attack on Iran, even if successful, would be stupid and reckless, touching off a devastating regional war. Yuval Diskin, the former head of Shin Bet, has accused the government of misleading the public" about the effectiveness of an Israeli strike and has questioned the motives of Netanyahu and Barak.

Gen. Benny Gantz, the chief of staff, has said that Iran has not yet decided whether to build a nuclear arsenal. Israel's president, Shimon Peres, has reservations about a unilateral Israeli strike. Ehud Olmert, Netanyahu's predecessor, has counselled caution and called on the United States to take the lead.

Barak has condemned Dagan, Diskin and Olmert, archly suggesting that they are serving Iran's interests. Barak's analysis is questionable at best, but Israel's strident denunciation of Iran's nuclear ambitions has already paid dividends, having emboldened western powers, Russia and China to impose credible economic sanctions on the Iranian regime.

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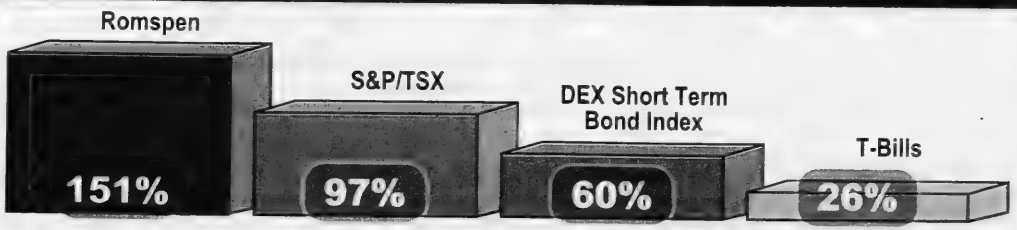


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# UC minister wants more balance on Mideast

Rev. Andrew Love is pastor at the Grace St. Andews United Church in Arnprior, Ont.

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**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

By speaking out against a United Church working group's recommendations on Israel, Rev. Andrew Love said he was hoping to swing the church back toward a more balanced and "positive" approach to the Mideast conflict.

The situation in the Middle East is complex, and taking sides only causes friction with the Jewish community, he said.

"I'm concerned that in the name of being in solidarity with the Palestinian people we may be undermining our relationship with the Jewish community," said Rev. Love, pastor at the Grace St. Andrews United Church in Arnprior Ont., west of Ottawa.

Rev. Love was reacting to a recent report by a church committee that called for a boycott of products from Israeli settlements. The group's document, which will be debated at the church's General Council in August, also declared that the deepest meaning of the Holocaust was the loss of dignity for Jews – a statement quickly followed by one saying Palestinians also suffer a loss of dignity under Israeli occupation. The document conditionally rejected the use of the term "apartheid" to describe Israel, but left open the possibility it could be applied if circumstances changed.

"The heart of the issue for me is that I'm concerned the church is eroding the commitment it made in 2003 to strengthen ties to the Jewish community," Rev. Love said, referring to a document adopted that year by the General Council, *Bearing Faithful Witness*.

Rev. Love said the church should focus on positive ways of bringing Israelis and Palestinians together and not take positions on complex political issues.

He recently launched a website, faithfulwitness.ca, "to gather support from other people concerned about the United Church's drift away from the commitment it made in 2003 to strengthen its ties to the Jewish community."

The site urges others to "join me in calling on the General Council to adopt a more balanced policy. To borrow words from rabbis-letter.org, the Working Group report 'shamefully paints Israel as a pariah nation' that is solely responsible for the violence and conflict with the Palestinians. The authors of the report never hold Palestinians or surrounding Arab nations to moral accountability'," the website states.

Rev. Love, who's been associated with seven churches since being ordained in 2009, believes that "the views reflected in the working group report do not line up with [churchgoers'] views. The average person in the pews is just like me in the sense of looking for more balance and a less one-sided judgment, in this case, a judgment against the State of Israel.

"They feel we should come with more humility and play a more positive role and a less divisive role."

Rev. Love said he "reluctantly came to the conclusion that there's a radical agenda working here, and the folks behind that agenda are better at influencing policy than I am."

Rev. Love said he does not plan to attend the General Council. "I'm not planning any kind of organized effort. I'm just trying to lift up the voice that was behind the 2003 effort to the Jewish community."

He said that since he voiced his opinions in a *National Post* article, he's received 16 calls from Jews who thanked him for his position.

"I didn't anticipate that, but what it tells me is that it speaks to the real feeling of isolation in part of the Jewish community in Canada, that they're not hearing from the Christian community support, understanding and sensitivity.

"If all I can do here is to say to the Jewish community that there are some of us trying to understand your perspective, then that will be useful."


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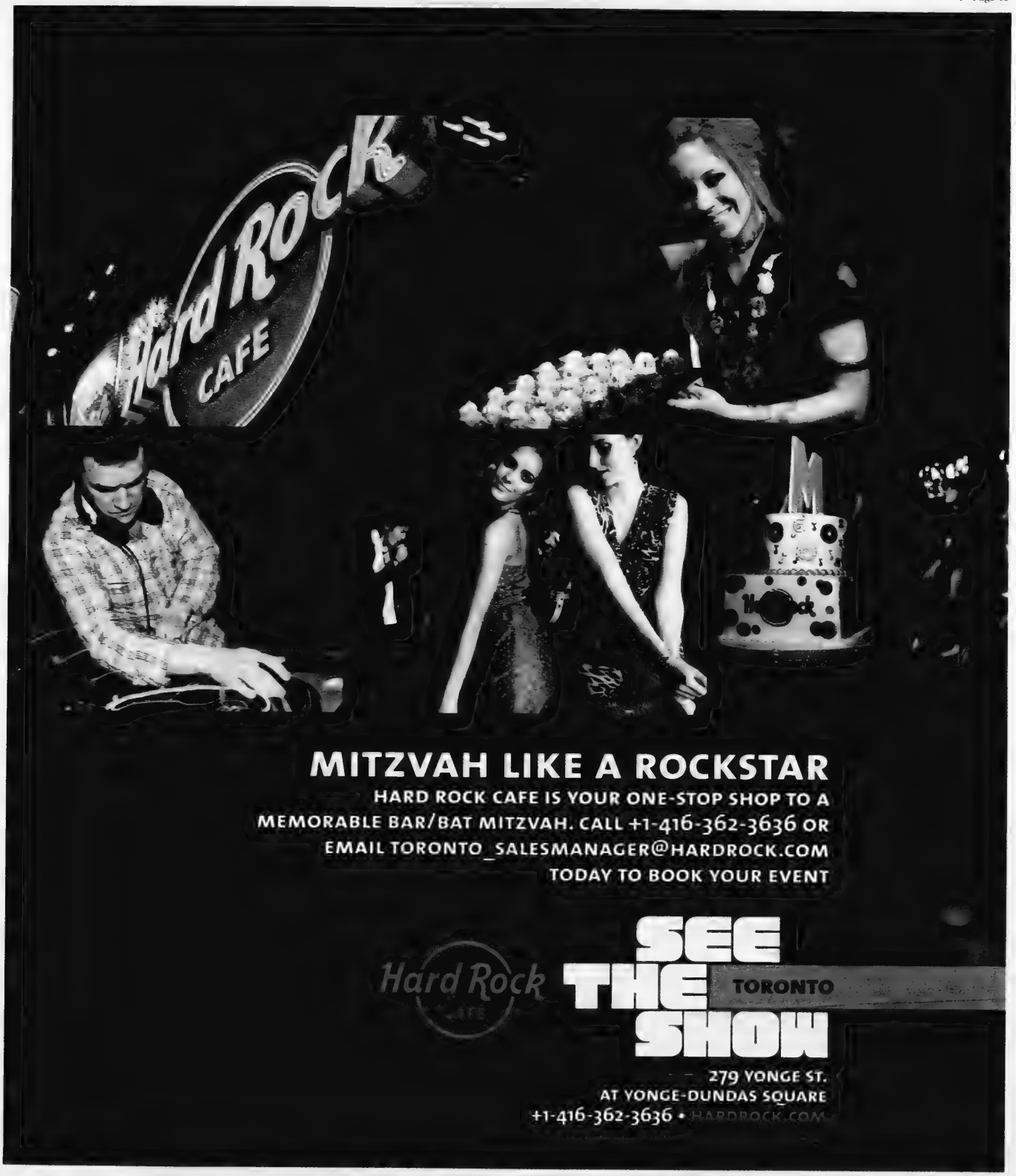
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# Jewish contribution to Ontario lauded

Michelle Bitran
Intern

This May marks the first-ever Ontario Jewish Heritage Month, and Torontonians came out to celebrate in style at Beth Torah Congregation last week.

About 150 community members attended the inaugural Jewish Heritage Month celebration on May 7, which included a musical performance by Cantor Simon Spiro, his wife, Aliza, and the Beth Tzedec Singers, as well as presentations on Ontario's Jewish history and a reception with refreshments.

MPP Mike Colle *[Michelle Bitran photo]*

The decision to designate May as Jewish Heritage Month in the province was finalized when Bill 17, presented by Eglinton-Lawrence MPP Mike Colle, and co-sponsored by Thornhill MPP Peter Shurman and Parkdale-High Park MPP Cheri DiNovo, was passed into law in late February of this year. The month of May was chosen because of the frequency of Yom Hashoah and Yom Hazikaron, as well as various Jewish cultural events, occurring during this month.

Colle welcomed the crowd at Beth Torah and explained the importance of honouring Ontario's Jewish community. "This event is about celebrating, it's about recognizing, it's about acknowledging the amazing contributions and achievements that have been made to this province over the past 200 years by the Jewish community," he said, adding that in addition to contributions to the arts, culture, music and academia, Jews in Ontario have made a significant impact on human rights legislation.

Colle was joined by St. Paul's MPP Eric Hoskins; Beth Torah's rabbi, Yossi Sapirman; the director of the Ontario Jewish Archives, Dara Solomon; the executive director of women's philanthropy at the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Susan Jackson, and former CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Bernie Farber.

Farber elaborated on Colle's words about Jewish Ontarians who advocated for human rights. He explained that the concepts of justice and compassion, or tzedek, and tikkun olam, or making the world a better place, are part of the foundation of Judaism.

"The pursuit of dignity and righteousness is specified in our Talmud," said Farber. He added that because of the Jewish People's "historic understanding and experience with discrimination and hatred," they are well placed to understand and to fight for the protection and fair treatment of others.

Despite discrimination, Ontario's Jewish community, now estimated at about 200,000 people, has been thriving for almost 200 years. Jackson's dynamic presentation included the stories about historic Jewish institutions in the province, among them Mount Sinai Hospital, the Kiever Shul in Kensington Market and United Bakers Dairy Restaurant, which recently celebrated its 100-year anniversary.

"We are about our stories," said Jackson, explaining the importance of Ontario's Jewish history. Solomon, in her presentation of materials from the Ontario Jewish Archives, echoed that sentiment.

She showed some of the photographs and postcards that represent only a tiny fraction of the vast collection of letters, videos, films and other historical artifacts held at the archives.

For Solomon, who has only recently begun her work at the archives, it is important that the greater Jewish community be able to easily access the wealth of information about the past. "My plan is to make the archives much more accessible through the various social media tools that are out there," she said.

Hoskins, in his speech, also stressed the importance of sharing and celebrating the history of the province's Jewish community, which has "not only overcome tremendous adversity, but has established itself at the heart of Ontario," he said.

Hoskins added that Jewish contribution has been integral to the province's development and is indivisible from Ontario's growth. "Jewish history and Jewish heritage – really that's Ontario's history and Ontario's heritage."

**MITZVAH DAY: On Mitzvah Day, families and staff at the Toronto Heschel School participated in various mitzvot to assist the community. Pictured are Avery, left, Lily and Joseph holding packed bags filled with personal care items for children in foster care with Jewish Family & Child. Other mitzvot included a community clean up, collecting recycled electronics, distributing rain barrels and baking cookies for the Ve'ahavta outreach van.**

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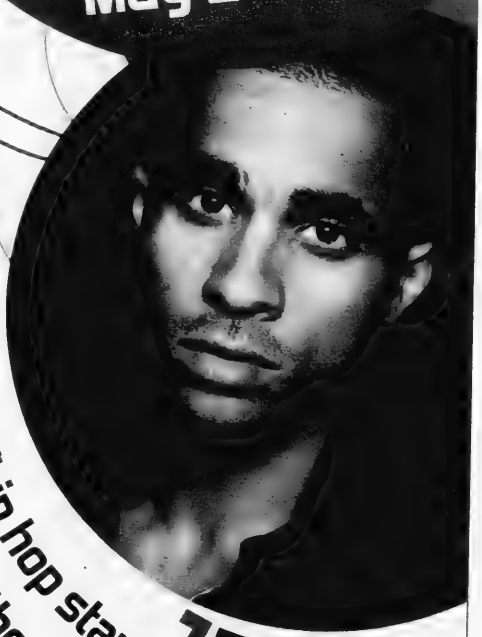
12:00 p.m. Festival @ Ontario Place



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# Seeing the potential in others

**Rabbi Eliezer Breitowitz**

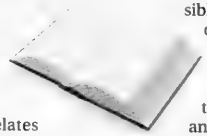
One of the most complex and arcane sections of the Torah deals with a skin disease called *nega tzara'at*, usually *mis*-translated as leprosy. Regarding the legal requirement that the diagnosis of this condition must be made by the priest, the Talmud states, "Every *nega* one may see, except his own." In our inspirational literature, this teaching is often cited in a figurative way: all faults one may see, except his own. This, of course, points to the fact that we see the shortcomings of others with great clarity, but of our own we are oblivious.

We may suggest that this isn't simply a play on words. The metaphoric interpretation is actually the underlying rationale for the legal ruling. For *nega tzara'at* was never understood to be a simple physical ailment. It was always taken as Divine sign of a sinful act or negative personality trait. If a person was to examine his own *nega tzara'at*, he undoubtedly would give himself a favourable diagnosis, as an unfavourable one would point to a flaw that he cannot bring himself to see.

To expand on this idea, we may observe that we often have a difficult time seeing ourselves even in a positive light. Why would this be? Certainly we have no problem noting our achievements and successes. Yet, we may have a problem noting our potentialities, especially when they have not been actualized. There's no greater flaw than unrealized potential. By denying this potential, we spare ourselves the pain of facing the fact that we squander it to our own detriment.

To overcome this blind spot, we may need the encouragement

***Rabbinic Reflections***



of others. Pirkei Avot relates that Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai, leader of the Jewish community in the years following the destruction of the Second Temple, would cite the praises of each of his main disciples. (For example, Rabbi Eliezer ben Hyrkanus was praised as a "plastered cistern that does not lose a drop," a reference to his fantastic memory.) We should assume that this was not simple flattery. Rather, by pointing out their unique strengths, he was forcing them to face the reality of their own potential and rise to the challenge.

Conversely, we find that 24,000 disciples of Rabbi Akiva died for the failure to honour one another. (Mourning this loss is the basis for special observances during the Omer period.) The question has been asked: we know that one of the great teachings of Rabbi Akiva is that the mitzvah to love a fellow Jew is the most fundamental rule of the Torah. Undoubtedly, his disciples absorbed this teaching. If so, how is it possible that they mistreated one another?

The answer is that they did not mistreat one another. The certainly loved each other and would have given the shirt off their backs to friends in need. But they didn't honour one another. That is, they failed to acknowledge the unique characteristics of one another.

Their sin was the failure to enable their colleagues to realize their own potential to the fullest by giving them the needed encouragement. For men who were destined to be future teachers of the Jewish people, this was a fatal flaw.

*Rabbi Eliezer Breitowitz is rosh yeshiva of Yeshiva Darchei Torah.*

# *A proposal for cutting day school fees*

As summer approaches, Jewish day school parents in Toronto will soon be getting notifications about tuition fees for next year. Undoubtedly, fees will rise, as they do every year, at two to three times the rate of inflation. This is to be expected, as cost-cutting measures that might be employed in other industries have little impact in a service industry such as education. Unless one wants to replace teachers in the classroom with some form of online learning, cost-cutting is difficult.

Enrolment will once again drop in our day school system. With high school fees hovering at $25,000 (before "extras") it takes very little imagination to realize that a family earning $200,000 a year and paying full tuition for with three children will have great difficulty making ends meet. With taxes of about $65,000 and tuition another $60,000, that leaves a family of five with $75,000 or so to pay for all other expenses! And the vast majority of Jewish families make substantially less than $200,000 a year.

Ironically, as school fees continue to rise, not only are middle class parents dropping out, so are many wealthy ones. With the gap between a Jewish education and elite private schools narrowing, some parents are choosing the latter.

With millions being spent on communal infrastructure, it's not certain that enough Jews will care 30 years from now to make use of all our wonderful new facilities. I'm well aware that the Toronto community gives more support to Jewish education than any other and that there are many pressing needs besides education. So as we hear repeatedly, there just isn't

***Money Matters***

***Rabbi Jay Kelman CA***

enough money to solve this crisis. After all, how many times can we go back to the same few very wealthy and very generous people and ask for more? Communal funds are tapped out, and to cut tuition in half across the board would cost approximately $100 million a year.

It must be noted that not one additional penny needs to be raised to enable Jewish education to be free in Toronto. A perusal of available public records shows that billions of dollars are sitting in charitable foundations of well-known Jewish philanthropists. That money has already been given away. Unfortunately, very little of it actually goes to charity each year, as capital preservation reigns supreme. If we could change that mindset, the crisis would be solved with the stroke of a pen.

Ah, but if that money is depleted, what will help pay for all other future needs?

The simple answer is that nothing needs to change. The amounts sitting in foundations are so large that all priorities can be paid for, provided one does not feel that capital must be preserved indefinitely. Furthermore, as I have previously argued, as a condition of benefiting from greatly lowered (or free) day school fees, parents can be required to buy life insurance plans at a fraction of the cost of day school fees, the proceeds of which would replenish any "capital depletion."

There's no greater legacy than creating "Birthright Education." Doing so will lead not only to a more engaged community, but to a more giving one, allowing us to support even more worthy causes.

*Send comments to rabbijay@torahinmotion.org.*

# *History of Orthodox student group captures the vibrancy of the 1960s*

Life for a serious Orthodox Jewish student on a North American university campus presents some challenges, but nothing like those that students experienced 50 years ago.

Walking around campus with a *kippah* on one's head was unheard of then. Today at York University, for example, many students and faculty members do so without fear or embarrassment. Back then, it was almost unheard of to find kosher food on campus, and accommodations for students with exams scheduled on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays were not as automatic as they are today.

In 1960, the Orthodox student movement, Yavneh, held its founding international convention. Its purpose was, in part, to help individual Orthodox students solve the practical problems that came with attending secular universities. But it was dedicated primarily to more weighty intellectual and spiritual goals: helping students negotiate the perceived conflicts between secular liberal arts and traditional Judaism. Yavneh as an international student movement had enormous successes. The list of community leaders, respected rabbis and leading scholars of Jewish studies who "graduated" from Yavneh is impressive. Yet the movement disappeared around 1980.

A new book, *The Greening of American Orthodox Judaism: Yavneh in the 1960s*, was published in 2011. The author, the late Prof. Benny Kraut, had just completed the book's manuscript before he died suddenly in 2008. Kraut grew up in Montreal and studied at Yeshiva University and Brandeis University. He had an impressive academic career as a widely respected professor of Jewish studies, first at the University of Cincinnati and then at Queens College of the City University of New York. A modern Orthodox Jew himself, he was profoundly influenced by the years that he spent in Yavneh and admitted that this micro-history book sometimes bordered on memoir.

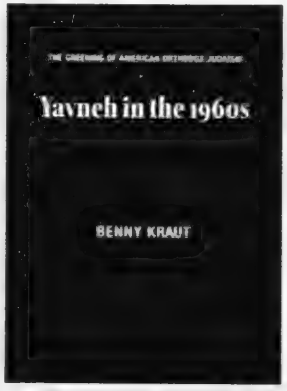
Before I read it, I was concerned that it might have the unfinished feeling of a work that had not been supervised by its author to the end. But it reads beautifully and tells a fascinating story. Two leading scholars of American Jewry, professors Jonathan Sarna and Chaim Waxman, helped the manuscript along to completion. Sarna has written an insightful forward to the book, while Waxman went over the manuscript carefully and has added some helpful footnotes.

One major theme of the book is the following conundrum: to what degree should Orthodox students have been operating within and co-operating with the general Jewish community – specifically within the framework of Hillel, the community-wide Jewish student group, founded in 1923 – and to what degree did they need to have their own separate Orthodox community? Versions of this question have been relevant for Orthodox Jews for more than 150 years, ever since the modern Orthodox Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch encouraged his congregants to secede from the *Grossgemeinde*, the Reform-dominated "Main Community" of German Jews.

*Views & Reviews*

*Martin Lockshin*

Opponents of Yavneh accused it of fomenting strife in the Jewish student community by working on its own. At the University of Toronto in the mid-1960s, Yavneh Toronto organized a debate on the "Pros and Cons of Zionism," with rabbis Bernard Rosenzweig and J. Immanuel Schochet arguing the two sides, respectively. The (non-Orthodox) Hillel rabbi reacted angrily, arguing that Zionism did not belong to the Orthodox alone and that programs like this should always be done through Hillel. This same rabbi also spread a rumour that Conservative Jewish parents would no longer encourage their children to participate in Hillel because they were apprised that "the Orthodox students were taking over."

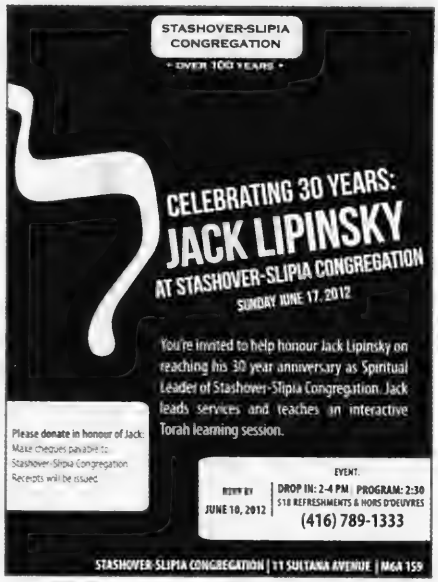



The picture Kraut paints of much of the Hillel establishment in the '60s is one of tolerance for many kinds of Jews, as long as they weren't Orthodox. The non-Orthodox Hillel rabbis of the University of Chicago rebuffed a Yavneh attempt to establish a kosher dining room in the Hillel basement for the increasing number of students requesting it – more than 40 by 1965 – "because in their opinion, honouring this request might turn Hillel into an Orthodox hangout and drive away non-Orthodox students." A Barnard student was told by the university president that he would make no accommodation for her eating kosher food, since the campus rabbi had told him that university students in a dorm are like soldiers in the army and are thus (allegedly!) exempt from the rules of kashrut. In short, Kraut builds a strong case for the need for a "separatist" organization such as Yavneh to help students negotiate Orthodox Jewish life on campus in the 1960s.

Fortunately, such challenges for Orthodox Jews on campus are almost gone today. But the book can still make readers wistful for the exciting days of the '60s, when some grassroots student organizations actually had no sponsoring "adult" organization. Besides Yavneh, another example was the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ). Yavneh was less of a thorn in the side of the adult Jewish establishment than SSSJ. But both were a product of the now-lost spirit of the 1960s – that students could and should do things their own way. Yavneh students produced a number of surprisingly high-level publications, including the *Yavneh Review*, with essays that are still cited today in Jewish scholarly literature.

Kraut also argues that the intellectual vibrancy of Yavneh is rarely found today in Orthodox groups on university campuses. He contrasts the sincere quest for knowledge and the earnest struggle to deal with the tensions between western values and Judaism, which he found in Yavneh in the '60s, with what he labels the shallowness and narrow-mindedness of too many Orthodox students today. With sadness, he tells the story of the Queens College Orthodox student who asked Kraut whether his Holocaust course would be taught from an Orthodox perspective. The student explained that if that were not the case, he would have to ask his rebbe whether he was permitted to attend.

Kraut realized that some would accuse him of nostalgic exaggeration about the open-mindedness and intellectual vibrancy of the '60s. But readers (especially those of us who lived through the era) will enjoy the entertaining evidence of an exciting but transitory period of American Orthodox Jewish history.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# Anti-racism organization publishes book on antisemitism

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

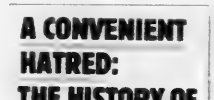
Lamentably, there is no shortage of work for Facing History and Ourselves, a non-profit organization dedicated to combatting antisemitism and racism through education.

Last week, for example, local newspapers reported that police are investigating a complaint that the curriculum of a Toronto Muslim school contains anti-Jewish references.

This is precisely the kind of incident that Facing History and Ourselves, founded in 1976 by two school teachers in the United States, is charged with monitoring and exposing.

"Education is an indispensable tool in fighting antisemitism," said its Toronto office director, Leora Schaefer. "Our mission is to engage adolescents of diverse backgrounds in an examination of racism, prejudice and antisemitism in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed citizenry."

With this objective in mind, Facing History and Ourselves has published *A Convenient Hatred: The History of Antisemitism*, written by Phyllis Goldstein, one of its senior writers and researchers.




The book, which opens with a chapter on ancient Egypt and closes with an account of contemporary antisemitism, will be discussed by University of Toronto historian Derek Penslar at a public lecture on May 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church.

Since its inception 36 years ago, Facing History and Ourselves has grown into an international organization with nine offices in North America, a hub in Britain and partnerships in Israel, China, South Africa and Northern Ireland.

In Canada, in co-operation with the Toronto District School Board, Facing History and Ourselves developed a grade 11 elective course, Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity, in 2008.

Approved by Ontario's Ministry of Education, the course is now taken by more than 500 students in 22 schools around the province.

Facing History and Ourselves also conducts workshops for a number of school boards in Ontario.

# דער ייִדיש ווינקל

## דזשערי קעין

**אַ יידישע מעשה וואָס איז שוין 2500 יאָר אַלט און האָט צו טאָן מיט דזשענעטיקס און אַן אַמעריקאַנער אינדיאַנער פרינצעסין.**

דער וואָרנדזיקער ייִד איז אַן אַלטע טעטע אין אונדזער ליטעראַטור. אָבער אונדזער היינטיקע מעשה וואָס צו טאָן כּיח אַ דזשוק; איינע פֿון די כּעמישע קיטעלעך, וואָס וועט מען קלעפּט זיי צוזאַמען, דיפֿירענציירט מען כּעטשן פֿון חיות. וויסנשאַפֿטלער, וועט זיי קוקן אַרײַן אין מיקראָסקאָפּ, זעען זיי אַז אַלע מענטשן האָבן די זעלבע דזשינס. אָבער ס'זיינען אויך דאָ באַסטיכּטע אַנדערשקייטן וואָס צייכענען אָפּ יידן פֿון אַנדערע גרופּן. יידישע פֿירער, צום בייספּיל, לײַדן פֿון ברוסט ראַק, אַון אירערשטאָק ראַק מער וי פֿירער פֿון אַנדערע נאַציאָנאַליטעטן. די תּובֿה איז אַ קאָנספּיראַטאָר דזשין וואָס מען געפֿינט נאָר בײַ יידן און ער וועט טראַנספּלאַנטירט פֿון דור צו דור.

די פֿרעגעלן אין אונדזער מעשה איז אידענטיפֿיצירט וי שאַני מעדינע –אַ 26 יאָריקע "*יידספּאַנאַ*". די היספּאַנאָס, וואָס קומען אַריס פֿון אַ שפּאַניש-אינדיאַנער בישונג, לעבן אין אַמעריקע אין די נעמענע לענדער צוזיין קאַלאַראַדאָ אין ניו-מעקסיקע. אונדזער פּרינצעסין קומט פֿון אַ סטעטלע וואָס הייסט קולעבראַ. כּמעט אַלע אינוווינער פֿון סטעטל זיינען קרובֿים.

דאָקטוירים האָבן באַצערקט אַז די היספּאַנאָ פֿרויען אין קולעבראַ לײַדן מער אין זייערע יונגערע יאָרן פֿון בריסט ראַק און אייערשטאָקן ראַק וי אַנדערע פֿרויען אין דער זעלבער נעגנט וואָס זיינען נישט היספּאַנאָס. די דאָקטוירים האָבן אויך באַצערקט אַז די היספּאַנאָס לײַדן פֿון ראַק אין דער זעלבער מאָס וי יידישע פֿרויען און די היספּאַנאָס און יידן טראָגן דעם זעלבן קאָרופּטירטן ראַק דזשין. דאס כּיינט אַז יידן און היספּאַנאָס זיינען קרובֿים.

וי אַזוי איז דער יידישער דזשין אַריינגעקראָכן אין דער דזשענעטיק אידענטיטעט פֿון די היספּאַנאָס? די היספּאַנאָס זיינען מענטשן וואָס זענען סטאַלץ מיט זייער קריסטלעכער רעליגיע און שפּאַניש-אינדיאַנער בלוט. מיר, די קינדער פֿון אברהם, יוסף זיך שוין יידן מער וי 2500 יאָר און דער דזשין וואָס אַז עקזיסטירט איז אונדז פֿון דעם אָנהייב.

מיר וויסן אַז פֿיל שפּאַניש יידן האָבן זיך געשמדט אין די יאָרן פֿון דער שפּאַנישער אינקוויזיציע אָבער וי האָבן זיך ניט אָפּגעוואָגט פֿון זייער יידישקייט. פֿיל פֿון אָדעלע באָהאַלטענע יידן–מאָראַנאָס-- זיינען נעקומען קיין אַמעריקע מיט די שפּאַניש קאָנקיסטאַדאָרעס, און שפּעטער אָנטלאָפֿן פֿון וי כּדי צו לעבן און מישן זיך מיט די אָרומיקע אינדיאַנער. זיי האָבן געבראַכט מיט זיך זייערע יידישע מינהגים און יידיש בלוט און דעם קאָרופּטירטן דזשין.

אין אונדזער היספּאַנאָ שטעטל קולעבראַ געפֿינט מען אַז פֿיל פֿון די איינוווינער עסן נישט קיין חזיר, בענטשן ליכט, האַלטן שבת אָבער האבן אין גאַנצן פֿאַרגעסן דעם פֿאַרוואָס פֿון די מינהגים־ און פֿון וואָנען אַזעלכע מינהגים קומען.

איז אַ קאָרופּטירטער דזשין אַ קלאָרער סימן פֿון יידיש אָפּשטאַם? מיר וויסן נישט אָרף דיכער וואָס פֿאר אַן ענטפֿער וויטאַערדיק דזשענעטיקע פֿאָרשונג וועט אונדז ברענגען.

פֿון דער רעדאַקציע: אַויב איר האָט נעדאַנקען וועגן אונדזער וויקל לאָמט וויסן, דוד פֿאָמט אַדער בלי־פֿאָמט: *cjninfo@gmail.com*

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## Correction

In the article headlined "You're not far from your ideal kitchen," *CJN, No Place Like Home* supplement, May 10, incorrect contact information appeared for Gliding Shelf Solutions. The correct information is 1-877-895-9766, glidingshelf.ca.

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# Sudbury Jews find 'big tent' too crowded

**Laura Stricker**
Special to The CJN

**SUDBURY** — Since 1941, the size of Sudbury, Ont.'s Jewish population has stayed mostly the same. But changing demographics have led to a fractured community and a synagogue with only 25 active families.

Emily Caruso-Parnell, the president of Sudbury's Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue, compared the situation at the shul to a church with the members of every denomination under one roof.

"Imagine that one church had to hold everyone… from the United Church to the Greek Orthodox… and they all had to share a building. That's sort of the spectrum we're looking at," Caruso-Parnell said.

"It's very challenging to accommodate all those differences in practice and differences in belief within one tent. It's got to be a pretty big tent."

"At this time, there is no specific affiliation," said Scott Goldstein, who sits on the Shaar Hashomayim board. "In terms of practice, it's more of a combination of Conservative and Reform. It used to be more of a Conservative and Orthodox mixture, but now it's moved toward the Conservative egalitarian type of practice."

When Sudbury's first Jewish settler arrived in the late 1800s and others followed in the years after, a Jewish presence was quickly established in the downtown area through a number of thriving businesses and a bustling social life in the then tight-knit community.

Nowadays, getting supplies for Jewish holidays means taking a trip to Toronto or Montreal, and the social life is not nearly as active as it used to be.

Some of Sudbury's Jewish residents say the dwindling interest in being involved with the community comes from the difficulty in trying to appeal to people with different levels of religious commitment, as well as the lack of interest from younger Jews.

Judi Cartman, who moved to Sudbury in 1970, said the Jewish population has decreased substantially since she arrived.

"When we moved here, there were 70-some families, active families that really participated [in the synagogue]. I find that for a lot of the younger people today, [Judaism] doesn't mean as much to them."

Dan Rothschild was the first Jew to come to Sudbury. He arrived around 1883 and earned his keep by selling merchandise to labourers. His brother, Max Rothschild, arrived a year later.

Aaron Silverman came to Sudbury from Poland in 1889, when he was 18. He sold clothes to workers at construction camps along the railroad line, and by 1892, was able to rent a small shack to run his business.

David and Lewis Jacobs, Harry Endelman, Abraham Weisman and Hyman Ironstone were also among the first Jewish settlers to the Sudbury region.

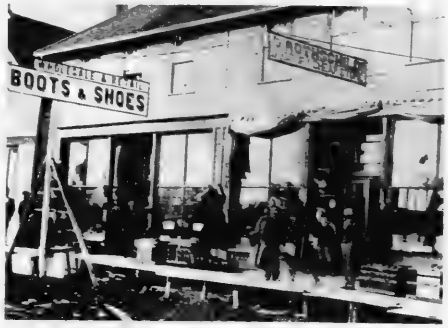
Vivian Field, who has lived in Sudbury for 54 years, was Hyman Ironstone's granddaughter. Ironstone moved to Sudbury with his family around 1906.

"He was what they called a pedlar," Field said. "He travelled… to all these little towns like Wahnipitae and sold dry goods. He then established a menswear store in Sudbury (Ironstone Men's Wear)."

Aaron Silverman's small shack eventually became Silverman's Department Store, the first department store in Sudbury. Dan Rothschild ran a general store, D. Rothschild and Company, and his brother, Max Rothschild, owned a butcher shop next door.

Abraham Weisman opened a store in 1898, selling chocolate, ice cream and cigarettes. In 1907, Hascal Moses built a newsstand, which later became Wolfe's Bookstore. In 1930, he took over the Sudbury Hotel and ran it until 1949.

In 1917, the Women's Auxiliary/Sisterhood group was established. Thirteen of the Jewish community's most prominent women were on the executive. Rose Ironstone, Hyman Ironstone's wife, was the first president.




**Dan Rothschild's general store is seen here in 1894. Rothschild was the first Jew to settle in Sudbury.**

The group ran annual Chanukah and Purim parties, as well as dances and picnics by the lake. The annual picnic was always very successful, and a favourite activity in the community.

All the proceeds from the activities went to a number of different causes and charities, including supporting the local shul. Donations were also made to the Red Cross and the Ukrainian Orphan's Fund, and to support poor Jews in Palestine. Local Jews in need were also supported.

In June 1987, the largest social event involving the Jewish community was held – the 75th anniversary of Shaar Hashomayim. It attracted people from all over Canada. Judy Cartman and Mitchell Spiegel co-chaired the event. More than 200 people came, some of whom had moved away from Sudbury as much as 60 years earlier.

The Dorothy Rothschild chapter of Hadassah (now Canadian Hadassah-WIZO) was started in 1928. Teas that were held by the chapter were enormously popular, attracting even those outside the Jewish community.

Nowadays, Caruso-Parnell said, the social scene is very different.

"Continuing to maintain traditions and keep holidays when there isn't any public infrastructure within which to do that – there aren't big Chanukah parties organized, or a big Jewish community centre, for instance.

"Everything you [want done], you have to do yourself, and we have to do within our little community… It's certainly more challenging in that way. There isn't the support system [there was in the past]."

The challenges involved with being Jewish in Sudbury are numerous, its residents say – everything from preparing for holidays to keeping kosher to keeping the community united, attracting those who aren't involved and having access to Jewish education.

Scott Goldstein, who teaches at the Shaar's Hebrew school, pinpointed the lack of varied educational opportunities as an issue.

"I teach the Hebrew school on Sundays, but somebody who's looking for a more inclusive and comprehensive Jewish education for their children, that can be a difficult thing to achieve here in Sudbury.

"Going once a week on Sundays can be enough for some and may not be enough for others."

Antisemitism is present, but most say it doesn't occur very often.

In an interview with the Ontario Jewish Archives a few years ago, Judy Feld-Carr, who is known for her efforts in rescuing Syrian Jews and was raised in Sudbury, said that when she attended a Catholic school, she was on the receiving end of a lot of antisemitism. She described one incident when she had some of her teeth knocked out by her classmates.

Last year, Daniel Benzimra, the president of Laurentian University's Jewish Student Association, found swastikas drawn or carved on bathroom walls.

When Vivian Field's oldest son was in high school, she said, a boy threw rocks at their window and told his friend he was going Jew hunting.

Cartman, who sits on the Greater Sudbury Police Service's race relations board, said that "there are problems.

"There's problems at the university. I know that there are. I hear it at my board meetings. It's something we've been working really, really hard to be proactive about so that nothing really bad happens."

"There are periodically things that crop up, someone graffitis a swastika on something," Caruso-Parnell said. "We have a good relationship with the police, which we use to deal with that, and we also have a very good relationship with the other religious communities in the city… that really is preventative as far as avoiding some of those tensions."

Cambrian College brings Holocaust survivor Eva Olsson to Sudbury regularly to speak to students.

Perhaps the most serious problem is the continuing decline in interest in keeping the Jewish community alive and united.

"I find that for a lot of the younger people today, [Judaism] doesn't mean as much to them," Cartman said. "It's a problem bringing people to the different faith groups and keeping them. It's not as important to them as it was when we were growing up and it was a centre for being with your own kind. It doesn't seem to be as important to the younger people today as it was to us.

"There's a big, diverse community, and there's people who want to be Reform, there's people who want to be Humanist. There are not enough of us to be able to do that and work together, as hard as we try," she added.

"It used to be [close]. Not anymore. I find it really hard. You try to do something together and you almost split in two, three and four. It's just not a really good feeling."

## Notable Jews

**Aaron Silverman:** Opened and ran Silverman's, Sudbury's first department store.

**Dan Rothschild:** The first Jew to settle in Sudbury. He ran D. Rothschild's Sudbury Cheap Store.

**Saul Silverman:** He helped establish Sudbury General Hospital and Laurentian University and was the first chairman of the hospital board.

**Judy Feld-Carr:** Over a 28-year period, she negotiated the release of 3,000 Syrian Jews from the Syrian government. The negotiations were conducted in complete secrecy.

**Max Silverman, left:** Coach of the Sudbury Wolves OHL team, he led them to victory in the 1934-35 season. He was elected deputy mayor of Sudbury in 1962, and then mayor in 1966, but died during his first year in office.

**Sam Rothschild:** The first Jewish hockey player in the NHL and the first Sudburian to play on a Stanley Cup-winning team, he was the president of the Northern Ontario Curling Association.

**Joe Ironstone:** The second Jewish hockey player in the NHL, he played only one game for the Toronto Maple Leafs because he wanted more money than hockey players received at the time. His family, the Ironstones, was among the first to sponsor Shaar Hashomayim.

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# *Israeli play has a personal side*

**Meir Shenhav**
Special to The CJN

I sit in the coffee shop, and when my name is announced in a heavy Hebrew accent, I go to get my coffee.

I'm waiting for three ladies, and the Hebrew tone is appropriate, as we're going to talk about Israeli culture.

The play *He Walked Through the Fields*, written by Moshe Shamir will be on stage this month at the Al Green Theatre at the Miles Nadal JCC in downtown Toronto.

I'm meeting with Galya Sarner, director of the Israeli Project at the Schwartz/Reisman Centre, Yael Shamir Feingold, the play's director, and Tami Berman the producer.

*Hamifgash Theatre is known as the only Hebrew speaking theatre in Toronto. Is there a real need for such an institution?*

**Sarner:** The theatre started four years ago, aiming to meet some of the Israeli community's cultural needs. After two years, we realized that we could bring together other communities to enjoy the Israeli culture, to learn about Israel's history and its unique needs.

It also helps us to expose other pleasant sides of our homeland.

By adding English subtitle translation, we create the opportunity to open up the performances to a wider audience.

The theatre was established by a group of volunteers, with the support of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Schwartz/Reisman Centre in early 2008. The Mifgash has enjoyed considerable success, having performed all its productions to sold out audiences and rave reviews.

*What is He Walked Through the Fields, about?*

**Sarner:** This play reflects, in many ways, the conflict that Israelis are facing, wherever there are. It tells the story of a young man who, upon returning to his kibbutz from his studies, falls in love with a young Holocaust survivor. He soon finds himself torn between remaining on the kibbutz with his family and his love and going off to fight for the new state.

The play paints a vivid and dramatic picture of the new generation of native Israelis prior to the founding of the state.

*Rumour has it that there's a personal side to the production of this play.*

**Sarner:** This year's production has a special meaning for our theatre group, as our resident director is also the author's daughter. This year would have been the anniversary of Mr. Shamir's 90th birthday.

*Can the Mifgash Theatre create a bridge between the Jewish Canadian community and the Israeli community?*

**Berman:** Mifgash offers all Jews in the Greater Toronto Area an opportunity to meet and express their diversity on a common ground of acceptance and unity.

Through experiences working specifically with the Israeli Canadian community, they have learned to appreciate the need and desire for special Israeli cultural and community events. The need to express identity, language and culture is not unique only to the Israeli community, but to other communities as well. By creating a theatre for all these diverse backgrounds to give their experience a cultural and artistic voice, they can take important steps toward creating a more unified Jewish community where all backgrounds are embraced.

*Would you also welcome non-Israelis to join the cast?*

**Feingold:** Everyone who wants to be an actor is welcome to join us. Of course, it's voluntary.

*Would you consider producing plays with Jewish-Israeli orientation in English as well?*

**Sarner:** The sky is the limit... hopefully we will be able to expand our theatre in the near future, and run plays in English as well.

Talking about Israeli culture feels like jumping to a beloved home for a brief visit. As the waiter asks us in Hebrew if he can clean our table, we all smile and say our goodbyes.

*He Walked Through the Fields* runs May 20 to 24, in Hebrew with English surtitles, at the Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC.

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**Karen@bethsholom.net** or at **416-783-6103 #225**
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# Tolerance is the real lesson in madrassah mess

Guest Voice

The recent story of the East End Madrassah's inflammatory curriculum sparked substantial media coverage. Rightly so, for it's not every day that one finds school texts in Canada alleging that "treacherous" Jews "conspired to kill the Prophet Muhammad." Much credit must be given to the *National Post*'s Stewart Bell, whose investigative reporting pointed to a disturbing link between passages from the curriculum and texts issued by Iran's ayatollahs.

Brigitte Pellerin of Sun News showed an admirable passion in condemning the curriculum, and the fact the madrassah used a Toronto public school for its Sunday classes. Pellerin charged: "Everybody who's decent should be horrified and offended by this kind of teaching… this should not just be a matter of Jewish people being offended."

Pellerin's observation reflected the general media consensus, despite one partially dissenting voice – the *Post*'s Jonathan Kay. I preface this criticism by declaring myself an avid reader of Kay, whose great mind and sharp pen are undeniable. But even great minds miss the mark on rare occasions.

In a piece headlined "The problem with calling the Koran 'anti-Semitic,'" Kay argued that when it comes to hate, the curriculum is "a major let-down." On the blood libel that Jews plotted to murder Muhammad, Kay stated that to call this antisemitic hate speech would require labelling "the whole Koran 'anti-Semitic hate speech.' And where does that get you? To the same awkward place that calling the Bible 'homophobic hate speech' gets you. Either you tolerate an established religion and its ancient, hateful (whether to Jews or gays) texts, or you don't."

Kay suggests an equivalence between contentious passages of the Tanach and the New Testament on one hand and anti-Jewish diatribes in a 21st-century Islamic curriculum on the other. The distinction, as letter writers to the *Post* noted, is one of interpretation and application today. And on this point, there is no equivalence.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with elements of Jewish and Christian holy texts, neither faith is facing the internal crisis of global religious terrorism in 2012. I can think of no violent rupture within Judaism or Christianity today that even remotely compares to the murderous feud taking place between Shi'a and Sunni Muslims. And when it comes to Canada, the risks of faith-based extremism are incomparable. I have personally attended services at churches and synagogues in various parts of our country. I have attended both Jewish and Christian Bible studies. In all of that experience, I cannot recall – not even once – the teaching of a hateful conspiracy theory against another community.

On Islam, I do not claim to be an authority. But if you heed the warnings of those who are experts, such as Irshad Manji, anti-Jewish extremism is more common within elements of the Islamic community than most Canadians would be comfortable with (including many Canadian Muslims themselves). All of which leads us back to Pellerin's incisive comment, which unmasked the deeper issue at stake. As offensive as the East End Madrassah's curriculum was to the Jewish community, it serves as a test for all Canadians.

Every Canadian deserves the right to observe their faith, raise their children in their traditions and pursue their aspirations in freedom. But whether one's family arrived here two weeks ago or two centuries ago (as did my own), one must accept the *responsibilities* of being Canadian just as one enjoys the *rights* of being Canadian. This includes the basic responsibility of every parent to teach their children what it means to coexist in peace with their neighbours in a free and pluralistic country. In using religion to train young people to despise Jews, the East End Madrassah has turned this principle on its head – and therein lies the test for every Canadian, Jew and non-Jew alike. Do we believe our country's core values to be unchanging and non-negotiable, or are these values nothing more than platitudes?

*Steve McDonald is associate director of Communications for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

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SHARON AND LOUIS GOELMAN

HANNAH DAVIS

# 2012 Book of Life Stories

Miriam Alkin
Sonny Altman
Yetta Bregman
David Bronfman
Steven Davidson & Sari Goldman
Hannah Davis
Israel (Isy) & Marcelle Esses
Louis & Sharon Goelman
Paul Goldstein
Darren & Sara Gottlieb
David & Kay Greengarten
Aviva Malka
Benjamin & Jeanette Massouda
David & Leanne Matlow
Faye Mintz
Sam & Michal Mizrahi
Allan Offman
Lolly Propas
Avra Rosen
Harry & Shirley Rotstein
Laurie Sheff
Michael & Jaclyn Shulman
Zella Starr
Stopnitzer Young Men's Benevolent Association

GOTTLIEB FAMILY

MARCELLE ESSES

ALLAN OFFMAN

GROSSMAN AND GREENGARTEN FAMILIES

LAURIE SHEFF AND JONATHON SOLE

HARRY AND SHIRLEY ROTSTEIN

MICHAEL AND JACLYN SHULMAN A

AND ROY ALKIN

ORLI AND AVIVA MALKA

STOPNITZER YOUNG MEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

LORNE PROPAS

AVRA ROSEN

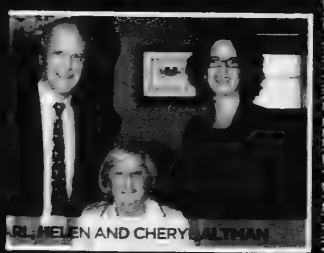
JEANETTE MASSOUDA AND FAMILY

YETTA B

STEVEN DAVIDSON AND SARI GOLDMAN

ZELLA STARR

DAVID AND LEANNE MATLOW




PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF ROSEMARY GOLDHAR AND ELLIOT SYLMAN

# JEWISH FOUNDATION OF GREATER TORONTO

## 11th Annual Book of Life Celebration

## EVERY LIFE HAS A STORY... WHAT IS YOURS?

Over 500 guests celebrated the lives and values of 24 honourees at an annual event that over the past 10 years has become an inspiring tradition in our community.

Lesley Binstock Offman, Chair of this year's event spoke about what it means to leave a legacy through the Jewish Foundation:

*"The Book of Life is an amazing celebration because it reminds us that time passes in moments. Sometimes the moments rush past us. We rarely stop to examine the path our lives are taking or slow down enough to see the reasons why things happen - especially these days. But tonight, we slow down and take stock of each precious moment.*

*I sincerely congratulate our honourees for sharing their lives with us; for having the commitment and courage to open up and give us a glimpse of the moments that shaped their strongest sense of Jewish values."*

The Book of Life now contains 261 stories contributed by individuals, families, groups and societies who have made a gift in perpetuity. Each story is unique, yet when bound together, they create a precious chronicle of our shared commitment to *tikkun olam*.

If you would like to create your Jewish legacy and include your story in the Book of Life, please contact Janice Benatar at 416-631-5847 or email jbenatar@ujafed.org.

Gifts to the Foundation can be in the form of an endowment fund, bequest in a will or the donation of a life insurance policy. Stories and details about the Book of Life can be read at www.bookoflife.ca.

Lesley Binstock Offman
Chair, Book of Life

Anya Romanet and Alina Geriovin Spaulding
*Keynote Speakers*

Morris Perlis
*Chair, Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto*

Jewish Foundation

# Courts don't always enforce support guidelines

**Family Matters**
by
**John Syrtash**
B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Counsel
Garfin Zeidenberg LLP
Family Lawyer & Mediator
for 31 years

**Question:** I have not been living with my wife for the past 10 months. Am I legally separated from her? If I buy property (a house) after I am separated, what happens? Is it considered a conjugal property?

**Answer:** No. Legal separation in Ontario usually means that you no longer reside in the same residence, or if you do, then you lead separate lives under one roof. Thereafter, any property purchased after separation cannot be the subject of valuation for the purposes of equalizing your respective net worth positions, which in family law is called your "net family property."

However, depending on how and when the property is purchased, there may be exceptions to this rule. If you have used jointly-owned funds to buy property shortly after you separated, a court would likely rule that the property must be shared equally.

**Question:** Under the new spousal support guidelines introduced by Justice Canada, the bureaucrats' cookie-cutter formula calls for virtual equalization of incomes, irrespective of the spouse's needs (the previous criteria). Why doesn't someone challenge this insipid procedure and go back to a needs-based system? No wonder spouses try to duck out!

**Answer:** Depends on which duck you're trying to avoid, and which cookie-cutter. Say the payer does not have custody of the child (or children), was residing together with the payee in a lengthy relationship, and Mom was largely dependent on his income to help raise their family. In such cases the law was developed well before the new advisory Spousal Support Guidelines.

Such mothers will require as much as 50-60 cents of every after-tax dollar earned between them. If Dad earns a lot more, then it would be unfair to leave him with even 50 cents of earned income monthly, since between spousal and child support the custodial parent has more mouths to feed, clothe and shelter.

Similarly, even without dependent kids, if the wife sacrificed most of her working life and raised the family so that Dad could build his income, then the courts will still often equalize incomes, with or without the guidelines. But sometimes the guidelines go too far and are too generous, especially since they often fail to consider the payer's needs and child-related costs.

Conversely, if it's a short marriage with no kids, the guidelines do not usually recommend much, if any, spousal support.

## Guidelines are not law

The Spousal Guidelines are not law. They are merely advisory and are quite often either ignored or downplayed by the courts. Two recent important Ontario court decisions have even ruled that the Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines do not apply to interim or temporary requests or "motions" for spousal support orders prior to trial.

It is perfectly natural for spouses seeking separation to desire a fair resolution and to feel strongly that their position is justified. But don't make the mistake of thinking that your ability to eloquently express your overwhelming conviction that you are right will sway a Judge.

A Judge is interested in detail, not drama; facts, not opinions. An experienced family law lawyer knows how to identify the relevant facts, assemble and present them in an orderly, systematic way. This approach is still your best bet for a fair result.

*Mr. Syrtash is Counsel to Garfin Zeidenberg LLP, Suite 800, 5255 Yonge Street (at Norton) just north of Mel Lastman Square, Civic Centre Subway station, Toronto, ON M5G 1E6. John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 642-5410, Cell (416) 886-0359. Visit www.freemychild.com; www.spousalsupport.com; www.garfinzeidenberg.com.*

*Neither Garfin Zeidenberg LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion.*

**Sponsored by the Community for Jewish Culture of B'Nai Brith Canada.**

# *Legacy fund established for CISEPO founder*

**Susan Minuk**
Special to The CJN

Ear, nose and throat specialist Dr. Arnold Noyek has devoted his career to fighting congenital deafness here and in the Middle East, and in the process he's helped to build bridges between Arabs and Israelis.

To celebrate his achievements, the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation is holding a tribute dinner on Sunday, June 3, at the Fairmont Royal York under the patronage of Prince Firas Raad of Jordan and Israel's consul general in Toronto, Amir Gissin. Proceeds will go to the Dr. Arnold M. Noyek Legacy Fund being set up by the foundation.

In 1984, Dr. Arnold Noyek founded the Canada International Scientific Exchange Program (CISEPO), based at Mount Sinai and linked to the University of Toronto and York University, as an international network of academics, researchers, educators, students and health professionals working together to improve health care and education under a Canadian umbrella.

In 1995, the late King Hussein of Jordan invited Noyek to build relations between Israelis and Arabs in the health sector following the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan in 1994. Palestinian academics and their institutions joined the effort in 1997.

Noyek began organizing conferences across the Middle East in Tel Aviv, Amman, Nablus, Gaza, Haifa and Jerusalem. Through a series of CISEPO- and U of T-sponsored continuing education events, Noyek discovered high rates of genetic neural hearing loss in the region due to a high number of cousins marrying within extended families.

"The big-kept secret is the factor of genetics. We discovered that hearing loss due to genetic problems was six to 10 times more prevalent in the Middle East than any other place on the globe," Noyek said, "and this was a direct result of intermarriage."

The goal of CISEPO is to educate local doctors and health professionals to properly diagnose and manage hearing-loss problems in newborns, infants and children. Universal screening for hearing loss in newborns is, Noyek hopes, the first step to providing care to needy Middle East populations, while, at the same time, building people-to-people relations.

"We are a team of Canadian, American, Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian individuals and institutions," Noyek said.

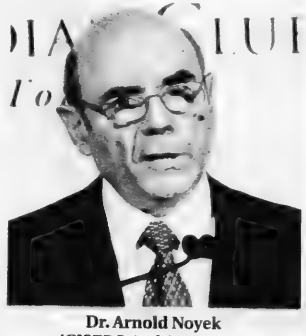
"CISEPO is creating opportunities for peaceful coexistence, building co-operation and trust, identifying and sharing information about health problems experienced by children and families of every background together in Canada and the Middle East to better the lives of ordinary people."

Noyek was born to Irish Jews in Dublin, Ireland and immigrated to Canada in 1940 as an only child with parents who were socially conscious, as well as generous contributors to the community.

"I knew I wanted to be a doctor when I was in grade school. I liked the idea of helping people," Noyek recalled.

After graduating from U of T's medical school, Noyek trained in otolaryngology – the ear, nose and throat specialty – at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital in New York.

On staff at Mount Sinai since 1966, Noyek served as otolaryngologist-in-chief from 1989 to 2002. He's also a consultant with Baycrest, as well as a professor at U of T.



**Dr. Arnold Noyek**
*[CISEPO Archives photo]*

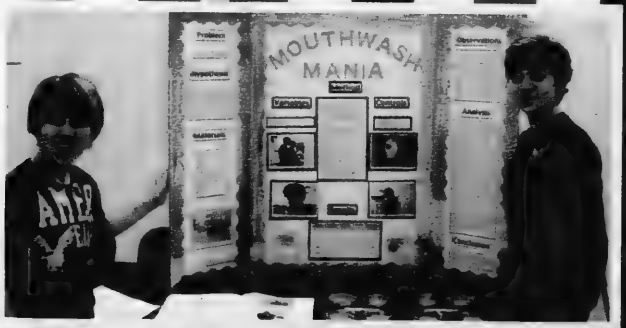
Due to the efforts of researchers in Noyek's department at Mount Sinai Hospital, Ontario adopted universal newborn hearing screening as policy in 2001, making the province a world pioneer. This policy became the model for CISEPO's parallel efforts in the Middle East.

"Dr. Arnold Noyek is for me the ultimate proof that one person can truly change the world. Armed with endless devotion, unparalleled resourcefulness and undeterred persistence, he has touched the lives of thousands of families all across the Middle East," Gissin said. "No other Canadian I know has made such a difference on the ground among the people of the Middle East – Muslim, Christian and Jewish – and I am very proud to call him a friend."

For information on the dinner, call 416-586-4800, ex. 7329.

**CHIDON HATANACH WINNERS:** Yeshivat Or Chaim students Ariel Kelman, Grade 11, left, and Shlomo Witty, Grade 9, right, tied for second place in the National Chidon Hatanach Bible contest in Toronto on May 6 and 7. The two are among three students from Toronto who will compete in the international Chidon Hatanach in Israel next year on Yom Ha'atzmaut. They're pictured with their teacher, Ofra Gemara, who helped to prepare them for the competition.

**SOLDIERS SPEAK:** Representatives from different units of the Israel Defence Forces spoke to Bialik Hebrew Day School senior division students about their time in the army. Pictured with the soldiers are student council class representatives, standing from left, Louis C., Samantha M., Michelle M., Hannah M., Rachel G., Yael M., and in front, David S., left, and Daniel C.




**SCIENCE MAVENS:** David Greiver, left, and Cory Katzman, Grade 8 students at the Thornhill campus of Leo Baeck Day School, represented Leo Baeck at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's recent science fair and took second place in the competition.

# Mazel Tov
# מזל טוב

Adele & Steve Weinstein, Riva & David Green are delighted to announce the engagement of Leah Weinstein to Eli Green. Mazel tov from the entire family.

Happy 80th birthday to our zaida, Mike Mayer. Love your children, and grandchildren.

Jackie & David Spector, Lynda Sacks, and Stephen Freedman proudly announce the engagement of their children Sean and Samantha. Siblings and grandparents are thrilled.

Our heartfelt mazel tov on the engagement of Rachel Wrock to Michael Koral from the entire Koral and Wrock families!

We wish Reuby Philice Staviss, who turned 16 on April 25, and Marney Sarah Staviss, who turned 12 on Nov. 24, happy birthdays, Mommy and Daddy.

A joyous simchah, the 60th anniversary of Paula & Jack Kadaner. All our love, Irwin, Debbie, Humphrey & Mandy, Bailey, Reesa & Duddy, Shawn, Robyn

Email your digital photos to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click the "Family Moments"

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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

Social Networking @ The Canadian Jewish News
for the :-) generation

**Deadline reminder: Because of the Victoria Day holiday, May 18 is the deadline for the issue of May 31. Because of Shavuot, May 25 is the deadline for the issue of June 7. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, May 17

**GOD, GOODNESS AND GREED**

Prof. **Elliott Malamet** discusses "God, Goodness and Greed: Does Religion Influence Ethics Any Longer," 7:30 p.m., Beth David Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Rd. 416-633-5500.

**MELODIES & MANDELBROIT**

The Toronto Jewish Chorus presents "Melodies and Mandelbroit," a choral concert, 7:30 p.m., Temple Emanu-El, 120 Old Colony Rd. Tickets available at www.torontojewishchorus.org or at the door.

**ANTI-ISRAEL PROPAGANDA**

**Barbara Kay** discusses "Anti-Israel Propaganda," 7:30 p.m., at the Lodzer Synagogue. 416-636-6665.

**MAH-JONG AFTERNOON**

Thornhill Study Group and Zion Branch of the NCJW invites groups or single players to play mah-jong, 12 - 4 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Enjoy lunch, a raffle and door prizes. Call to reserve 416-633-5100.

**ISRAELI ARTISTS SHOW**

Israeli artists celebrate Jerusalem Day May 17-20 at Thoreau MacDonald House, Thornhill. Paintings, photography, ceramic art and jewelry. http://bit.ly/Jfd7Er.

## Sunday, May 20

**JEWISH THINKERS**

**Sheldon Richmond** discusses "Current Jewish Thinkers," 9 a.m. at the Lodzer Synagogue, 12 Heaton St.

## Monday, May 21

**A TASTE OF TEXT**

**Rebbetzin Goldie Plotkin** teaches a class on the weekly Torah portion, 8 p.m., Mondays until June 11, Chabad of Markham, 83 Green Lane, Markham. RSVP 905-886-0420, ext. 221.

## Tuesday, May 22

**ORGAN DONATION**

Jewish perspectives on organ donation will be presented at Beth Tzedec Congregation, 7:30 p.m. **Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl** and **Versha Prakash** of Trillium Gift of Life Network will speak, as will organ recipients, donors and families. RSVP preferred, **Marlene**, 416-781-3514, ext. 234, or mlaba@beth-tzedec.org.

**LUNCH AND LEARN**

**Marilyn Herbert**, founder of "Book-in-a-Box" book club reviews *The Free World* by **David Bezmozgis**, 12 p.m., Beth Tikvah synagogue. By reservation only: 416-221-3433, ext. 352, or helen@bethtikvahtoronto.org.

***THE TIGER'S WIFE***

**Heather Kassel** reviews *The Tiger's Wife* by **Tea Obreht**, 8 p.m., Adath Israel Synagogue. Call **Beverley**, 416-499-6920.

**Continued on page 27**

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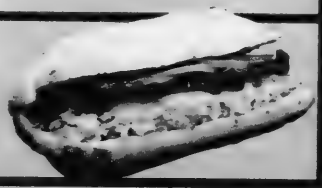

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Continued from page 26

## Wednesday, May 23

**EMUNAH DINNER**

Emunah Women of Toronto honour **Faygie** and **Phil Schwartz** at Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue of Toronto. **Michelle Rojas Tal**, of Standwithus, will discuss "Standing for Israel: The War of Words and Images." For tickets, call 416-636-0036.

## Thursday, May 24

**SMALL WONDERS BAKE SALE**

A charity bake sale benefitting Small Wonders, an organization that supports Jewish couples experiencing infertility, will be held, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., 53 Alexandra Wood. Homemade and COR baked goods as well as floral centrepieces available. For more information, bakesale@smallwonders.ca.

## Other News

**SHAVUOT SERVICES**

Learn and socialize with the Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W., May 26, 10 p.m. till dawn. Multiple sessions available. For more details, visit facebook.com villageshul.

Meet biblical characters and enjoy a festive dairy lunch with Chabad of Markham, May 27, 9:30 a.m. 905-886-0420 or www.chabadmarkham.org.

**MEDINA THEATRE AUDITION**

Medina Theatre Ensemble is holding auditions for *Opening Night*, May 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave. RSVP required. **Fran**, 416-638-2716, or **Morris**, 416-785-0344.

**JEWISH FOLK CHOIR**

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir holds its 86th annual spring concert, June 3, at 3 p.m., Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave. For tickets, call 905-669-5906 or folkchoir@hotmail.com.

**HOUSING REGISTRY**

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## JF&CS GROUPS

All programs require pre-registration and are open to all members of the community. To register, call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or www.jfandcs.com. All classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St., unless otherwise noted.

Understanding ADHD at Home and School: A workshop for parents and professionals May 22, 7 p.m.

High Conflict Divorce: A workshop for parents in a high-conflict situation. Not for individuals in an abusive situation. May 24, 6:30 p.m., Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

Let's Be Blunt: A Forum on Teen Drug Use, May 24, 7 p.m., William Lyon MacKenzie Collegiate, 20 Tillplain Rd.

**BEREAVED PARENTS**

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. On June 10, the group is attending a fundraising performance of *Lost in Yonkers*, St. Lawrence Theatre for the Arts. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF & CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Association of Jewish Seniors** meets May 17, Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 9:30 a.m. **Natalie Mehra**, director of the Ontario Health Coalition, speaks. RSVP **Tammy**, 416-635-2900, ext. 458.

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. Kosher lunch, May 17, noon, Casino Rama. June 13. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Caregivers Support Group.** A group for caregivers burned out caring for loved ones with dementia or other illnesses will be held May 30, 7 p.m., L'chaim Retirement Home, 718 Sheppard Ave. W. 416-398-7898.

**National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Aviva Branch**, is looking for women over 70 for their group. They meet Tuesdays midday. Call 416-633-5100.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts. Call **Morty**, 416-783-6478.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Bernard Betel Centre** 416-225-2112. May 22, **Myriam Shechter** discusses, "Great Russian Music: The Mighty Five," 10 a.m.; May 23, the North York Concert Orchestra performs, 7:30 p.m.; May 24, **Constable Karey St. Clair** discusses "Traffic Safety for Seniors," 1:30 p.m.

**Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. June 7, Opera educator **Iain Scott** presents "Nabucco: Verdi's Jewish Opera," 1:30 p.m. $5.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526, **Colin Blayney.** Ongoing yoga, dance fitness and aquafitness classes.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

**Paul Michaels** discusses, "Media Ethics: What Is the Ethical Obligation to Treat an Issue Fairly?" May 17, 1:30 p.m.

**Kevin Courrier** teaches a class on gangster films, 1 p.m., May 23-June 13.

**Iain Scott** teaches a course on Mozart's opera, 7 p.m., May 23-June 20.

**Bruria Cooperman** discusses "Jewish Words: Weapons of Mass Destruction," May 29, 1:30 p.m.

Register now for bridge classes and mah-jong classes beginning in June.

Shabbat Tots runs Fridays, 1 p.m. starting May 18 for children aged 3-5.

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## MILES NADAL JCC

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Mifgash Theatre, the only Hebrew-speaking theatre in Toronto, presents *He Walked Through the Fields*, in Hebrew with English surtitles. May 20, 7 p.m.; May 21-24, 8 p.m. For tickets, http://bit.ly/J8isyd or 647-510-6485, 905-731-6543.

Leil Tikkun Shavuot, all-night Torah study and more, May 26, 9 p.m.-6 a.m. Family tikkun and dinner (for a fee) at 5:30 p.m. Ext. 154.

Tickets on sale now for MNJCC Community Choir in concert, June 6-7, 8 p.m. ext. 0.

**Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** teaches a class on Thinking Jewish, June 11-25, 8 p.m. Ext. 154.

Summer Institute for Creative Adults offers classes for adult singers, July 16-20. Ext. 250.

Adult daytime choir meets Tuesdays, 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

Shabbat Party for children up to 4 years old, Fridays at 10 a.m. Ext. 277.

Call for submissions to the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition. Deadline July 3, 2012. For submission guidelines, esthera@mnjcc.org or ext. 606.

*Spark: Igniting with Photography*, a collection of portraits by youth in the Jane-Finch community is in the Al Green Gallery until May 29.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services every Thursday at 7:15 a.m. and Sunday at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

**MEDALS OF MERIT: Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba, Israel, recently honoured Dr. Michael Dan and Dr. Amira Dan; Mary Jo Haddad, CEO of the Hospital for Sick Children, and Bernie Farber, former CEO of Canadian Jewish Congress. From left are Arie Raif, vice-chairman of Canadian Friends of Meir Medical Centre; Michael Dan; Amira Dan; former MP Joe Volpe, the 2012 hospital campaign chair; Dr. Eytan Wirtheim, CEO of Meir Hospital, and Rabbi Howard Morrison, senior rabbi of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.**

*SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 21*

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BRIDAL REGISTRY

# Hillel's new chair anticipates 'year of transition'

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Hillel of Greater Toronto's incoming chair of the board of directors said he's looking forward to an academic year filled with changes, challenges and transition.

"We see this year as a year of transition, both in light of our leadership changes, our structural changes and our increasing emphasis on peer-to-peer engagement. With all those challenges ahead of us, it's a year I'm looking forward to," said Shelly Feld, who officially replaces the outgoing chair of the board, Lindy Goodman, during Hillel's May 16 annual general meeting.

Feld, a lawyer for the Mutual Fund Dealers Association of Canada, began volunteering with Hillel in 2006 and has since served as the board's vice-chair and strategic planning committee's chair.

But his dedication to promoting the benefits of Jewish campus life dates back to the 1980s, when he served as president of the Coalition of Western Jewish Students at the University of Western Ontario and as the Jewish University Student Network's central region vice-president.

"I've always been inspired and I've always recognized the importance of the student experience within the Jewish community. I cherish my own experiences as a Jewish student activist both at the high school and university level," said Feld, who recently participated in UJA of Greater Toronto's Joshua Institute for Jewish Communal Leadership program.

Shelly Feld

"The university campus is one of the last frontiers for us to connect with young Jewish individuals to bring them on board their own personal Jewish journey and ensure that they are engaged and make an enduring commitment to the community as they mature."

Feld said one of his responsibilities as the new chair will be to focus on helping the student organization adapt to some structural changes that will take place this year.

For example, there are plans to create a new position, an executive director who will oversee all the Hillels throughout Ontario.

"We expect and hope this will result in greater synergy between other campuses around Ontario. Our view is that the campuses in Toronto are somewhat distinct in that they are commuter campuses with a very diverse Jewish student body with representation from smaller communities, such as Israeli and Russian students, who are certainly present in greater numbers in Toronto."

Another big change facing Hillel Toronto is the expected departure of Zac Kaye, the executive director since 1995, who plans to retire at the end of the next academic year.

Despite all the upcoming changes, Feld said he's confident in his 24-member board and the five-year strategic plan they adopted last year.

Feld explained that Hillel's focus has evolved to accommodate new communication trends, such as Twitter and Facebook, and now creates programming that emphasizes "direct, peer-to-peer engagement."

"We've identified in our strategic plan, four particular objectives. Our first objective is to connect with a greater number of students, to engage with them in a more meaningful way to truly cultivate their experience and foster more diverse and meaningful Jewish experiences, and to truly elevate their experience and empower them to take a more active role in the community," Feld said.

# OBITUARIES
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| Issy Kadish | Apr 28/12 | 100 Antibes Drive |
| Gertrude Abel | Apr 28/12 | 299 Roehampton Ave. |
| Betty Richler | Apr 27/12 | 484 Steeles Ave. West |
| Leonard Feigman | Apr 27/12 | 1166 Bay Street |
| Nicki Hersom | Apr 29/12 | 9257 Goreway Avenue |
| Natalie Laroche | Apr 29/12 | 10 Redwood Avenue |
| Felicia Feinman | Apr 30/12 | 85 Old Forest Hill Road |
| Solomon Ashurov | May 1/12 | 125 Hall Street |
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| Levin, Larisa | April 24/12 | 735 New Westminster Dr |
| Brown, Rita | April 25/12 | 130 Tansley Rd |
| Pearl, Elliott Herbert | April 24/12 | 2700 Bathurst St |
| Cadesky, Macey | April 24/12 | |
| Lax, Rose | April 28/12 | |
| Kuzuk, Zvi | April 26/12 | |
| Borenstein, Benjamin | April 30/12 | Private |
| Fischoff, Nadzia | April 30/12 | 11Townsgate Dr |
| Jacobs, Murray | April 30/12 | Private |
| Dayhin, Oleg | May 1/12 | Private |
| Ganon, Rosette | May 1/12 | 150 Dunn Ave |
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May the memory of our husband/father/grandfather serve as a blessing for all those who knew him.

*The Kranc family: Sarah, Phyllis, Michael, Ben, Tina, Steven, Jennifer, Joel, Danielle, Mark, Moishe, Jason, Saffire, Austin, Lauren, Nolan, Adam, Amanda, Max, Aaron*

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# Chabad grant comes under scrutiny

Compiled by CJN staff

A $1-million federal grant to Chabad Lubavitch of Markham to improve accessibility at its social hall has come under scrutiny.

Reports out of Ottawa and Toronto last week noted that a funding request submitted by Rabbi Chaim Mendelsohn of the Canadian Federation of Chabad Lubavitch to the government's Enabling Accessibility Fund program had initially failed to qualify based on evaluation by bureaucrats in Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, the ministry that administers the $12 million fund.

John Baird

A May 11 report in the *Globe and Mail* noted that Chabad's submission garnered a score of 53 out of a possible 100 points used to grade submissions to the fund.

The ministry's stated minimum point threshold for granting funds was set at 82.

However, the *Globe's* report also notes that despite its low score, Chabad was awarded a grant after Human Resources Minister Diane Finley spoke with Foreign Minister John Baird.

Ministers can override bureaucratic decisions of this nature because they control spending in their departments.

Baird has been closely associated with the Ottawa-based Rabbi Mendelsohn, even going so far as saying that even though he is not Jewish, he has a rabbi. The two were also part of the same Canadian delegation that visited Israel this past January along with Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

Rabbi Mendelsohn told the *Globe* he was unsure how his submission was scored, but was gratified that Baird, whom he called "a dear friend," spoke highly of his organization.

A spokesperson at Baird's office confirmed that Baird had spoken to Finley about the Chabad project and that the foreign minister was "happy to lend Rabbi Mendelsohn his support."

*The CJN* is following this story.

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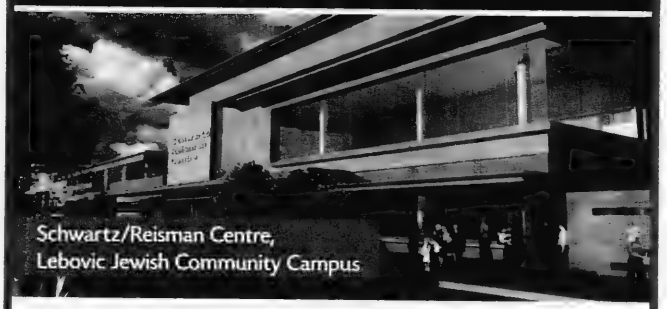


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Artist's rendering used with permission from Schwartz/Reisman Centre.

# Robbins celebrates 50 years

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Kids from junior kindergarten through Grade 8 arrived by the busload to the grounds of the Prosserman Jewish Community Centre last Thursday to celebrate the Robbins Hebrew Academy's (RHA) 50th anniversary.

The school celebrated its milestone birthday earlier this year with a gala event for parents, staff and alumni, but Thursday's outdoor activity-filled celebration was just for kids.

"The school is really about the kids," said Claire Sumerlus, the RHA head of school, adding that it was important to her that the children get the opportunity to celebrate the school's half-century mark in a way that would be fun for them. "We figured, 'What's better than a field day, or a fun day?'" she said.

Fun was certainly on the agenda as the students swooped around and through hula hoops, kicked soccer balls and knocked down plastic bowling pins, hardly noticing the chilly spring weather.

The students, who were bussed in from both the Bathurst Street and Bayview Avenue campuses, were also treated to hotdogs, cake and lemonade to keep up their energy for the obstacle courses and sports activities.

"Even though this is only a snapshot of these 50 years, *this* is what the school is about," said Sumerlus, motioning to the students playing together, the older students guiding the younger ones through the activities.

Sumerlus, who has been the head of school at RHA for the last three years, explained that an outdoor, active celebration was chosen as a way to promote physical activity among the students. This is part of the school's ongoing effort to increase physical activity, which is most noticeable in the recent implementation of a 20-minute exercise period before the start of the school day for students in grades 1 through 5.

**Robbins Hebrew Academy head of school Claire Sumerlus, centre, enjoys RHA's 50th anniversary celebration with Grade 8 students, from left, Max Starkman, Jordan Allen, Aaron Good, Harry Worb, Raquel Benitah and Carly Abrahams.** *[Michelle Bitran photo]*

Another important aspect of the event was the leadership of the grades 7 and 8 students. Many of these students arrived early to set up the obstacle course stations, and later they were leading and instructing the younger grades through their rotations at each of the stations.

"They are the leaders of the school," said Sumerlus proudly of the older students. She also noted that although the students had come from two different campuses, many of them had gotten to know one another through joint school events, and were able to get along well and to work together. Sumerlus said that she hopes to increase the number of joint campus events, so that the students are able to bond more.

RHA began at its Bathurst campus location as a Beth Tzedec Synagogue school in 1957 and became an independent school, under the name United Synagogue Day School (USDS), in the 1961-62 school year.

Today, the Bathurst campus still operates out of Beth Tzedec, and since 1969, the Bayview campus has been running out of Beth Tikvah Synagogue. A Richmond Hill campus was opened in 1987, but was closed in 2006. The school is an affiliate of the Conservative movement's Schechter Day School Network, but teaches students from all branches of Judaism.

USDS became RHA in 2010, after Toronto builder and USDS grandparent Larry Robbins gave a $4-million gift to the school in memory of his late wife, Miriam.

Throughout its history, RHA has continued to provide Judaic and general studies education to hundreds of children each year from preschool through Grade 8, something that Sumerlus takes great pride in. "It's a really exciting place to be," she said of the school. "It's an amazing feat to say we've been educating Jewish children for 50 years."


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# Netanyahu reaches out to renew peace talks

**Barak Ravid**
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**JERUSALEM** — Israel's new national unity government has created an opportunity to advance the peace process, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wrote to Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas in a letter sent last Saturday night.

Netanyahu added that he wants to restart negotiations as soon as possible. Since taking office, Netanyahu has told U.S. President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that he could not advance the peace process because of the composition of his coalition.

Clinton, who spoke with Netanyahu last week, told him that with Kadima now part of the coalition, she is waiting to see how he will move the diplomatic process forward.

Netanyahu's letter to Abbas was delivered to PA headquarters in Ramallah by his special envoy Isaac Molho, who met with Abbas for 90 minutes.

Following the meeting, the two issued a joint statement saying that Israel and the Palestinian Authority are obligated to achieve peace, and that the parties hope the exchange of letters between Netanyahu and Abbas will help move them closer to this end. Molho's meeting with Abbas was, in fact, a reciprocal visit: three weeks ago PA negotiations chief Saeb Erekat and Palestinian intelligence head Majed Faraj met with Netanyahu and delivered a letter from Abbas. In that letter, Abbas accused Netanyahu of weakening the PA.

A source who saw the letter that Netanyahu sent to Abbas said it included, for the first time in an official state document, an official pledge by Netanyahu to establish a demilitarized Palestinian state in keeping with the principle of a two-state solution.

Netanyahu declared his support for such a solution in a speech at Bar-Ilan University in 2009, as well as when he addressed the U.S. Congress in May 2011. However, he has never brought the matter to a cabinet vote, nor had he set it down in an official document, until now.

Abbas met with the Palestine Liberation Organization executive committee and the Fatah central committee on Sunday to discuss Netanyahu's letter. After the meeting, the PLO executive committee released a statement that said Netanyahu's letter contained no clear answers to essential issues: first and foremost, a halt to construction in the settlements and east Jerusalem, recognition of the 1967 borders and the release of prisoners.

A member of the Fatah central committee, Mohammed Shtayeh, who was present at Sunday's meetings, said Netanyahu's letter contained no new proposals or ideas.

Despite Palestinian disappointment with the letter, they did not reject it outright.

The Palestinian leadership will decide its next moves after consulting with the Arab countries and the PA's friends worldwide, Abbas said on Sunday at the central committee meeting.

The United States is pressing Abbas to use the letters as a means of moving toward direct talks with Israel. The Americans reportedly would like to see a resumption of the talks between Molho and Erekat, which took place in January in Amman, under the patronage of King Abdullah of Jordan.

# *Coalition to deal with Haredi army exemption*

**Uriel Heilman**
JTA

Israel's new unity government could dramatically change something many Israelis care deeply: haredi exemptions from military service.

Nearly every government in recent years has needed the haredi parties to cobble together a governing coalition, rendering haredi entitlement programs such as the military exemption politically untouchable.

**Analysis**

This long has irritated Israelis who serve in the army and resent that the haredim, by and large, do not serve yet draw all sorts of entitlement payments from the state.

But with Shaul Mofaz's decision to bring his Kadima party and its 28 seats into the ruling coalition, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu no longer needs the haredi parties to keep his government in power. They could pull out, and it would make no real difference – at least until the elections that are scheduled for October 2013.

Already there is movement to find an alternative to the Tal Law, which granted military exemptions to haredi Israeli men but was struck down several months ago by Israel's Supreme Court. The court ordered that an alternative to the law be put into place by Aug. 1.

Crafting an alternative to the Tal Law is one of the priorities set forth by the new government coalition, and it may be a potential historical legacy of the 18-month alliance between Netanyahu and Mofaz.

Last week, the *Jerusalem Post* reported that under the Mofaz-Netanyahu deal, haredi exemptions from the army would be replaced by a Basic Law requiring all citizens to perform military or civilian service.

Last month, Kadima proposed instituting a universal military draft within five years. Under the Kadima plan, all Israelis either would serve in the military or do national service in a variety of fields, among them education, health and domestic security. Those who fail to comply would be barred from receiving any state funding.

**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, and Kadima chair Shaul Mofaz hold a joint press conference in the Israeli parliament on May 8 prior to deciding to build a coalition government.** ***[Flash90 photo]***

The question is whether such a plan, could survive opposition from Israel's haredi parties. Netanyahu doesn't need them to survive in office until the next elections. Indeed, if he were to push through such legislation, it could earn his Likud party much broader support, including from secular and more centrist voters, the next time Israel goes to the polls.

But it could cost Netanyahu in October 2013 if Likud wins the election, Kadima fares poorly and Netanyahu needs the haredi parties to form a coalition.

Some other factors are at play, too.

For one thing, while in principle most Israelis would like haredim to be subject to the same requirements of service demanded of all other Israelis, in practice the army does not want a sudden flood of tens of thousands of new haredi recruits. The Israel Defence Forces lacks the infrastructure to absorb them, both in numbers and operationally. What would the army do with 10,000 new recruits who are opposed to significant interaction with female instructors?

Also, a dramatic transformation of the relationship between haredim and the state would run up against opposition not only from haredi parties in the Knesset but from haredi citizens. Mass demonstrations and even riots likely would ensue. The reality is that Israel doesn't want all these haredim in the army. What Israel wants is more haredi men working, paying taxes and integrated into Israeli society.

Under the current system, haredi men must stay in yeshiva until their 30s to keep their military exemption. Haredi women are granted exemptions from army service upon request. That has helped bankrupt the haredi community and nurture a black-market economy in which many haredi men work surreptitiously and do not pay taxes.

Changing the rule would help drive haredim into the workforce and into better-paying jobs. That would help Israel's tax rolls and reduce haredi dependency on welfare.

Some haredim see these changes as key to the economic and social survival of their community. But other haredi leaders see it as opening up a slippery slope away from the yeshiva and Jewish observance and toward the dangerous temptations of modern, secular Israel.

Kadima has proposed exempting 1,000 haredi yeshiva students from the military draft and allowing others to defer military service on a year-by-year basis while they are studying in yeshiva. According to a report in the *Jerusalem Post*, Likud is likely to propose an alternative that instead would establish a minimum number of haredi participants in national service programs that would increase every year without a cap on those claiming yeshiva-related exemptions from service.

For now, the haredi parties appear to be taking a wait-and-see approach.

"There can't be a situation in Israel in 2012 where someone who wants to study Torah will not be able to do so," Yakov Litzman of the United Torah Judaism party told the *Post*. "But as long as the principle of '*Torato Omunato*' [Torah is one's work] is preserved, UTJ will remain in the coalition."

# Peace deal with Israel gets thumbs down in Egypt

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**CAIRO** — Egyptian presidential hopefuls Amr Moussa and Abdel Moneim Abol Fotouh said in a televised debate on May 10 that Israel is an adversary and an enemy, and pledged to review Egypt's peace treaty with the country.

The two election front-runners, a former foreign minister and a moderate Islamist, squared off in the Arab world's first-ever presidential debate, watched by millions across the Arab world. The two sought to trip each other up during the four-hour debate, on questions ranging from their perspective on Islamic sharia law to their views on Israel. The debate was broadcast on two privately owned television channels.

The candidates repeatedly accused each other of distorting the facts.

Both said they would review Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, a country Abol Fotouh described as an enemy and Moussa called an adversary. Last month, Moussa told told an election rally in southern Egypt that the Camp David agreement was "dead and buried."

As the debate moved to foreign policy in the early hours of the morning, the veteran diplomat Moussa made a gaffe, when he called Iran an Arab state.

A former member of the Muslim Brotherhood, Abol Fotouh portrayed Moussa as a member of the Hosni Mubarak government that had corrupted Egypt. "There's a rule that says that one who created the problem cannot solve it," the 60-year-old said.

Moussa, who was head of the Arab League at the time of the uprising, defended his record as Egypt's foreign minister but added that he had left the post in 2001.

"The regime that fell, fell with Moussa outside of it," the 75-year-old said. "I say, you too were silent. You used to defend the positions of the Muslim Brotherhood and not Egyptian interests."

The two are among 13 candidates competing in the election, due to begin on May 23.

Other contenders include Mohamed Mursi, the Muslim Brotherhood's candidate; Ahmed Shafiq, Mubarak's last prime minister; and Hamdeen Sabahy, a leftist. The organisers of last week's debate said Moussa and Abol Fotouh had been invited because they were ahead in the polls.

The debate repeatedly swivelled back to Moussa and Abol Fotouh's past lives.

Moussa asked Abol Fotouh about an oath he had pledged to the religious guide of the Brotherhood: "What does this oath mean? Does it mean that if you are elected you will have [another] president?"

Abol Fotouh replied: "It seems Amr Moussa doesn't follow the news carefully and doesn't know that I resigned from the Muslim Brotherhood after I decided to run for the presidency in April 2011. This resignation was because I wanted to be free to serve the nation – to be a president for all Egyptians."

Moussa accused him of double-speak, asking how he had managed to win endorsement from both liberals and hardline Salafi Islamists. "With Salafis, he is a Salafi. With liberals, he is a liberal. With centrists, he is a centrist," he said.

The tension, which appeared to build throughout the debate, manifested itself in scathing closing remarks.

Moussa urged Egyptians not to vote for a man he said was unclear in his policies and was not qualified to lead a state, accusing him of "forging history."

"I am sorry to say that we must warn the Egyptian people," Moussa said. "The next president must have certain qualifications that can lead the country."

Abol Fotouh shot back by saying that a vote for Moussa would be a step backwards. "We are for the first time choosing the president of Egypt," he said. "I hope that we don't allow ourselves to be taken back, once again, to the fallen regime, with its ideas, its substance and figures," he said.

# Kosher law ruled constitutional

JTA

**NEW YORK** — New York state's kosher law, which regulates the labelling and marketing of kosher food, does not violate the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, a federal appeals court ruled.

The three-judge panel of the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan ruled May 10 in a constitutional challenge to the New York State Kosher Law Protection Act of 2004. Previously, kosher was defined legally as "according to Orthodox Hebrew religious requirements." Several butchers challenged the law in a 1996 suit.

"The Kosher Act does not entangle the state with religion because it does not require the state to enforce laws based on religious doctrine or to inquire into the religious content or religious nature of the products sold," Judge Christopher Droney wrote, saying that the law simply requires kosher products to be labelled with the required information.

Commack Kosher, a deli and butcher shop on Long Island, brought the lawsuit, as well as the suit that led to the rewording of the law.

The new kosher law does not define what constitutes kosher, but requires producers, distributors and retailers of food sold as kosher in the state to submit information about their products, including the identity of the person or organization that certifies them, to the state Department of Agriculture and Markets. The information is published in an online directory.

# *1,000 hold protest in Tel Aviv*

**Continued from page 1**

The protest in Spain, itself an echo of the Arab Spring, was the first of many such protest movements in the West, including the Occupy Wall Street protest in New York and other cities in the English-speaking world and the Rothschild Boulevard cost-of-living "tent" protest in Tel Aviv and in other Israeli cities.

Last summer, a social justice protest movement swept Israel, with tent encampments sprouting up in cities throughout the country and weekly demonstrations that grew to include hundreds of thousands of people.

Earlier last week, around 1,000 people held a protest in Tel Aviv against the unity deal that was reached between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Kadima leader Shaul Mofaz, who decided to bring his Kadima party and its 28 seats into the ruling coalition.

# Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike may be ending

**Palestinian protesters burn tires and throw rocks during clashes with Israeli security officers at a demonstration held in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike, outside Ofer prison near the West Bank city of Ramallah.** ***[Flash90 photo]***

JTA

**JERUSALEM** — It's unclear whether a deal to end the hunger strike of at least 1,400 Palestinian prisoners is near completion.

Unnamed Palestinian officials told Reuters Monday that Egypt had finished brokering a deal that would bring the hunger strike to an end. Rumours about the deal had been circulating over the weekend.

The prisoners and Israeli officials must now hammer out some specific details, according to Reuters.

But Israeli sources reportedly told Ynet Monday that no agreement had been reached.

Some 1,400 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are on an open-ended hunger strike launched more than three weeks ago. They are calling for an end to solitary confinement and isolation; permitting families of prisoners from the Gaza Strip to visit their loved ones; and allowing prisoners to have newspapers, learning materials and specific television channels. The strike is also protesting administrative detention. A prisoner can be held in administrative detention without charges being brought, for up to four months. The detention can also be renewed.

Ten of the hunger strikers are reportedly under hospital supervision.

Two of the hunger strikers – Bilal Diab, 27, of Jenin, and Thaer Halahla, 33, of Hebron, who are both members of the Islamic Jihad terrorist organization – have been on a hunger strike for more than 70 days, placing their lives in danger.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have threatened consequences if any of the hunger strikers die.

### Israel demands Iran halt enrichment

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton that Iran must agree to halt all uranium enrichment in upcoming talks. Ashton was in Jerusalem to brief Netanyahu in the run-up to the second round of nuclear talks with Iran scheduled for May 23 in Baghdad. Netanyahu also accused Iran of "playing for time." Netanyahu invited Defense Minister Ehud Barak, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and new coalition member Kadima head Shaul Mofaz to join the meeting with Ashton. Mofaz has spoken out in the past against a unilateral Israeli strike on Iranian nuclear facilities.

### Poll: Netanyahu gains strength

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political position has received a significant boost thanks to his coalition agreement with Kadima leader Shaul Mofaz, according to an opinion poll conducted last week by New Wave Research for the daily *Israel Hayom*. Some 39.8 percent of Israelis said they supported the newly formed unity government, which was brokered early last Tuesday morning. Some 31.9 percent said they opposed the pact. A further 28.4 percent said they were undecided.

### Record number of tourists

The number of tourists entering Israel last month set a record. Some 354,000 visitors arrived in Israel in April, 19 percent more than in April 2011 and 12 percent more than in April 2010, during Israel's record year for tourism, according to Israel's Tourism Ministry. In addition, more than 1 million visitors arrived in Israel between January and April of this year, 4 percent more than the previous record.

*- JTA and Joint News Media Service*


# Placing Old Age Security on a Sustainable Path

Canadians are living longer and costs for the Old Age Security (OAS) are rising. On April 1, 2023 the Government of Canada plans to start raising the age of eligibility for OAS and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) from 65 to 67.*

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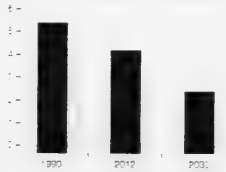
The number of working-age Canadians for every senior is decreasing**



**Source: *9th Actuanal Report on the Old Age Security Program*

*The number of working-age Canadians per senior is decreasing, placing additional pressure on the OAS program.*

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Canada

# Companies provide lessons in interior design

Photos courtesy of Design Source Furniture

The Klein family from Design Source Furniture

**Lauren Kramer**
Special to The CJN

When it comes to interior design, each generation brings new trends and changes, believing theirs to be modern, contemporary and nothing like the way their parents decorated.

Brian Murphy, a Toronto designer of interiors and exteriors (brianmurphydesign.ca), recalls a time when everyone painted their homes beige. "They topped it off with white until their houses looked like a snowy day in winter," he jokes.

That was just a decade ago, and he's relieved to see more colour today, particularly the strong, bold, organic and earthy tones that are predominating in home interiors. "When people do accent they go for primary colours, like dark blue, dark purple, red and fuschia – it looks great, fresh, exciting and it feels fun," he says.

Those white houses used to feature big, poofy floral couches that have since been replaced with sleek, square-armed, much lower couches with rectilinear shapes. "They're popular, but it's hard to get out of them, particularly if you're over 40," says Murphy. The rectilinear shapes are accented with curvilinear coffee tables or dinner tables, often organic-looking items.

It's because people have become very interested in all things organic, he explains.

"We're seeing unfinished rock as a bathroom or floor surface, large pieces of wood serving as coffee tables or sideboard servers and benches made of old planks for barns," he says. "It makes people feel good, as if they're connected to time and space."

Home interiors are all about open-plan spaces today, he adds. "One of my clients had a big barn in Richmond Hill, but wanted all the walls on the main floor torn down. The kitchen, living and dining room are all one room now."

If the inside is about openness, the outdoors has become an extension of the interior and the trend today is for outside rooms. "Some of them feature a fireplace, couches, chairs, lighting, ceiling fans and even water sprays for the hot days," says Murphy. "The outdoor rooms have divides and barriers that create a real sense of being in another room rather than in your own yard."

Regardless of whether you're decorating your home's interior or your "outside room," you're going to need furniture and accessories, and that's where Design Source Furniture comes into the picture.

The family-operated company began in 1985 as an upholstered goods manufacturer, but expanded to include high-end accessories, chandeliers, coffee tables and lamps.

These are displayed in a 4,000-square-foot showroom geared specifically toward buyers who "want something special, unique and different – not made in China," says co-owner Tommy Klein. "This is a first-rate operation featuring top-quality products," he adds. "Typically, designers bring their clients into our showroom to see products imported from all over the world."

Most of those clients are Jewish, he adds, and new clients are welcome regardless of whether they bring their designers in tow, or make an appointment for a solo visit.

"We're having a pre-inventory sale," he adds. "Make an appointment to come in so we can show you what we have. We are the best-kept secret in Toronto. For more information, call 416-663-0366 or visit our website, www.designsourcefurniture.ca."

Photo courtesy of Brian Murphy Design & Associates

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# *Nazi Germany held out despite a succession of defeats*

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

World War II in Europe officially ended when Germany surrendered to the Allies on May 7, 1945. But in the view of Allied commanders, the war should really have drawn to a close in 1944, when the Third Reich was in full retreat.

Against all odds and in the face of defeat, Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime held out, thereby prolonging the war by about 10 months and condemning millions of civilians, particularly Jews, to needless suffering.

In *The End: The Defiance and Destruction of Hitler's Germany, 1944-1945* (Penguin Press), the distinguished British historian Ian Kershaw explains in voluminous detail why Germany continued to fight until the bitter end.

"The fact that the regime did hold out and that the war ended only when Germany was militarily battered into submission, its economy destroyed, its cities in ruins, the country occupied by foreign powers – is historically an extreme rarity," Kershaw writes.

As he points out, wars in the modern era have usually ended when the ruling elites of a nation have sued for peace and reached an agreement with the victor. Indeed, this was the case in World War I. But in World War II, the pattern was completely shattered.

By the dictates of logic, Germany should have surrendered in 1944.

The D-Day landings at Normandy had taken place, setting the stage for Allied advances into Germany. Round-the-clock Allied bombing raids of German cities were taking a terrible toll. On the eastern front, the Red Army had smashed through Wehrmacht defences. In the Ardennes, Germany's last major offensive fizzled.

And yet Germany fought on, the great majority of Germans still unhesitatingly loyal in their support for the doomed war effort. In Kershaw's view, Germany's determination to carry on, come what may, was partly rooted in Hitler's refusal to contemplate capitulation. When he finally realized that victory was unattainable, he committed suicide rather than surrendering.

Hitler convinced his followers that defeat would bring about the utter destruction of the German people, and that Bolshevism, Germany's arch enemy, was a product of a Jewish conspiracy.

Reiterating this claim, Hitler's closest aide, Martin Bormann, declared, "A victory for Bolshevism... would mean not only the extermination of our race, but also the destruction of everything that its culture and civilization has created."

Brainwashed by these theories, ordinary Germans remained generally loyal to Hitler. As a result, support for the regime was widespread, not just among Nazi diehards, Kershaw notes.

The association of Hitler with patriotic support for the country remained strong, especially after the failed assassination attempt on his life in July 1944.

"Effusive outpourings of loyalty and support for the Fuehrer were immediately registered in all quarters, along with furious outrage at the 'tiny clique' of 'criminal' officers (as Hitler labelled them) who had perpetrated such a vile deed. It would, of course, have been near suicidal to voice regrets in public that Hitler had survived, though certainly that was the private feeling of a good many people."

A lasting consequence of the abortive assassination plot was the elimination of high-ranking officers in the armed forces who might have been agents of regime change, Kershaw observes. Conversely, with the general staff having been purged of so-called traitors, the military leadership expressed total obedience to Hitler.

**Allied bombing raids devastated such German cities as Nuremberg, yet Germany fought on till the bitter end.**

One of Hitler's firmest backers was Grand Admiral Karl Donitz. Although he cultivated the image of a purely professional officer, he was in actuality a real hardliner, never wavering from his appraisal of Hitler as a man of "extreme chivalry and kindness."

Albert Speer, the minister of armaments, was also instrumental in Germany's decision to prosecute the war at all costs. "Without my work, the war would perhaps have been lost in 1942-43," he claimed. "He was surely right," Kershaw says. "His achievements constitute an important element in the answer to the question of how Germany held out so long."

There is another factor to consider.

With signs of disintegration within the civilian population and among foot soldiers appearing in the winter of 1945, the regime stepped up repression at home. Germans were now increasingly subjected to what Kershaw describes as "wild reprisals for perceived defeatism."

But the worst of the terror was reserved for the regime's designated enemies: Jews, foreign workers, prisoners of war and concentration camp internees.

Jews, in particular, bore the brunt of the persecution. Death marches, coming on the heels of the Final Solution, which reached a peak of intensity from 1942 to 1944, claimed the lives of yet more Jews.

Kershaw says the majority of Germans appear to have been unconcerned by the fate of Jews, perhaps because relatively few people in Germany had first-hand, detailed knowledge of the Holocaust.

"For most, it was a case of 'out of sight, out of mind,' apart from the nagging worry that the ill-deeds perpetrated by German overlords might well come back to haunt then in defeat and occupation."

Germany paid an onerous price for extending the war to such absurd lengths. Out of 18.2 million servicemen who served in the Wehrmacht, Luftwaffe, navy and Waffen-SS, 5.3 million were killed.

"Of these, 2.7 million died down to the end of July 1944," he writes, adding that a further 2.6 million were killed in the last 10 months of the war.

By the very end, 300,000 to 400,000 servicemen were dying each month.

The casualty figures stagger the imagination, yet Allied opinion polls taken in the immediate aftermath of the war revealed that about 50 per cent of Germans still thought National Socialism had been in essence a good idea that had been badly implemented.

Another Allied survey, taken in October 1945, found that 20 per cent of Germans basically agreed with Hitler's Jewish policy. A further 19 per cent were also in agreement but thought Hitler had gone too far.

In conclusion, Kershaw points out that Germany persevered because "the structures and mentalities" of Hitler's regime lasted until he shot himself in his Berlin bunker on April 30, 1945.

"The dominant elites, divided as they were, possessed neither the collective will nor the mechanisms of power to prevent Hitler taking Germany to total destruction."

**'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING**

**The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising** reads as follows:

"In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibits the use of the word kosher or any letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is kosher, if the food does not meet the requirements of the Kashruth applicable to it.

The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

***The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.***

# Sheridan College grad lands role in *Rent*

**Cara Edell**
Special to The CJN

In a way, budding actor Karina Bershteyn has Harry Potter to thank for her career choice.

"It's funny actually – the moment I realized I wanted to pursue a career in the entertainment industry was when the first *Harry Potter* film came out," she said. "I just remember seeing these other 11- and 12-year-olds up on the big screen and thinking, 'I could do that,'" she said.

Now 21, Bershteyn is among the next crop of theatre stars who will be performing in Theatre Sheridan's production of *Rent*, at the Panasonic Theatre in Toronto from May 16 to June 3.

Set in New York's East Village, Jonathan Larson's *Rent* is a modern take on the Puccini opera *La Boheme*. It tells the story of a group of friends and artists who are learning to survive, falling in love, finding their voices and living for today. An inspiring award-winning musical, *Rent* tackles themes of addiction, poverty, AIDS and relationships.

"This show is one that really speaks to me, because I feel as though the story is universal to people of all ages and all walks of life," Bershteyn said.

"I'm excited to be able to share this story once again. This is a brilliant opportunity being given to us graduates, as we are entering the business. It's like our big hello to the industry."

Part of the graduating class of Sheridan College's music theatre program, Bershteyn has a passion for performance that began at a young age. She started taking dance classes at eight years old and attended theatre camp every summer.

Having a good understanding of her Jewish heritage influences how Bershteyn approaches certain works. "If I am doing a monologue from a play that deals with Jewish history or themes, it makes my ability to connect to the piece that much easier because my personal history can relate to the history of the character," she said.

**Karina Bershteyn**

In *Rent*, Bershteyn plays Mrs. Cohen, the lead character's mother. As well, she has several ensemble parts and is a featured dancer.

"When creating the character, director Lezlie Wade told me she wanted Mrs. Cohen to be a typically overprotective, overcaring Jewish mother from New York," Bershteyn said.

"I didn't need to use my imagination very much, because I grew up with a mother exactly like Mrs. Cohen, except for her being from Russia instead of New York. There are some things about growing up Jewish that really only those of us who grew up that way would be able to know what that fully entails."

While involved in the production, Bershteyn has had the opportunity to work alongside some of Canada's top theatre professionals.

"Lezlie Wade, [musical director] Bob Foster and [choreographer] Marc Kimelman have been absolute inspirations. They instil their knowledge and passion into everything they do, and it makes the rest of us want to give just as much to this production."

She said one of the nice things about working with professionals of such high calibre is that they are efficient. "They won't let us get away with anything less than excellence, which is fantastic because it pushes us to be the best we can possibly be."

While still a new talent, Bershteyn has already been cast in a number of productions. Last summer, she played Bebe in *A Chorus Line* (Rose Theatre) and Salome in *Robin Hood* (GADZ Productions, Theatre Aquarius).

Before that, she reprised the role of Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show* at Port Mansion Dinner Theatre in St. Catharines, Ont., for two years in a row. Both years she was recognized for her performance at the Niagara Music Awards. This season, she played Linda in *Blood Brothers* and Diane in the musical *Come From Away*, developed by the Canadian Music Theatre Project, an incubator for the development of new musical theatre.

Bershteyn said she's most proud of what she accomplished playing Linda in *Blood Brothers*. "It was a challenging role in that it demanded a lot both physically and emotionally. Though there are many funny moments, the show is overall very dark and the characters go through a lot of hardships, so it was great to see how far I could push myself working with extreme circumstances."

Bershteyn said her family members are now very supportive of her theatrical ambition, but at first questioned her career choice. "My parents and my grandparents immigrated to Canada from Russia, so you can imagine their upbringings were very different from mine. After I booked my first paying performance job when I was 14, my parents slowly became less and less skeptical. They could see that I really was serious about this, and that it wasn't just a phase."

After *Rent* closes, Bershteyn said she'll be auditioning for other shows. "It's all very much so up in the air, but to me that just means a whole world of opportunity awaits."

Bershteyn said she would like to continue performing in professional theatre in Canada and internationally. She also plans to work her way into film and television.

"I feel that with the training I have had, and the training I will continue to do, I am equipped with enough of a variety of skills that I can delve into many different sides of the industry," she said.

"Most of all though, I just hope to be able to make my living performing because it is what I love most, regardless of what form it is in. That, to me, is the greatest success I hope to achieve."

Bershteyn advises aspiring threatre professionals to "train, train, train. And after that, train some more. Always be open to learning more, because as an artist, the learning is never over. And with that, never compromise who you are or your integrity. As long as you are respectful to those around you, people will respect you for choosing to be who you are, instead of trying to be who you think people want you to be."

*For tickets to* Rent *and more information, visit www.mirvish.com.*

# *Yuk Yuks bringing laughs to Israel*

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Canadian comedy club chain Yuk Yuks is sending a delegation of six comedians to Israel next month to spread some Canuck cheer and learn what makes Israelis laugh.

While there, the comics will be shadowed by a CBC film crew, led by Toronto director Igal Hecht, for a documentary to be released later this year.

In a recent interview with *The CJN*, Yuk Yuks president and CEO, Mark Breslin, said he'll be making his first visit to the Holy Land along with the standup comedians – three Jewish, three not – and is looking forward to further connecting with his Jewish roots.

The comedians are Rebbecca Kohler, Aaron Berg, Sam Easton, Jean Paul, Nikki Payne and Michael Khardas. The latter is an Israeli Canadian.

In a country that's experienced its fair share of sorrow and hardship, a comedy trip to Israel seems like a potentially great balm for a perpetually stressed Israeli populace. But Breslin expects that the country will also have a significant impact on his own retinue.

While the touring comics hope to "kill" audiences in Israel, the country and its diverse cultures will likely affect the travelling Canadian comedians and their material, Breslin said.

The weeklong comedy trip runs from May 30 to June 7.

They'll be doing standup gigs in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Herzliya, as well as meeting with a number of Israeli comedians to share their experiences and engage in a comedic cultural exchange.

Breslin said the idea for the trip stemmed from his anger at the anti-Israel events that unfolded at the 2010 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). What he witnessed from the boycott, divestment and sanctions advocates at the time – various filmmakers and actors vocally opposed TIFF's spotlight on Tel Aviv films at the time – sent him into a fury.

"There were some people in the arts who protested and thought it was wrong" to spotlight Israel, he said. "So I thought, what if I did an Israeli comedy festival in Toronto. Would they picket me or was comedy not important enough?"

While that question wasn't answered, the Israeli consulate in Toronto helped plant the seeds of this upcoming trip.

"I approached the Israeli government in Toronto and asked about what kind of access there might be to English-speaking comics in Israel" with the goal of bringing them to Canada, Breslin said.

He found out that there was indeed an English comedy circuit in Israel that might send some comedians to Canada. But the consulate proposed another idea: sending a group of Canadian comedians to Israel.

Breslin said before that talk, he'd never considered that option.

"Of the seven of us going, only one has ever been to Israel, Michael, who's one of our fledgling comics," he said.

The trip is also part of a plan to capitalize on the burgeoning international appetite for English-speaking comedians, Breslin said.

"Did you know there's a comic circuit in Scandinavia for English-speaking comics?" he asked rhetorically. "And as far as I know, no one has yet taken a look at Israel as a place where people have taken a new interest in standup comedy, which they obviously have. Everyone [in Israel] speaks English, pretty much."

He cited comedy clubs springing up in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and other towns in Israel.

Breslin said it's not out of the question that a Yuk Yuks franchise could work in Israel, specifically in Tel Aviv, and it's something he'll look into while there.

"If I found someone who could run it, a franchisee, it's not impossible," he said.

On a personal note, this being his first trip to Israel, he said now that he's turned 60, it's time to make the journey.

"In my assimilated, arty circle, it's not unusual" to have not visited Israel, he said, adding: "I married a German. Does it get more assimilated than that?"

**Continued on page 37**

# EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

### FILM FESTIVAL TO INCLUDE DOC ON MUSIC IMPRESARIO SAUL HOLIFF

The North by Northeast (NXNE) Film Festival is scheduled to screen more than 40 movies in June, including several with some connection to the Canadian Jewish community.

One of the highlights of the festival is the Canadian première of *My Father and the Man in Black*, a feature-length documentary focusing on **Johnny Cash**'s talented but troubled manager, the late impresario **Saul Holiff**, formerly of London, Ont.

Written and directed by Saul's son, **Jonathan Holiff**, the film includes previously unreleased footage that weaves a fascinating yet tragic story: Holiff, estranged from his father for 20 years, discovered a storage locker just six months after Saul's death in 2005. Inside were hundreds of handwritten letters between Saul, Cash and Cash's wife, June Carter, taped conversations with Cash and an audio diary reaching back to 1965.

NXNE is also screening *I Met the Walrus*, an animated film directed by **Josh Raskin** and produced by **Jerry Levitan** of Toronto. Nominated for an Oscar in 2008, *I Met the Walrus* features a 14-year-old Levitan and his encounter with music legend **John Lennon**. It is being screened alongside its companion piece, *My Hometown*, an animated short produced and directed by Levitan and **Terry Tompkins**, and narrated by **Yoko Ono**.

The festival is also running *KMS: Jewish Negroes*, director **Moran Ifergan**'s film about a year in the lives of three Ethiopian Jewish friends in the band **KMS** in Israel. NXNE screenings take place at the NFB Mediatheque, Royal Cinema and Toronto Underground Cinema, June 11 to 17. www.nxne.com

* * *

**Names in the News:** Toronto author **Jack Lipinski** was recently honoured when his book, *Imposing Their Will: An Organizational History of Jewish Toronto, 1933-1948*, won the Joseph Brant Award of the Ontario Historical Society for the best book on multicultural history in Ontario published in the past three years.

* * *

**Names in the News II:** A large number of prominent Jewish Canadians are alumni of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto, which recently marked its 125th anniversary. The list includes **Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella**, **Paul Shaffer** and **Ben Steinberg**. Other famous alumni include **Glenn Gould**, **Oscar Peterson**, **Diana Krall**, **Norman Jewison** and **Kim Cattrall**. The conservatory's "Music in Exiles" series, at its Glenn Gould School, continues to focus on composers exiled from Germany before and during World War II.

**Playwriting Competition:** The Cultural Arts Department of the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre has called for submissions to the 2012 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition, with a deadline of July 3. The winning play receives a professionally acted and directed public workshop in the Between States Play Reading series. Last year's winning play, *Haunted* by **Daniel Karasik**, received a reading in April. www.mnjcc.org

* * *

**Hebrew on Stage:** Mifgash Theatre, the only Hebrew-speaking theatre in Toronto presents *He Walked Through the Fields* by **Moshe Shamir**. This Israeli drama paints a larger-than-life portrait of the new generation of native Israelis, the heroic sabras. In Hebrew with English surtitles. $25. Al Green Theatre, May 21 to 24, 8 p.m. http://bit.ly/J8isyd

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• Pianist **Fern Lindzon** performs with **George Koller** (bass) and **Michael Davidson** (vibraphone) at the Rex Jazz and Blues Bar, 194 Queen St. W. Sunday, May 13, 9:30 p.m. therex.ca

• The Koffler Centre of the Arts and Luminato present Tel Aviv's Batsheva Dance Company in the North American première of the large, full-length work SADEH21 (literally translated as "Field 21"). MacMillan Theatre, 80 Queen's Park, Thursday, June 14. kofflerarts.org

• *Franz Werfel: A Life in Prague, Vienna and Hollywood*, by **Peter Stephan Jungk**, was recently released as a Kindle e-book by the Plunkett Lake Press, headed by American writer **Helen Epstein** (*Children of the Holocaust*). The press has also published many other titles with Jewish subjects and themes. www.plunkettlake-press.com

• *Spark: Igniting with Photography* is a collection of photographic portraits by artists from **Shoot With This**, a photography mentorship initiative for at-risk youth. A Scotiabank Contact Festival exhibit in partnership with the Al Green Gallery, the exhibit continues at the Miles Nadal JCC Gallery until May 29.

**Out of Town**

• The popular Israeli rock band **Useless ID** begins a tour of Quebec and Ontario this month. They are in Quebec City on May 26, Ottawa on May 28, Montreal on May 29, Welland on May 30, Hamilton on May 31, and London on June 1 before playing at the Bovine Club, Toronto on June 2. Search Useless ID on Facebook for details.

• The Rady JCC and the I.L. Peretz Folk School Endowment Fund of Winnipeg have announced the return of that city's Yiddish festival, the fourth Mameloshen: Festival of Yiddish Entertainment and Culture. Performances take place at the Winnipeg Art Gallery on May 22 and 31, and June 13 and 14. www.radyjcc.com

# *History of comedy is laden with Jewish influence*

**Continued from page 36**

Breslin said his family has been in Canada since the 1880s, so their connection to Europe and the Middle East was always distant.

Not having led a "traditional" Jewish life, he said during the course of his career he hasn't had much room to express his Jewishness.

"I've always looked for ways to do this. I don't have a political attachment to Israel. I don't belong to a shul. My community is less Jewish and more multicultural. But this trip may be one of the ways I can connect with the Jewish strand in my life. I couldn't [connect] in a conventional way because I don't do anything in a conventional way," he joked.

Mark Breslin

"But in the end, I enjoy being a Jew. I don't think enough people say that," he said.

Bringing the conversation back to comedy, Breslin noted that the history of the craft is laden with Jewish influence but the old days of Jewish comedians dominating the landscape of North American comedy – the Borsht Belt circuit being one example – are over. But there is a new flavour of Jewish comedy in the world, and it's emerging from the Holy Land.

"The history of comedy as we know it is very much the history of Jewish comedy. And the idea that there may be a place in the world now, Israel, that is going to continue on in creating a new tradition of Jewish comedy, really excites me and interests me," he said.

It will also be an apolitical trip, Breslin said, noting he ensured that all the comedians had "good feelings" about Israel before embarking on the tour.

His goal for the trip to expose people to how "great a country Israel is."

"It's a progressive country. The people going on this trip are not religious people, to put it mildly. The Israel we're interested in is the one that is a beacon of western thought and democracy in the Middle East," Breslin said.

He added: "As artists, a lot of the time we identify with the outsiders and [one area] where we note this is happening is in Tel Aviv's huge gay community. Also, there's an explosion of Israeli filmmaking happening. The political debate on Israel has been going of for so long… there's a lot of other stuff in Israel that should be seen."

Lastly, Breslin said he hasn't let go of the idea of bringing Israeli comics to Canada as part of a cross-cultural initiative.

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# Judo coach scouting Maccabiah-calibre athletes

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

The last time Maccabi Canada sent a judo team to the Maccabiah Games, it consisted of only two fighters.

Countries like Israel, the United States, Argentina and Russia sent dozens.

Now, one of those two Canadian judokas has been put in charge of Maccabi Canada's judo entry for the 2013 Games, and he's aiming to grow the team.

Erez Cohen, who hails originally from Bnei Brak, Israel, believes there are enough good Canadian athletes to round out a competitive team.

One of them, expected to be a medal contender, is Roman Abramowicz, a 24-year-old immigrant from Kirgistan, who is not to be confused with the Russian billionaire of the same name.

A handful of others may be persuaded to try out for the team, enough to compete in each weight category, or about 10 in all, Cohen said.

Most, like he and Abramowicz, were either born abroad or are the children of immigrants. "It's hard to find a Canadian born to Canadian parents who will do judo," he said.

Still, he believes, "there are enough Jewish athletes in Canada. We can build a team."

Cohen's assignment at first blush is a lot more challenging that that faced by judo GMs in other countries. In some countries, like the United States, Russia, Argentina and Israel, judo is a very popular sport. Top judokas there are treated with the same kind of reverence we'd associate with hockey stars here.

One of Israel's top athletes, and perhaps its most popular, is Ariel Zeevi, who recently won the European championship in the 100-kilogram class. He's won the title five times since 2000, to go along

Erez Cohen

with his 2004 Olympic bronze medal. Hundreds if not thousands of Israelis flock to European venues to see him compete, Cohen said.

Ironically, both he and Zeevi hail from the same small community of Bnei Brak, known more for its haredi demography than for athletic excellence. They also trained at the same club. "We're kind of the black sheep of the city," Cohen quipped.

Cohen competed for Israel in international events and twice represented the country at the Maccabiah Games before moving to Canada.

Cohen takes over the reins of the judo team from longstanding team captain Mark Berger. Berger, originally from Russia, is an Olympic bronze medallist, competed for Canada at Maccabiah Games and was the team's flag-bearer on one occasion.

Cohen expects to get the word out about next summer's Maccabiah at future competitions and through word-of-mouth with judo coaches around the country.

He's already been approached by non-Jewish coaches suggesting potential Maccabiah competitors.

"It's a small community," he said. "Judokas hang out at all the tournaments. Jewish people just find each other."

The Ontario Open is set for May 19 and 20 in west Toronto, and Cohen will be on hand to scout potential athletes and make his pitch.

For anybody willing to listen, he'll tell them the Maccabiah Games "is going to be one of the best experiences they'll ever have in their lives. I will tell them, it's one of the highlights of any event I have ever been in." It brings together people from around the world "who share a love of Israel and sports. It's something you can't describe."

For more information, Cohen can be reached at 416-780-0078.

Maccabi Canada

**Maccabi Canada Hockey is proud to announce:**

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*Our Men's camp and team will be run by NHL Coaching legend **Mike Keenan**, along with current OHL coaches **Greg Gilbert** and **Mike Pelino**.

**For more information, specific times and if you are located outside of these cities and are interested in trying out for this program, please contact us at tali@maccabicanada.com**

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# Soccer-thon raises funds for kids with disabilities

Compiled by CJN Staff

Beit Issie Shapiro's (BISYP) second annual Soccer-thon, dubbed "Kicking for Kids," raised $8,300 for children in Israel suffering disabilities. Last year, the organization raised $1,800.

Some 100 soccer players ranging in age from 20 to 50 took part in the event at the Astra SportsPlex on Rutherford Road in Vaughan, Ont.

Divided into 10 teams, they played three-on-three soccer games in a round-robin format.

Children cheered on the adults, and the sounds of "vuvuzelas" (plastic horns) added to the festive atmosphere. Children enjoyed a kids zone before the games began.

Team Min2 raised the most money for the charity, while Brian Singer was acknowledged for raising the most money through sponsorship.

All proceeds from the Soccer-thon will go to support Beit Issie Shapiro in Israel, a leading innovator of new therapies for children and adults with disabilities. Over the past 30 years, the organization has grown from serving 16 children to assisting some 30,000 people every year.

Beit Issie Shapiro also helps train thousands of therapists in Israel and conducts research. The organization has been a leader in promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities into society and advocating for better legal provisions for people with disabilities.

Gilad Epstein and BISYP's young professionals group organized the event.

Beit Issie Shapiro was named Israel's most effective non-profit organization in 2011 by Midot, a group that monitors the effectiveness of Israel's charitable sector.

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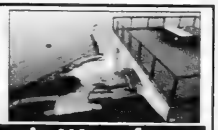

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**Adi Nes stands in front of his *Cain and Abel* photograph in Toronto.** *[Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf photo]*

# *Provocative Israeli photographer's exhibit running in Toronto*

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Adi Nes' art is deliberate, methodical and designed to ensnare viewers with its provocative subject matter: namely, subtle, homoerotic images of Israeli soldiers and downtrodden men, often posed in bleak landscapes.

Born in Kiryat Gat to Iranian and Kurdish immigrant parents, he told *The CJN* his photographs are partially autobiographical in that they are designed to represent the "periphery" of Israeli society – people from villages and towns such as Kiryat Gat that were initially founded by Sephardi immigrants, often low-income families from North Africa.

Though the demographics and economic situation of his hometown have changed since his childhood, Ness said the tensions and prejudice he and his cohort experienced growing up in Israel as immigrants and dark-skinned Jews continue to haunt his work.

While Ashkenazim and Sephardim today in Israel have since "gotten over it," Nes said his pictures are part of his experience growing up and then coming out as a gay man in Israel.

"But the past always exists in the present. And in the past there was a big issue between Sephardim and Ashkenazim," he said. "And many people are still not over it. I choose to deal with these issues, because Sephardim used to be labelled as minorities, which caused them to question their identity" in white Israel.

His first Toronto exhibition is being presented by the Koffler Centre for the Arts, on display off-site at the Olga Korper Gallery, 17 Morrow Ave.

The exhibition includes Nes' most prominent photographs from *Soldiers* (1994-2000), *Boys* (2000) and *Biblical Stories* (2003-2006) series, including the iconic *Untitled (The Last Supper)* (1999).

It runs until June 2.

Nes said he toured Montreal some years ago and was enjoying his stay in Toronto last week.

"Montreal is Europe and Toronto is the New York City" of Canada, he offered.

Speaking to *The CJN* at the exhibit last week, Nes said the theme of his work focuses on issues of identity.

"I'm a multi-faceted person, as we all are. My early work was more focused on homoeroticism, because I was still in the process of coming out," he said. "There were issues of masculinity and Israeliness."

Now, however, his work continues to evolve, and this week Nes was scheduled to release his first new project since 2007. This one is titled *The Village* and will feature a set of photographs that attempts to "connect to the new Israeli society."

Nes said he's been contemplating issues that Israel needs to grapple with moving forward as a country.

"What is Israel today? Is it still based on the Zionist dream? If not, then what? We must ask who we are and who we want to be," he said. "We're getting to a place where [Israel] must ask itself more about its identity and less about its politics. Peace starts from the inside. When we recognize our defects… as with anyone, not every aspect of a person is good."

The new exhibit launched in Tel Aviv on May 17, and Nes said he hopes to tour it in Canada sometime down the road.

"*The Village* is a metaphor for Israel as a small place built after a tragedy. It's a beautiful place, but with tension and tragedy lurking behind the scenes," Nes said by way of describing his new work.

He turned to photography as a career shortly after his military service, where he was an air-traffic controller. He needed an avenue to express his artistic side.

After enrolling at the Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem, he took numerous courses in all aspects of drawing, including graphic and industrial design, photography and painting.

"But since I came from a middle-class family, I needed to study something in order to make a living," Nes said. "I never thought about photography, but by accident I enrolled in a photography program and I was surprised when I was invited to interview for it, and even more surprised when they accepted me."

Visit our new website @ heebonics.ca HEEBONICS

# Young artist celebrates early successes

**Cara Stern**
Special to The CJN

It takes a lot of work to become an artist.

"People just think you'll paint something and then sell it, but it's so much more complex," says Sam Shuter.

That's what the 25-year-old artist, also known as Sammo, found out when she quit her job in film production to begin a new career as an artist. Throughout her five years actively working in the film industry, painting was always her release, she says.

Originally from Montreal, she moved to Toronto as a teenager. She spends her days in the city building her new art career, which largely involves promoting her paintings to build a fan base.

Her first series is called "Introduction," and it aims to introduce her to the world as an artist. These paintings use vibrant colours to depict men wearing suits –always portrayed from the neck down.

"I just like the idea that it's the everyman," she says, explaining why she refuses to put faces on the men. She also doesn't title her paintings for the same reason.

"Unless I feel like there's something that comes naturally, I'm not going to force-title it. It leaves it open for more interpretation."

Suits have always been the focus of her art, going as far back as her childhood. Shuter recalls sitting in her Grade 2 class, drawing doodles of men in suits.

Sam Shuter

"My teacher took my doodles and held them up to the front of the class," she says. "I was mortified."

Despite her embarrassment, she says to this day, she has kept track of the doodles.

She attributes her fascination with the subject to the straight lines that make up a suit.

"It's a weird thing about control," she says. "It's just something I always loved so I always sketched it."

Despite the consistent subject, Shuter says each painting is unique. Some are more playful, while others are serious.

"I have some that are basic and straightforward, and there's another I'm working on that looks like he's jumping into the air," she says.

Although she only recently made art her full-time job, she's made promising strides already. Her work will soon be featured in two retail stores in Toronto – "these awesome, upscale, bespoke tailor shops in the downtown core" – and she's working out the details for a contract to display her art across the pond at a gallery in London. Another gallery, in Miami, will be showcasing her work in the fall.

Social media is at the heart of her early success, she says. The British gallery discovered her through Twitter, a medium she has found incredibly time-consuming, yet invaluable for gathering fans and networking with other artists.

Although her Jewish roots aren't directly shown in her art, she's been very inspired by her Jewish grandparents.

Her grandfather has always encouraged her to be as productive as possible – an attitude that's helped her find early success.

Her grandmother often paints as well, and inspires her creatively. Shuter says there have been times in her life when she wasn't painting regularly, but when she saw her grandmother painting, it reminded her that she needed to get back into the art.

*More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca*

Shuter describes the process of creating a painting as a little bit daunting. She says she gets excited when she starts, and then halfway through decides she hates the way it's turning out. She'll continue painting for hours, and then realize she loves the finished product.

It's not always easy to figure out when it's done. "I never know when to put the brush down," she says. "My sign is when I wrack my brain and there's nothing else I can possibly put down there."

Paintings can sometimes take months from start to finish, although she compares the process to writing a book.

"Let's say it takes someone four years to write a book," she says. "But how many actual days during those four years were they writing?"

Once, she kept a painting as a work-in-progress for two months because she couldn't decide what colours to use. Her colour choices can heavily change the energy of the picture.

"Sometimes, my selection feels more natural than others," she says. "I was hitting 'painter's block,' so I let that painting hang on the wall for a while and started another one."

For now, Shuter will continue her "Introduction" series, which currently includes nine paintings. She says she'll keep on adding to this collection until she feels she no longer has to introduce herself as an artist.

"I could see myself going to a hundred paintings," she says.

And when does an artist know that they've found success?

"When I get to the point where I can comfortably do this for a living, I'll feel successful on another level," she says, "but I already feel successful in taking something I love and being able to share it with people."

For more information about Shuter, visit www.iamsammo.com.

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# אז אני צפונית

נינה שנהב
nina.shenhav@gmail.com

"טעים!" אני טורפת קרואסון אחר קריאסון, בעוד טלי נוברת בסלט שלה בהרחור. "שונאת חסה," היא מודיעה לבסוף. אני מזמינה מנת לחם עם המאה נוספת אני: אני מה זה נכנסת ללחץ כשאת מתחילה דיאטות.
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אני: לא זוכרת. כנראה שזו אני המישהי שכבר שכחה...
טלי: זה הכל בגלל ג'ניפר. ולפני שאת מתפרצת עם הגיניך הקולנועים, לא. לא ג'ניפר אניסטון, ולא מעניין אותי אם היא תלך לחתונה של הבראנג'לינות.
אני: אז איזה ג'ניפר?
טלי: ג'ניפר, הידידה שלי מחברת ספר של הקטנה. את מכירה אותה נו, חשמנה.
אני (נזכרת ומחייכת): אה, כן, ג'ני המתוקה. נשמה טיפה. תעיד עליה, תעיד רוצה לעזור. איך היא לקחה לנו בלי כסף את חבטות לטיול למוזיאון. אדם יקר.
טלי: וחו, שהיא כבר לא מתוקה. היא ירדה שלושים קילו! היא רזה ויפה!
אני (בכעס רב): שתלך לעזאזל! תמיד הרגשתי שהיא לא אמיתית. מזוייפת.
טלי: אז אל תדאגי לזיוף שלה יותר. עם השלישים קילו, ירדו כל הפסאדות ונוספו כל הפריביליגיות שיש לאדם רזה: לא להיות נחמד כשלא מתחשק, לא לנסות להתחבב בכל מחיר, להתווכח, לעמוד על שלך. בקיצור - להיות רזה.
אנחנו שותקות לכמה רגעים.
אני: איך מתחשק לי גם להיות מגעילה כשבא לי. למה לרזים מותר, ולנו אסור?
טלי (בוחנת אותי): מני. בתחום הזה את ממש מתנהגת כאנורקסית. נשבעת לי.
אני: זהו? אז ירדת חצי קילו, וכבר נכנסת בטיל לתחום פריביליגיות ההעלבה?
טלי: אני? את מתווכחת על כל שטות. כמעט אף פעם לא נחמדה. או - חו, כמה שאת עובדת על שלך, שתלטנית וכוחנית. וכל זה עם יופי של עודף משקל.
אני רק פוחדת לראות מה "יצא ממך אם חלילה תרזי, שאלוהים ישמור!
אני: אז תירגעי, אין סיכוי שאני ארזה, וגם אין סיכוי שאת. והג'ניפר הזו לא מעניינית אותי. אז לקחה פעם את הבת שלי למוזיאון. ביג דיל. בטח היה בחינם.
טלי: בטיח. יסליחה אם פגעתי בך. זו הדיאטה המסריחה הזאת בקעה מגרוני.
אני: זה בסדר, מני. אז מה, לחזמין לך קרואסון שוקולד נחמד?
טלי: תזמיני לי שניים. לג'ניפר אין את מה שלנו יש - חברות אמיתית ותומכת.
אני: נכון. לנשים רזות אין באמת בונדינג. רק קנאה. ואפיפיו רזות. קינאה וג'ניפר, מה דעתך, אניסטון תלך לחתונה של בראד, או לא?

**STRAWBERRY & GOAT CHEESE FLATBREAD WITH BALSAMIC SYRUP**

- 2 (6") round flatbreads
- olive oil for brushing
- 4 lg strawberries, sliced
- 1/4 c crumbled goat cheese
- 1/4 c balsamic vinegar
- 2 basil leaves, chopped

Preheat the oven to 400°. Place flatbreads on cookie sheet and lightly brush a little olive oil on them. Distribute strawberries on top, followed by goat cheese. Bake 10-15 min. or until just golden. While the flatbread is baking, pour balsamic vinegar in small pot. Over medium-high heat, simmer and reduce until a syrup forms (about 2-3 min.) – watch it carefully or it will harden or burn. Drizzle some of balsamic syrup over the flatbreads and sprinkle with the basil. Cut into wedges or squares and serve warm.

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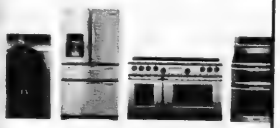

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## On cjnews.com

*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

French-Tunisian author Albert Memmi gives his views on the Arab Spring and other issues in the Arab world, including its relations with Israel.

***Exclusive to cjnews.com***

Web columnist Lauren Aginsky explains about the birds and the bees to her daughter.

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa talks about Shimon Peres' visit to Canada, calling the elderly statesman "one of the giants of our generation."

About to embark on her first concert tour in Israel, Montreal-born singer Kathleen Reiter, left, is hoping she'll stay in the spotlight and garner more than just 15 minutes of fame. Reiter recently won Israel's first edition of *The Voice Israel*, a TV talent contest for singers. She and her fellow contestants are now gearing up for a nationwide concert series that kicks off on May 24.

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# *Community: exasperating, yet soothing*

Kehilla, community, is paramount.

What is it? We are born into or decide early on to form a relationship with a group of like-minded people who offer us safety and/or warmth, as well as resources, the ability for us to give, and basic and complex human interaction.

Community controls space. Our people are extraordinary at creating it, even in the concentration camps.

The macro-Jewish community is a place where we can access funds given by the collective to send our children to day school; garner a sense of security when terrorist attacks are perpetrated, and access broad programs that relate to our Jewish values.

Then there is the shul, synagogue or temple – a micro-community that offers us something more intense and regular, such as a place to go to actualize Halachah and learn Torah; a personal rabbi, who consoles us and celebrates with us during crisis or festivities; committees to join to make our mark; people we communicate with who give our sense of belonging borders.

(In truth, family is our first community, and likely the most important one. It's the environment where we learn how to choose our other micro and macro communities, or discover them.)

***Urban Writer***

***Avrum Rosensweig***

Leonardo Da Vinci would invite street people to his home, feed them and give them drinks to imbibe so they would be even more animated, then sketch them. He believed that this population, when looked at closely, created the greatest option for characters on canvas – individualism par excellence.

When we look closely at our shul/synagogue/temple, we can see the same, the individuals and characters who make up are our community.

Who sits in front of us at shul? The family who gave us a sweet purple silk blanket for our son's brit. Who sits behind us? A newcomer, the lovely woman from Saskatoon. Who's the man on the bimah? He's the gabbai, the guy who seems to have been built with the shul – always there, with a booming voice – and who rarely calls me up for an aliyah. (Complaining and being marginalized is part of belonging).

Then there's the person the shul takes care of. He's the middle-aged man, likely diagnosed in his younger days as being cognitively impaired.

He's the one with two dozen families lined up to invite him on any given Shabbat or yom tov. We see him at every minyan saying something cute, compelling or annoying to mostly everyone. He has a unique relationship with more people than you or I could manage, because interaction is his modus operandi. It's his key to survival. In a most compelling way, the shul-man represents the main principle of community – being taken care of.

Like Da Vinci' visitors, the shul-man is usually animated and fun. His sense of humour trumps ours, because he sees life in a younger way. His giving comes through sound bites that make us chortle. But then there's his wise side. He stands up in front of *olam* and says, "God is in charge of all of us, and when mashiach comes, I will have family just like you." (A true quote.)

Judaism discourages the isolated lifestyle of the *nazir*. One of the severest punishments handed out by the beit din is ostracization from the community, or *cherem*. Kehilla is paramount.

If you don't belong, consider it. It can be exasperating but highly soothing in a life where our existential anguish can throb like a sore ligament.

*Avrum@veahavta.org*

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# *Musical tribute to Jerusalem*

**Young women from Midreshet HaRova, a school in the Old City of Jerusalem, prepare to celebrate Yom Yerushalayim this past Sunday, commemorating the reunification of the city in 1967.** *[Flash90 photo]*

# South Sudan develops ties with Israel

**Armin Rosen**
JTA

**JUBA, South Sudan** — This city in the world's newest country is not your typical Arabic-speaking capital.

For one thing, most of the city's inhabitants are Christian. For another, the Israeli flag is ubiquitous here.

At the Juba souk in the city's downtown, you can buy lapel pins with the Israeli flag alongside its black, red and green South Sudanese counterpart.

"I love Israel," said Joseph Lago, who sells pens, chewing gum and phone cards at a small wooden stall decorated with Israeli and South Sudanese flags. "They are people of God."

South Sudan's fondness for Israel also extends to the diplomatic arena, where the two countries have been building strategic ties in a relationship that long preceded the founding of South Sudan last July.

"They see in us kind of a role model in how a small nation surrounded by enemies can survive and prosper, and they would like to imitate that," Haim Koren, the incoming Israeli ambassador to South Sudan, told JTA.

South Sudan was created last year when its residents voted to secede from Sudan, a country with a Muslim majority and without diplomatic ties to Israel. The government in Khartoum accepted the secession, but in recent weeks a long-simmering dispute over oil revenues and borders has brought the two Sudans to the brink of all-out war.

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**Bamidbar**
**Candlelighting: 8:28**
**Havdalah: 9:32**
*Greater Toronto Area*

**This issue of The CJN went to press on Friday, May 18.**

## CANADA

### Asper Park Proposed

**WINNIPEG** — Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz wants to make green space near the Canadian Human Rights Museum into a park honouring the late media mogul Israel Asper. Katz made the suggestion last week after an Alberta developer withdrew plans for a controversial $75-million water park and hotel complex on the site. City council had voted to delay contributing $7 million to the project, saying it needed more details. The new museum was the last major project championed by Asper before his death in 2003. Controversy has surrounded plans for it to include a gallery dedicated to the Holocaust, with critics saying no single human rights atrocity should be given special prominence in the museum.

## WORLD

### Talmud Translated

**AMMAN** — A Middle East affairs think-tank in Jordan has published a translation of the Babylonian Talmud into Arabic. The Middle East Studies Center in Amman recently completed the 20-volume work. According to an Arabic advertisement for the Talmud, it took six years for more than 95 translators, researchers and language editors to complete what is being called the first-ever Arabic translation of the Babylonian Talmud. "This translation opens up a wide horizon for academic studies in understanding Jewish religious thought and in recognizing its various manifestations throughout history," the ad says. The National Library of Israel has acquired a copy.

### Terror Suit Succeeds

**WASHINGTON, D.C., —** The family of a Florida teen killed in a Palestinian suicide bombing in Tel Aviv won a $323-million judgment in a U.S. court against Iran and Syria. A Washington, D.C., judge ruled May 14 that Iran and Syria were responsible for the attack by an Islamic Jihad terrorist that killed Daniel Wultz, 16, and 10 others in an April 2006 restaurant bombing. Damascus-based Islamic Jihad took responsibility for the attack. Wultz died 27 days after the bombing. The judgment came six years to the day after his death. The suit was brought on behalf of the family by the Shurat HaDin Israel Law Center under a special provision in U.S. law that lets U.S. citizens sue foreign governments for terrorist acts. It's the first time the centre has won a judgment against Syria, director Nitsana Darshan-Leitner said.

### Historian Wrote of Jewish Resistance

Arno Lustiger

**BERLIN** — Arno Lustiger, a Holocaust survivor and historian who highlighted Jewish resistance against the Nazis, died May 15 in Frankfurt at age 88.

Lustiger's "greatest contribution" was in "rescuing from oblivion the story of Jewish resistance in the Shoah," Dieter Graumann, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said. Lustiger, a native of Bendzin, survived six Nazi camps, including Auschwitz and Buchenwald. His father and brother were murdered.

In April 1945, Lustiger escaped a death march and was rescued by U.S. soldiers. He and his mother and sisters ended up in a displaced persons camp in Frankfurt. His plans to go to America fell through, and he ended up staying in Frankfurt, where he helped build the postwar Jewish community, as well as a successful women's fashion business.

He sold the business in the 1980s to focus on academic work, for which he received international praise. From 2004 to 2006, he was a guest professor at the Fritz Bauer Institute, the Frankfurt-based study and documentation centre on the Holocaust. Among his contributions are works on Jewish heroism in World War II.

Lustiger for decades avoided talking about his own history, even with family. In 2007, he famously said *Kaddish* at the funeral in Paris of his cousin, French Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, who had converted to Catholicism in Nazi-occupied France.

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# Jewish doctor talks about his German life

Bernd Wollschlaeger

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

One day a few years ago, Bernd Wollschlaeger got a call from his son's Hebrew school in South Florida. Could he explain, he was asked, what his son meant when he wrote a story about his grandfather, "the famous Nazi."

Actually, Wollschlaeger said, his son, Tal, was 100 per cent correct. His grandfather was a dedicated Nazi and a German tank commander in World War II. He'd won the prestigious Knight's Cross and was decorated by Adolf Hitler himself.

Unlike Tal's grandfather, however, Wollschlaeger rejected Nazism and found spiritual fulfilment and inner peace by converting to Judaism.

When the school rabbi heard the story, he suggested Wollschlaeger tell it more widely. Wollschlaeger agreed and began by addressing students in his son's school. From there, he went on to speak to Jewish groups and temple congregations. And then, "it steamrolled."

It all culminated in a book, *A German Life*, in which Wollschlaeger described the journey that took him from a Catholic upbringing in Bavaria to conversion, a move to Israel and then to Miami. People can change against all odds, Wollschlaeger believes, and last week, he was in Toronto to tell his story to supporters of the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. He's also spoken about his experiences at the organization's Los Angeles headquarters.

In his early years, Wollschlaeger got along well with his father, who taught him to hunt and fish. During those outings, his father described his wartime service in the Wehrmacht (German army) and how he was personally decorated by Hitler, "whom he still admired."

"He saw himself as a knight in shining armour."

Things really began to change for Wollschlaeger when he was 14. It was 1972 and Munich was hosting the Olympic Games. His parents "froze in front of the television screen" when Israeli athletes paraded in to the opening ceremonies carrying the Star of David flag.

Then, a few days later, German newspapers screamed the headline, "Jews killed in Germany again." It was a reference to the murder of Israeli athletes by Palestinian terrorists and of the botched rescue attempt by German police.

When he asked his father what the headline meant, he was told, "It means nothing. In this house, we don't talk about them. It's over with them. We dealt with them."

**Continued on page 22**

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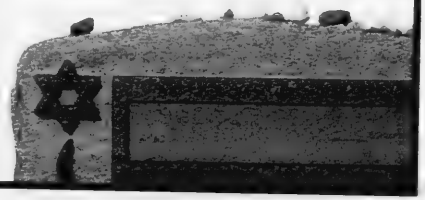


# *Most Israelis want peace, but mistrust Palestinians*

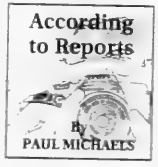
Earlier this year, in a *Foreign Affairs* article titled "Can the Center Hold? Understanding Israel's Pragmatic Majority," Yossi Klein Halevi examined the seeming contradiction in Israeli attitudes toward peace: "A majority of Israelis – around 70 per cent, according to a recent poll… support a two-state solution. Yet that same majority is deeply skeptical of Palestinian intentions."

This majority (sometimes called "the rational centre"), he explained, want to see an end to occupation and a genuine two-state solution so that Israel's future can be secure as both a Jewish and democratic state. Yet they're profoundly concerned that the Palestinian leadership, including both Fatah and Hamas, will never accept the legitimacy of Jewish sovereignty in present-day Israel.

Klein Halevi reminded readers that when Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas addressed the UN General Assembly last September, he condemned "63 years of Israeli occupation." This meant that in his view, all of Israel is "occupied," not just the West Bank (taken legitimately in a war of self-defence in 1967, let's not forget). Abbas' declaration sent chills through the Israeli public, as does the Palestinian leadership's consistent refusal to give up the principle of the "right of return" of Palestinian refugees to Israel rather than to a future Palestinian state.

Klein Halevi focused on the core of Israel's predicament: "[A]lthough centrists understand how damaging to both sides the occupation has become, they view ending it before the Palestinians accept Israel as a Jewish state as an even greater existential threat… in January 2011, nearly 70 per cent of Israelis polled moderately or strongly accepted the claim that even if a peace agreement were signed, the Palestinians would continue their struggle against Israel."

The Peace Index for April, released last week, shows that this attitude is unchanged. While 71 per cent of the Israeli public favours holding peace negotiations, 67 per cent don't believe that such talks will lead to peace in the coming years. Some 58 per cent said they don't think there's a real chance to resolve the conflict in accordance with the "two states for two peoples" formula within the next 10 years.




Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's call for the Palestinians to endorse the central idea of "two states for two peoples" captures the longing of the dominant Israeli centre, and yet his appeal has been repeatedly dismissed by Abbas. Nonetheless, Netanyahu is almost invariably described in the western media as a "hardliner" while Abbas is portrayed as a "moderate" and a "peacenik."

It's true that Netanyahu had been constrained by factions on his right flank, up until making a surprise announcement on May 8 that he had entered into an agreement with the Kadima party to create a broad "national unity" government. But this misses a more important point. Until Abbas and the Palestinians address the "rational centre" of Israel and provide assurance of their commitment to put an end to the conflict once and for all, there can be no serious progress on the peace front.

Were one to read last week's influential *Economist*, featuring an editorial on the peace process following the Israeli government shakeup, one would know nothing of Israel's moderate middle – or even basic Palestinian responsibilities. Instead, one would read the standard storyline that if only Netanyahu could become more flexible (now that he has Kadima leader Shaul Mofaz by his side), peace would be dispensed by Abbas, whose "authority [as] the most peace-minded of Palestinian leaders is ebbing."

The *Economist* remains skeptical about Netanyahu while simply assuming, as fact, that the Palestinians want full peace: "It is possible, even probable, that Mr. Netanyahu will choose to go on ignoring Palestinian pleas and the ideas of Mr. Mofaz, whose plan [to declare a Palestinian state on 60 per cent of the West bank] is anyway far from fully baked."

It's sad but true that the *Economist*'s failure to understand the crux of the peace impasse is symptomatic of a widespread attitude – with few exceptions – in western media circles in general.

*Paul Michaels is director of research and media relations for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

# QUAIA to attend Pride Parade

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

A controversial local anti-Israel, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered (LGBT) group has announced that it plans to participate in the annual Toronto Pride Parade again this summer after a one-year absence.

Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QUAIA) told the *Toronto Star* it wants to rejoin the parade after skipping last year's event so that it would not put city funding at risk.

In March 2011, Mayor Rob Ford told *The CJN* that "taxpayer dollars should not go toward funding hate speech," and he and some of his council allies threatened to withhold funding to the festival if QuAIA took part.

City council is scheduled to vote next month on a recommendation that it allocate $123,807 to this year's Pride festival, being held June 22 to July 1.

Pride Toronto will compile and publish a list of applicants next month. As per new vetting mechanisms put in place by Pride last year – as a result of controversy surrounding QuAIA's presence in prior years – the public can register complaints about applicants on the list to Pride's dispute resolution panel.

The panel comprises legal experts who are responsible for evaluating complaints and deciding on whether to allow applicants to take part in festival events.

Justine Apple, executive director of Kulanu Toronto, the city's main Jewish LGBT organization, told *The CJN* it's too early to determine whether her group would file a complaint if QuAIA does apply to participate this year.

However, she said QuAIA is "marginalized" and "out of step" with Torontonians.

"Toronto wants nothing to do with [QuAIA's] anti-Israel, inflammatory venom," Apple said. "We're interested in a welcoming and inclusive Pride. But we'll take this as it comes. It's too soon to decide what we'll do about [QuAIA] at this point, but if we have to, we'll put plans in place to file a complaint."

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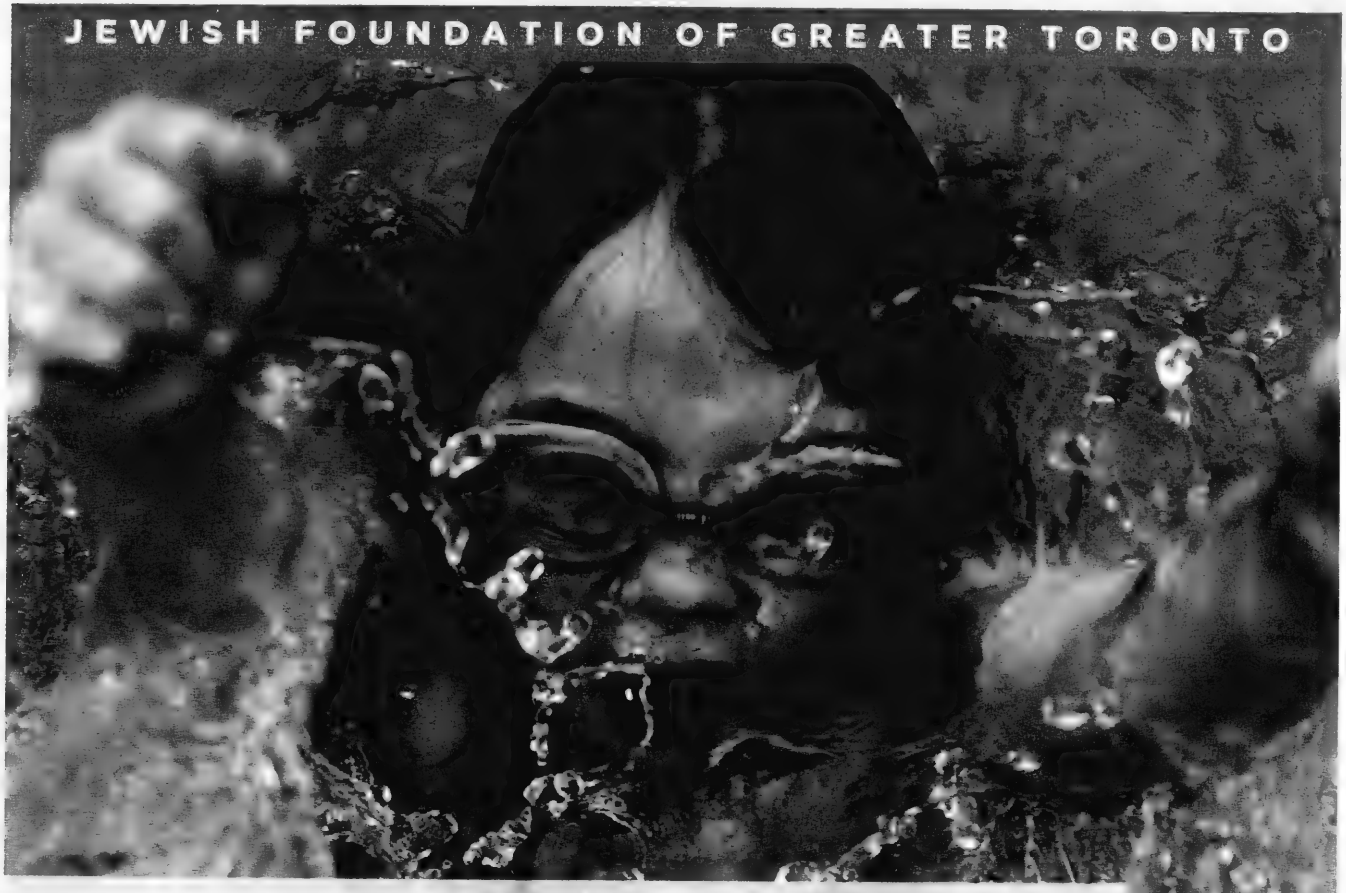

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# Young professionals join March of the Living

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Three young Temple Sinai members were sponsored to participate in a March of the Living trip in hopes they would return to share their experiences with friends and family and keep the memory of the Holocaust alive.

The Temple Sinai Annual March of the Living Fund, which was established this year by congregants Lawrence and Beverley Fein in memory of Seymore Obront, will send three young Temple Sinai members on the March of the Living tour each year.

This initiative is meant to honour Obront, a close friend of the Feins who died in 2009, as well as promote Holocaust education.

The March of the Living is a two-week trip that begins in Poland, touring preserved concentration camps and other World War II sites, and concludes in Israel where thousands of March participants mark Yom Hazikaron and celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut.

Andrew Chris, Leah Krangle and Joshua Rosenblum were chosen to represent the first young adult delegation on the trip that ran from April 15 to 31. They joined a group of 45 other young delegates from Toronto and New York between the ages of 22 and 34.

Chris, a 32-year-old family lawyer, said nothing could have prepared him for what he saw and heard.

**From left, Leah Krangle, Joshua Rosenblum, and Andrew Chris stand in what was once the Warsaw ghetto during a March of the Living tour last month.**

"For me, seeing a preserved concentration camp first-hand isn't something you could really understand until you're actually there," Chris said, adding that delving deeper into the history of the Holocaust influenced his views on Israel.

"I've been to Israel previously on two occasions, but going to Israel in this way, following a week of education about the Holocaust, it was a different way to experience Israel and I gained a different appreciation. I have a better understanding of why a Jewish state is so critical to the survival of the Jewish people. If Israel had existed in the late 1930s, a major tragedy may have been averted."

Leah Krangle, 24, a marketing manager for a mystery shopping company, said one of the most meaningful aspects of the tour was having the privilege of taking the tour with Pinchas Gutter, a Holocaust survivor.

"Walking through Auschwitz-Birkenau and Treblinka and hearing real people's accounts of what happened... that was really impactful for me," Krangle said.

Polish-born Gutter and his family spent three years in the Warsaw Ghetto before he and his family were deported to Majdanek, where his entire family was murdered.

Gutter was transferred to labour camps, including Buchenwald, and barely survived a death march to Theresienstadt before he was liberated in 1945. Following the war, he moved to South Africa and then immigrated to Canada in 1985.

Chris said he was also thankful for being able to hear survivor testimony first-hand.

"We're the last generation that can actually experience this trip with a survivor," Chris said.

In addition to hearing Gutter's testimony and learning about the horrors that other prisoners faced, Krangle recalled feeling very uneasy walking through the camps.

"When we were walking into the concentration camps, especially Auschwitz, my first thought was, 'Oh my gosh, I want to get out of here...' Just having that feeling while nothing terrible is happening to you, I can't imagine what people felt like when they were brought there. That struck a chord with me," she said.

Rosenblum, 28, said the experience gave him a new perspective on the dilemmas facing Jews who were desperate to survive.

"I never understood why our people didn't rebel violently on the whole when it became apparent the Nazis were rounding us up for execution," Rosenblum said.

But when he heard survivor stories, it made him reflect on how he would have behaved in the same situation.

"Whereas I used to think my decision would be to fight... I now believe that I would have stayed with my family and resisted by trying to help us survive day to day."

Now that the three-member delegation is home, they are each committed to sharing their experiences with friends and family.

"One of the things they talked about a lot was that we should never forget and that we should bring what we learned back to our families, friends and congregation, so they can experience it through us," Krangle said.

"I think it's just important to come home and tell people what you saw, show them pictures and encourage others to take the trip," Chris added.

On May 26, Chris, Krangle and Rosenblum will be participating in a panel discussion at Temple Sinai about their experience.

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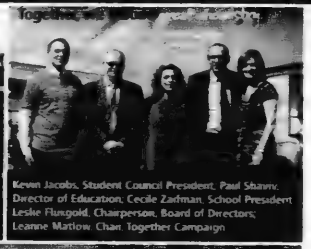
Leanne Matlow, Larry Tanenbaum, Debbie Kimel, Allan Guttman, Helen Fender-Guttman, Marcy Abramsky and Warren Kimel break ground for the new Guttman Family Science Wing at TanenbaumCHAT's Wilmington Avenue Campus.

The Guttman Family

TanenbaumCHAT Wallenberg Band


Kevan Jacobs, Student Council President; Paul Shaviv, Director of Education; Cecile Zarfman, School President; Leslie Flumgold, Chairperson, Board of Directors; Leanne Matlow, Chair, Together Campaign

Together Campaign team: Sheldon Disenhouse, David Matlow, Leanne Matlow, Marcy Abramsky, Leslie Flumgold, Cecile Zarfman, Ellen Chaikof, Stephen Bloom and Harvey Blankenstein

The Anne & Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (TanenbaumCHAT) celebrated the official groundbreaking for the construction of the Guttman Family Science Wing on Friday, May 11, 2012. The $7.5 million renovation marks the first phase of the $10 million Together Campaign which will modernize TanenbaumCHAT's Wallenberg Campus, located on Wilmington Avenue in Toronto.

*"The Guttman Family Science Wing will open new educational and intellectual opportunities for our students to explore subjects like robotics, ecology, advanced biology, that we have not had the facilities to tackle until now."* **– Paul Shaviv, Director of Education**

*"[illegible] the hardware and the [illegible]"*

**– Together Campaign Chair Leanne Matlow**

*"I have always had a strong interest in science and technology and the need for a dramatically upgraded science facility for TanenbaumCHAT resonated strongly with me. As a family, we are so proud to be connected with this project."* **– Honorary Chair Allan Guttman**

*"[illegible]"* **– Marcy Abramsky Groundbreaking Chair**

***To view event photos, go to: tinyurl.com/cbpbc69***

## Together Campaign reaches new heights in its fundraising goal!

**$7.5 million has been raised to date, but much more is needed to reach our goal of $10 million!** We would like to thank the 180 donors to date who made the groundbreaking event and the Together Campaign great successes.

**Together Campaign Chair: Leanne Matlow**

**Honorary Chairs:** Allan and Helen Guttman, Warren and Debbie Kimel, Larry and Judy Tanenbaum

You can make your gift by completing our online pledge form tanenbaumchat.org/support/together-capital-campaign/give or contact Frances Bigman, CFRE, Director of Advancement, at **416-636-5984 ext. 230** or fbigman@tanenbaumchat.org

THE ANNE & MAX TANENBAUM CHAT Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto האקדמיה העברית ע"ש טננבאום

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

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# A very great day

In his review of Simon Sebag Montefiore's book *Jerusalem: A Biography*, Alex Joffe noted that "if [cities] have a consciousness, it is that encoded in literature by their lovers and haters. In this respect, no other city has a consciousness like Jerusalem's. No other city has had the level of literary attention lavished on Jerusalem. Athens, Rome, Paris, London, New York – none of them comes close."

And if it is true as Joffe writes – and we agree with him it is – that no city has been more the subject of literary attention than Jerusalem, it is equally true that no people has lavished more literary or other attention on Jerusalem than the Jewish People.

No people utters the name of Jerusalem in its daily prayers more than the Jewish People. No people turns its face in prayer each day three times a day toward Jerusalem other than the Jewish People. No people has ever been obliged to make its holiday pilgrimages to Jerusalem other than the Jewish People. No people has ever had Jerusalem as its political and legislative capital other than the Jewish People. No people has ever been more affected by expulsion from a city than the Jewish People has been by its several expulsions from Jerusalem. No people holds the city of Jerusalem and its ongoing restoration at the heart of its collective memory more than the Jewish People. No people yearns for a Jerusalem at peace more than the Jewish People.

Ever since the ancient Babylonians destroyed the First Temple in 586 BCE and Ezra and Nechemiah brought their people back from their exile less than 100 years later, it has always been thus. Indeed, it will always be thus.

It is no exaggeration to say that in large part, the deep, historical consciousness of the Jewish People has been formed out of the dust and trampled stones of the city from which it was violently exiled, torn away and torn away again.

But even through the long, hope-laden millennia of yearning to return to Zion, Jews had always lived in Jerusalem. Even in Silwan – the Arab community on the southern slopes outside the Old City of Jerusalem, which is frequently in the news due to ongoing tensions between its Arab residents and Jews who wish to move there – Jews lived in large numbers between the 1880s until the 1920s, when riots forced them out.

The point must be emphasized: Jews have always lived in Jerusalem. They were expelled from the Old City by the Jordanian army in 1948. And there are individuals and governments still today who would see that expulsion enshrined as the legal status quo. But that exile of the Jews from Jerusalem will be the last one.

On the 28th day of Iyar, 45 years ago this week, Jews returned to the Old City. And with the return of the Jews to all of Jerusalem, all worshippers of the three monotheistic faiths were also able to "return" to worship freely, without fear of expulsion, at their respective holy places, too.

That day in modern history was a very great day.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

In a thinly veiled reference to U.S. Jews, Austrian president Kurt Waldheim blamed "a lobby on the East Coast of America" for influencing the U.S. Justice Department to ban him from the United States. Waldheim was placed on a departmental watch list because of evidence of his complicity in Nazi war crimes in World War II.

*Editorial Advisory Board:* **Maurice Benzacar, Michael Brown, Donald Carr, Rabbi Michael Dolgin, Jake Goldstein, Jeffrey Kopstein, Keith Landy, Lou Ronson, Alan Sandler, Rabbi Philip Scheim, Mike Shriqui, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, Ehud Telem, Nelson Wiseman.**

## Nakba Day marked at Tel Aviv U

As a native Calgarian who was actively involved in Canadian Jewish life in both Calgary and Toronto for more than 30 years before making aliyah in 1991, I am writing to you as a concerned Israeli mindful of the love, the work and support that the Canadian Jewish community has always had for Israel.

Last week, students at Tel Aviv University marked Nakba (catastrophe) Day – the date on the Gregorian calendar when Israel achieved statehood in 1948 – with an approved campus ceremony. Like many of us here, I hope that Canadians who support Tel Aviv U will make it known, as have members of Israel's Knesset, that it is disgraceful that such an event was held. This was an offence to Israel and its sovereignty. The university management should have cancelled the event. I hope that Canadians who financially support Tel Aviv U will voice their lack of support for such an event.

**Rena Dvorkin Cohen**
**Tsfat, Israel**

* * *

## Parents sacrifice for day school (1)

As a 15-year-old Jewish day school student, I see the sacrifices parents make in order to provide their children with Jewish day school education ("Day school parents feel the tuition pinch," Live and Learn, March 8). A Jewish day school allows its students to develop their Jewish values and identity while still integrating a general studies curriculum. In addition, it maintains and gives a sense of community. Sadly, many parents turn to public schools due to the financial weight that a Jewish day school comes with. Parents are feeling burdened by the expensive Jewish day school tuition and are aggravated that nothing is being done by the leaders of our community.

It is completely unjust that the Ontario government is funding private Catholic schools, but still provides no funding for Jewish day schools. The lack of government funds forces parents to pay expensive tuitions, while at the same time paying for public schools through taxes. If funding for Jewish day school is not provided, then funding of all private schools should be cancelled. The situation is leaving parents with a hard choice – go into debt to send your children to Jewish day school or risk weakening an already threatened community.

**Noa Mecica**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

* * *

## Parents sacrifice for day school (2)

I was assigned to write a letter to the editor for my Grade 10 civics class, and while searching for an article to reply to, I stumbled across "Day school parents feel the tuition pinch" (Live and Learn, March 8). As a Jewish high school student whose parents make great sacrifices to send me to a day school, I find it very upsetting that the Ontario government has been paying full tuition for the education of Catholic religious students but not for Jewish schools. Many Jewish parents are struggling to keep their children in the Jewish day school system because of the rising tuition costs. Day school students benefit from positive influences that guarantee the next generation will grow up with strong, religious values. In a world with growing distractions, this is vital.

If the government refuses to fund the full cost of a private, religious school, then the least they can do is fund the general Ministry of Education courses within the private school curriculum. As it stands now, Jewish parents' hard-earned money is going toward the education of other religious students. If the government was to begin funding other religious schools, then many Jewish students whose families cannot afford the outrageous tuition prices would finally be able to receive a Jewish education

**Ariela Snowbell**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Jonathan Pollard

Jonathan Pollard has been in jail for 27 years for passing classified information to an ally during peacetime, an offence that has historically garnered an average sentence of two to four years. Jews and non-Jews alike must not rest until Pollard is free. Let us not forget that Pollard's actions, although illegal, were guided solely by a genuine concern for Israeli security. He has expressed remorse and overpaid his debt to society.

**Baruch Cohen**
**Montreal**

### *LET THEM GO...*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

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# A tale of two Daniels

## *Rabbi and organic farmer trade jobs*

**Daniel Hoffmann and Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg**

*A rabbi and a farmer meet in a coffee shop. Both are named Daniel. The rabbi says to the farmer, "What if we traded jobs for a day?"*

*One year later, they did just that – they did each other's jobs, shadowing one another, each taking on the other's responsibilities. The work was often done collaboratively. This is what they learned.*

**Rabbi Daniel:**

Every day is an adventure for a rabbi! Last week, I ventured out to the "hinterland" north of the city, to an organic farm known as The Cutting Veg. Trading jobs with Farmer Daniel Hoffmann, I was struck by the many parallels between synagogue life and the farming experience. Both professions plant seeds for the next generation. Both "rabbi-ing" and farming demand careful, dedicated labour and faith in the future. Both processes strengthen community and foster holiness.

I spent the morning crouching down, planting onion bulbs. Side by side, these bulbs would first produce green onions. These would then be harvested for the bulbs. I found myself obsessing about planting the onions just right. How could I make sure that the seeds would grow to their full potential? What would they look and taste like? Could I protect them from danger? I was given reassurances and told not to worry – my novice planting skills appeared to be just fine. I would have to let go of my fears and let Mother Nature take over. Would it be a good harvest? We did the best we could. Now we had to wait and see. Just like so many aspects of our lives, we were called upon to have faith.

This was messy work, but oh so meaningful! Days later, I still found remnants of the soil imbedded in my fingernails. I'm usually quite concerned about keeping things clean and tidy, but this did not appear to be an option on the farm. The experience was thus very real! I was reminded that even though I aspire to understand things with right and wrong, good and bad dichotomies, more often than not, this is not a reality. It's in those messy gray areas that we generally discover true value.

**Farmer Daniel:**

The mystique of the rabbinate has always intrigued me. So, when Rabbi Mikelberg suggested a job trade, I found myself at Temple Sinai Congregation in Toronto, all cleaned up, yarmulke-affixed, and ready to "rabbi it up!" Our day began with a morning Sabbath service where 200 kids connected through music, rituals and Jewish values. Whether you're four years old or 400, eating challah and singing *Hinai Ma Tov* never gets old, as far as I'm concerned.

We then met with a representative from Jewish Family & Child to explore how Temple Sinai could take a leadership role in addressing the abuse of women within the Jewish community. Since I also have a background in social work, this had particular interest for me, as I recognize violence against women not as a "women's issue," but as an issue that needs all of our attention.

Next, we met with a young man in the process of converting to Judaism and visited two congregants in the hospital to offer support and lovingkindness.

This was followed by an evening Sabbath service, which embodied the themes of relaxation, celebration and meaning.

But it was the moments in between these activities that were most special to me. In preparation for the evening sermon, we checked out the Torah portion of the week, which addressed the themes of holiness and of atoning for one's

**Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg peels potatoes**

impurities. Lively discussion ensued. Is it holiness we should aim for, or wholeness? Are we to try to eliminate our impurities, our flaws, our mistakes, or rather to keep working at being more conscious of them? In our talks, we shared what motivates us to do the work we do. We discussed our relationship with prayer and with our spiritual practices. What a privilege to have access to a rabbi for an entire day!

**Rabbi Daniel:**

Over lunch, each farmer reflected on his or her most loved fruit and vegetable. We were asked to think about the growing process of our favourite foods. Such an important question, and yet one that I rarely consider. Hard to appreciate that food never just magically appears on one's plate! Too often I forget that fruits and vegetables travel a long way before they end up in the supermarket. We have a Jewish tool to open our eyes to this pathway – blessings! Voicing our blessings enables us to pause and express thanks for our many gifts.

That afternoon on the farm, I also chopped potatoes. I learned that potato bushes grow from segments of potatoes that have an embedded eye. It struck me that we were cutting up perfectly good potatoes in order to put them back in the ground! Was this productive? Yes! In fact, each single potato would go on to produce dozens more. Again, this is reflective of Jewish wisdom. As we build for future generations, we sometimes need to make painful sacrifices.

**Farmer Daniel**

Toward the end of the day, a congregant approached me: "How's it been to be a rabbi for a day? It must be quite different from farming."

I thought about it for a moment. "Not at all actually."

The more we farmed and "rabbi-ed" together, the more the similarities between our working lives became apparent. Rabbi Mikelberg's work is all about healthy relationships – with congregants, temple staff members, fellow clergy, colleagues in the community. On the farm, we too focus on healthy relationships – with the members of our Community Supported Agriculture program, with our staff, interns, volunteers, community partners and with other farmers. Rabbi Mikelberg spends his day sowing seeds – seeds that grow community and Jewish engagement. On the farm, we not only sow seeds literally (peas, beets, garlic – yum!), but we also aim to sow seeds that enhance people's quality of life and support long-term ecological health.

And to be a rabbi requires a great deal of relinquishing of control. When we went to the hospital, we didn't know whether we'd be greeted warmly or with hostility (and indeed we got both). And in farming, we can work our butts off, but we have no control over the weather or the outcome of the harvest.

As we discussed how we approach our work, the synchronicities continued to reveal themselves. We each view our work as part of the Jewish value of tikkun olam – repairing of the world. We aim to be of service to those with whom we interact – perhaps a member of the congregation in need of support, perhaps a farmer's market attendee needing cooking tips.

**Rabbi Daniel:**

Significantly, we worked the soil as part of a farming community. This was holy labour! Together we would make a real impact. We planted more than 10,000 onion bulbs that morning. On the drive home, I found myself reflecting on the importance of farmers! Away from the city, they are often way off our radar. We need to remember and appreciate that their love of the earth, their hard work and their wholesome intentions are key to making the world a healthy place. As I resume my more traditional rabbi tasks, I will now bring renewed emphasis to opening my eyes to the natural wonders of our world.

**Farmer Daniel:**

I found myself realizing during our two days together that tikkun olam is possible everywhere. We encountered many others who also aim to be of service: the farm intern who works as a flight attendant and looks out for her passengers with such care; the members of the temple's social action committee who give their time, energy and spirit to build community and promote social justice. If my day of "rabbi-ing" taught me anything, it's that it doesn't matter so much what you do, whether you're a rabbi, a farmer, a business executive or a volunteer. It's not so much what you do, but the intention, the kavanah, you bring to it.

*Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg is a rabbi at Temple Sinai Congregation in Toronto (www.templesinai.net). Daniel Hoffmann is an organic farmer with The Cutting Veg organic farm (www.thecuttingveg.com).*

**Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg, left, and Daniel Hoffmann**

# Intimate strangers: lessons from the Book of Ruth

How do we treat the "strangers" among us?

As we move from Pesach to Shavuot, our framework shifts from a festival whose narrative arc anchors the collective memory of suffering as foreign dwellers in someone else's land to a festival whose central narrative recollects a foreign woman coming to live in ours.

Although the two festivals' stories took place centuries apart, in Jewish time as we live it, they are separated by only seven weeks – short enough to make the association. Our texts caution us repeatedly to treat the stranger fairly, kindly and justly, because we were once strangers. From that experience, we were to learn an ethics born of empathic knowledge. Eventually, our ancestors became the dominant culture in a homeland where other people sojourned as strangers. So how did we do?

If we take the story of Ruth as illustrative, our record is mixed. The Moabite woman bonds with her Israelite mother-in-law and follows her to a place whose language, cultural habits, and religious norms are outside her comfort zone. The two women live in a poverty consigned by patriarchal inheritance laws. Although Ruth adopts Naomi's ways and labours to support the two of them, she is constantly referred to as *Rut hamo'avi'a*, Ruth the Moabite, emphasizing her status as outsider.

Some people treat her with exemplary respect. Her mother-in-law values her beyond measure. The man who will eventually become her husband invites her to glean in his fields, to join with his extended household, effectively bringing the stranger inside his inner circle. And yet at the same time, Megillat Ruth hints at other attitudes. That Boaz must warn his men not to touch her, or that the two women languish in poverty with no help from extended family, indicates that life was difficult for the stranger.

The story of Ruth boils down the plight of the outsider, the disempowered, to a family affair. You could say that the family functions in the text as a microcosm for the larger society. You could say, too, that the family – then, as well as now – is the place where we feel most challenged by the incursion of the stranger and her strangeness, but also most motivated to meet that challenge.

In families – as in communities – strangers come to us from without, much like Ruth. They bring different experiences, customs, perspectives and ways of being, that can both unsettle and enrich us. Strangers can also come from within the family or community. We share with them background and memories. But they (or we) make choices and see things in ways that "other" them from within, leave them feeling foreign in the familiar.

People often – and correctly – speak of the Book of Ruth as teaching us, in ways still relevant today, how to treat the foreigner, the stranger and the convert. It also, I believe, bears insightfully on some very modern issues of family.

***Sara R. Horowitz***

***in Toronto***

None of these family units in the megillah look the way they are "supposed to" look: not the two sons', who marry Moabite women and forget to come home; not the two widows struggling for sustenance without a man around the house, and not the old landowner who marries a much younger distant relative. But families can work, even when they're unconventional. The glue is a composite of love, commitment, support and also openness – appreciation for who the other is.

Perhaps more than ever before, our families lean toward the unconventional. Like Ruth's, our families are more than ancestral – and sometimes they're not ancestral at all. We extend the intimacy of family to biological children, to children of spouses and to children of strangers.

Like Boaz and like Ruth, we choose to be lovingly responsible for those for whom we have no *a priori* obligation, save the generic responsibilities of all humans for one another. We stretch our tent to encompass children who develop their own values, partners who evolve, parents who branch out on new paths, and neighbours and friends without other family.

We learn from Ruth that the unconventional and unfamiliar – whether familial or societal – has the capacity not only to challenge us, but to sustain us, stretch us, nourish us and renew us.

# *It's hard to pray in English*

Worship services in Reform congregations almost invariably include prayers in the vernacular. Influenced by contemporary feminism and its stress on gender equality, new editions of Reform prayer books in English have chosen inclusive language rather than literal translations of the original Hebrew. In order to be politically correct, the Union for Reform Judaism even has a book of Haftarot that has neutered the biblical texts to make sure that "sexist" language doesn't come over the lips of readers.

***Rabbi Dow Marmur***

***in Toronto***

The *New American Haggadah* by Jonathan Safran Foer and Nathan Englander, published shortly before Pesach, has chosen to ignore this trend. It translates the texts literally and refers to God as "Lord" and "King," and consistently uses the masculine personal pronoun when appropriate.

Despite going against the current, or perhaps because of it, the book has become an instant success and is likely to be used at many Seder tables in years to come.

Those who appreciate the beautiful and apt translations have thus reacted against what has become an accepted norm among English-speaking liberal Jews. And even advocates of gender sensitive language admit they cannot do anything about the Hebrew prayers, because Hebrew doesn't lend itself to neutral terminology.

This means people who wouldn't say "Lord" or "King" in English do so, seemingly happily, in Hebrew or in, say, French and German, which also don't allow for the kind of neutral expressions that are possible in English.

In addition to including references to the matriarchs each time the patriarchs are mentioned, the synagogue where I pray in Jerusalem – and where, of course, only Hebrew is used – is trying to occasionally address God by the feminine *Yah* instead of the masculine *Adonai*. But most of the texts remain intact and, mercifully, no attempts are being made to tamper with biblical readings.

In the choice between accuracy and what they deem to be relevance, Reform Jews in the English-speaking world have largely opted for the latter. But an article in the April 4 issue of the *Forward* by David. A.M. Wilensky, although he reports to have been reared in an American Reform congregation, challenges this trend.

He's 23 and describes himself as being part of a generation "nearly defined by our rejection of ideologies that require exclusive allegiance." Supporting the translations in the *New American Haggadah*, he writes: "If genderless translation is an example of ideology affecting liturgy, it should come as no surprise that a hip, contemporary liturgy would eschew that in favour of a more straightforward approach to liturgical translation."

I have grandchildren of Wilensky's generation, but in this case, I may be younger than my years. Like him, I'm a staunch advocate of the equality of women in all aspects of religious life. At Holy Blossom Temple, we made sure that almost always, at least one of its rabbis would be a woman and that the congregation would practise and consistently promote gender equality in all aspects of synagogue life.

Such equality, successfully spearheaded by Reform Judaism, has now also been embraced by the Conservative movement, despite dissent in some Canadian congregations. Modern Orthodoxy is currently struggling with the problem and showing signs of progress.

But Wilensky's words resonate with me as no doubt they do with many others: "When we convince ourselves that we've solved the problem of centuries of exclusion of women from Jewish ritual and narrative by reducing God to a cumbersome asexual matter of grammar, we do ourselves a great disservice. We sweep our people's treatment of women under the rug."

As more and more Reform Jews come to know enough Hebrew to appreciate the liturgy in the original and, as a result, fewer prayers are read in English, the more Wilensky's words will resonate with them as well. Perhaps at times they'll even choose the Hebrew to avoid bland translations.

I surmise that my rabbinic colleagues who aspire to be politically correct will disagree. Happily, there's no clause in Reform Judaism that would condemn me for heresy. As the Central Conference of American Rabbis recently recognized the 50th anniversary of my ordination, it may ascribe my unease with gender sensitive language in prayer to theological sclerosis that's to be humoured rather than rebuked.

The way I often deal with my discomfort with doctored translations is to escape into the Hebrew original, even when the congregation reads in English. Some might call this creative liturgical maladjustment.

# *Israel's ties with Turkey remain troubled*

Nearly two years after Israeli commandos stormed the Mavi Marmara, a Turkish ship in a pro-Palestinian flotilla of six vessels trying to break Israel's naval blockade of the Gaza Strip, Israel's bilateral relationship with Turkey, once a key ally, has yet to recover from this violent incident on the high seas.

The confrontation took place on May 31, 2010, in international waters in the Mediterranean Sea, claiming the lives of eight Turkish nationals and one American of Turkish origin and injuring several Israeli soldiers. Turkey demanded an apology, compensation and the lifting of the siege. Israel, having warned Turkey that the flotilla would be challenged, refused to apologize.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

With Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan having described the raid as "state terrorism," Turkey recalled its ambassador, Ahmet Oguz Celikkol. Turkey's decision to recall Celikkol occurred several months after he was publicly humiliated by Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon in a bizarre encounter in which he asked him to explain the broadcast of a provocative Turkish television drama deemed to be anti-Israel. At Turkey's request, Ayalon eventually apologized, but his mistreatment of Celikkol left scars on both sides.

Tensions flared yet again in September 2011 with the release of the Palmer report, commissioned by the United Nations to study Israel's 2010 raid. The report validated Israel's naval blockade of Gaza – which has been controlled by Hamas since 2006 – as legal and appropriate, but noted that Israel had used "excessive and unreasonable force" in stopping the Turkish ship.

The Palmer report was released after an Israeli panel, the Turkel Commission, concluded that Israeli commanders had acted in self-defence, and that Israel's siege of Gaza was in accord with international law. Erdogan condemned the findings, saying they lacked "value and credibility." Certainly, the Turkel report was at odds with a Turkish report that charged Israel with violating the norms of international law and branded Israel's raid as "tantamount to banditry and piracy."

Much to Israel's disappointment, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu rejected the Palmer report and announced that Turkey would expel Israel's ambassador in Ankara, Gabby Levy; downgrade ties with Israel and suspend all military agreements.

In the wake of Levy's expulsion, Erdogan threatened to dispatch war ships to the eastern Mediterranean. He also suggested that Israel's raid had been a "cause for war," leaving the impression that Turkey might use military means to deal with Israel's blockade of Gaza.

A harsh critic of Israel's 2009 invasion of Gaza, he warned that Turkey's bilateral relations with Israel – which reached a peak of intensity in 2005 when he visited Israel – would "never be normal again" if Israel failed to comply with his three basic demands. Turkey's embassy in Washington, meanwhile, issued a communiqué saying Turkey would seek to prosecute the Israeli commandos who had commandeered the Mavi Marmara.

For the past two years, Israel has attempted to heal the breach, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu having called for a normalization of relations in the spirit of friendship and with Defence Minister Ehud Barak having said that the dispute can be resolved through a "creative formula."

Two Israeli envoys, Joseph Ciechanover, a senior diplomat, and Moshe Ya'alon, the strategic affairs minister and vice-premier, discussed the issue with Turkish representatives. These talks failed because Israel prefers to issue a statement of regret rather than an outright official apology.

The United States and Germany have both urged Turkey to rebuild ties with Israel, saying they are critical for regional stability and security. Davutoglu has said that foreign mediation is not necessary, since "the demands of Turkey are clear."

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, a hardliner in Israel's conflict with Turkey, claims that Israel has no reason to apologize. "We will not be Turkey's punching bag," he said, noting that Turkey's policies are to blame for the breakdown in relations.

According to the daily *Yediot Achronot*, Lieberman's aides called for drastic retaliatory measures to be taken against Turkey, notably Israeli co-operation with the Kurdistan Workers' Party, Turkey's arch enemy. But Netanyahu's office distanced itself from Lieberman's supposed plan, saying Israel's objective is to ease tensions and renew relations with Turkey.

Ya'alon, having accused the Turkish government of fomenting the crisis by allowing the Mavi Marmara to leave port in the first place, believes that Israel's alliance with Turkey is finished. His assessment is shared by Efraim Inbar, the director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv.

In a paper, *Get Tough with Turkey*, he claims that Turkey's demands are "unreasonable" and that an Israeli apology will not change its "anti-Israel policy." In Inbar's estimation, Turkey's Islamist government has aligned itself with "radical Islamist forces, siding with Iran, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon." He adds, "Within the framework of the new Turkish foreign policy, good relations with Israel are a burden."

Yigal Schleifer, a blogger and journalist who writes on Turkish affairs, counters that Israel is at least partly at fault for the impasse.

Israel neither understands the growing resonance of the unresolved Palestinian problem in Turkey nor does Israel grasp Turkey's view that its occupation of the West Bank is a source of instability as well as an obstacle in Turkey's ambition to construct a more harmonious regional order in the Middle East.

Erdogan, a strong advocate of a two-state solution, has blamed Israeli "intransigence" for the deadlock in the Mideast peace process. Turkey's President Abdullah Gul – who has hailed U.S. President Barack Obama's call on Israel to pull back to the pre-1967 lines within the context of mutually agreed land swaps – has written that "a dignified and viable Palestine, living side by side with Israel, will not diminish [Israel's] security, but fortify it."

**Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan**

The Israeli government, having rejected Obama's proposal, is displeased with Turkey's courtship of Hamas and incensed with Erdogan's claim that Hamas is a "political party" rather than "a terror organization."

Israel's bilateral relations with Turkey, though extremely strained, have not broken down completely. Two-way trade remains vibrant. Turkey, in 2010, sent two firefighting aircraft to extinguish a major blaze on Mount Carmel, while Israel dispatched humanitarian aid to Turkey after an earthquake there in 2011.

Since the Mavi Marmara incident, however, Israel has upgraded ties with Greece, Turkey's rival, and, together with southern Cyprus, has begun exploring for gas in the eastern Mediterranean. Turkey, having laid a claim to natural resources there too, has described Israel's offshore drilling as "madness." Clearly, the scramble for gas in the Mediterranean Sea has added yet another complicated layer to Israel's troubled and convoluted relationship with Turkey.

The Romspen Mortgage Investment Fund

Annual General Meeting for Investors

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of unitholders for
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**Date:** Thursday, May 24, 2012

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# Chabad Israeli centre takes shape in Vaughan

**Meir Shenhav**
Special to The CJN

What a surreal picture! At a busy and noisy construction site, workers in white or yellow helmets mix cement, while others carry blocks or lift steel rods. In the midst of it all stands a bearded man wearing a black helmet, a black suit, white shirt and a tie.

Rabbi Israel Landa, the spiritual leader of the Chabad Israeli Community of Toronto, is deeply involved with all the details of the centre's new building, what he calls "the project of his life."

The new centre is rising fast, near Walmart at Bathurst and Centre streets in Thornhill, Ont. I find this relationship somehow symbolic, as in both places you can find something for everyone at a reasonable price.

Rabbi Landa shakes my hand warmly. His eyes are glowing when he tells me that the building's steel structure is complete and the walls are going up. "With help from the One Above and participation from the ones below, we hope to be up and running for the upcoming High Holidays," Rabbi Landa said.

There's a huge need for a synagogue geared to Toronto's Hebrew-speaking community. Rabbi Landa said Israelis often feel disconnected from the wider Jewish population. Bathurst and Centre is a central point between the older established Jewish neighbourhoods and the newer communities, and the area itself is heavily populated with Israelis. So it's the perfect location.

Rabbi Israel Landa at the Chabad Israeli construction site

The Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre, which currently holds services and study groups at the Chabad Lubavitch Centre in Thornhill, doesn't have a standard membership formula, as do other synagogues or similar institutions, since the concept of "belonging" to a synagogue and paying membership dues is foreign to Israelis.

According to Rabbi Landa, the community has a high number of participants at holiday programs and a large number of families who donate to various causes. In order to survive and thrive, the centre will have to introduce the structure of a North America Jewish organization, with requirements for registration and membership. At the same time, he emphasized, Chabad Israeli will never abandon the open-door policy of an Israeli institution.

Families in the community will be offered a unit of partnership, a "spiritual share" for $2,500, to be paid in a lump sum or over time, he said.

The new centre will provide cultural gatherings, a Hebrew-speaking nursery and adult education programs, as well as activities for children and teenagers and special programs for families in need. Although the new centre will target Hebrew-speakers, any Jew who is comfortable participating in Hebrew-language programs or services is welcome.

"Occasionally, we will have opportunities and gatherings where we'll combine English as well, for the benefit of families with members who speak only English," Rabbi Landa said.

Rabbi Landa doesn't anticipate any conflicts with the activities of Chabad @Flamingo, which is in the same neighbourhood as the new centre. "We're all on the same team. We seek to complement each other," he said.

"Whereas Chabad@Flamingo is neighbourhood-based, Chabad Israeli is not geared to a specific area, but rather to a population who find themselves in many different areas of the GTA."

When asked if Chabad Israeli would welcome families that need to drive on Shabbat to attend services, Rabbi Landa replied: "Judaism is 24/7. Activities and services span a very wide range of needs and aspirations. We're active every day of the week. To paraphrase the Lubavitcher Rebbe, we wish to be like a flashlight to show the path, but not to judge or police."

The financing of the new building is not yet complete and Rabbi Landa replied carefully when asked about it. "We managed to raise funds to cover what is visible to the eye. For the remainder of the building, the inside, we're still trying to raise the funds now," he said. "When the community sees that the dream has become a reality, they'll make the effort and become partners with us."

As I bid the rabbi farewell, I see one of the workers turn to him and ask him a question. The rabbi answered and the worker smiled.

I sense that words of the Torah were imparted.

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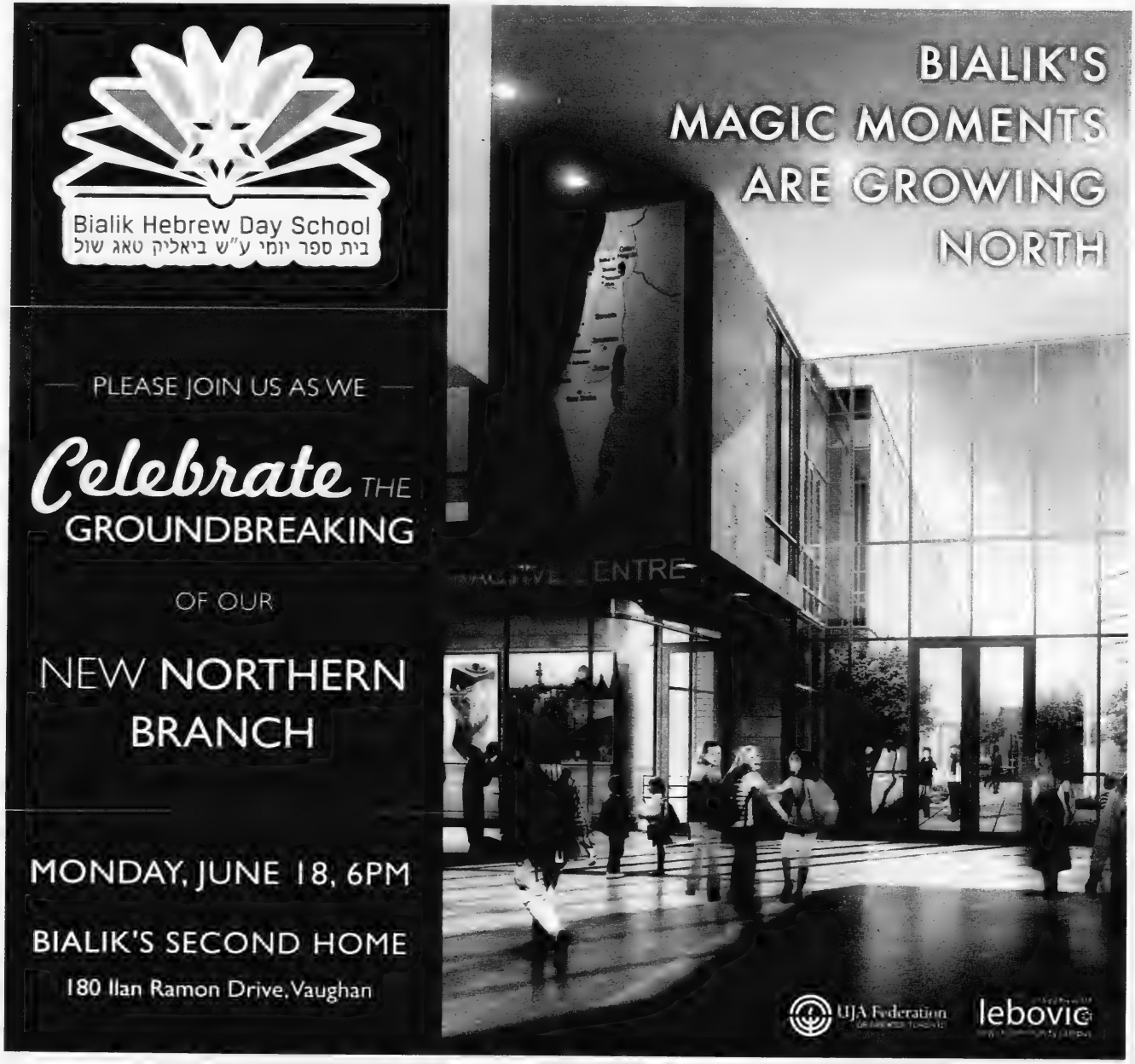


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# Holocaust educator to receive Pioneer Award

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Human rights advocate and Holocaust educator Toni Silberman is one of five Canadian immigrants who will be honoured next month for her outstanding contribution to her community.

Skills For Change, a non-profit organization that helps internationally educated immigrants acquire work and succeed in Ontario, will present Silberman – the vice-chair of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the national chair of B'nai Brith's Commission on Holocaust Education – with a Pioneers for Change award on June 5. The New Pioneer Awards celebrate inspiring newcomers and bring together a large and diverse community of people who believe that immigration is an important part of building Canada's future.

Among her many accomplishments, Silberman has spent 16 years working for the Ontario Human Rights Commission, is an adviser on the National Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, and recently served as chair of the Jewish-Canadian advisory committee for the Community Historical Recognition Program, which is a government initiative to acknowledge Canada's denial of the SS St. Louis – a ship carrying German Jewish refugees desperately seeking a safe haven in 1939 – entry into Canadian waters.

Silberman credited her Holocaust survivor parents, as well as other survivors and scholars, for fostering her passion for researching and learning about the Shoah.

"For me, Holocaust education and challenging Holocaust denial are visceral," Silberman said.

"As children of Holocaust survivors, born in a displaced persons camp in Stuttgart, Germany, my sister and I were raised in a home in which, over the years, our myriad questions about my parents' prewar lives and their horrific experiences in the camps were answered truthfully, albeit tearfully. They recognized that we had an obvious need to know, as well as a right to know."

Toni Silberman

Silberman explained that her parents spent four years apart in concentration camps. Although they survived, as did Silberman's grandmother and uncle, most of their family, including their two-year-old son, was murdered during the Holocaust. Their struggles continued when they were sent to a displaced persons camp in Germany.

Her father, who obtained a law degree in Poland a year before the war broke out, wasn't granted entry into Canada until he trained himself to be an underwear cutter.

Silberman and her family arrived in Canada in 1950 on her second birthday. Her passion to learn more about that dark chapter in her family's history shaped her professional life and continues to do so.

"I continued researching and learning as much as I could and, in addition to speaking at commemorative events, got involved… in developing resources and programs, lobbying the government for recognition, and creating opportunities for the reality and lessons of the Holocaust to reach as wide a spectrum of the Jewish and non-Jewish population as possible."

Judy Csillag, Skills For Change education and project leader, whose parents are also both survivors, said honouring Silberman is meaningful to her.

"This is the first time in the 20-year history of the awards that a Jewish person is being honoured," Csillag said. "We wanted to pay homage to the large and successful Jewish immigration that has added so much to this city and this country, culturally, economically and philanthropically."

Csillag explained that for the past 19 years, the organization hosted New Pioneer Awards to honour new Canadians who overcame the challenges of immigration to succeed in their field.

"This being the 20th year, we decided that we're going to go back to the people who were the nation builders, the ones who cleared the road and made it possible for the huge immigration we're seeing today to be successful," she said.

The CIBC-sponsored event will also honour former governor general Adrienne Clarkson, who came to Canada as a refugee from Hong Kong with her parents in 1942; Navin Chandaria, who immigrated to Canada from Kenya in 1975 to become CEO of the Conros Corporation; Colombian born and educated Dr. Alex Jadad, who is a physician, educator, researcher and public advocate, and Vahan Kololian, the managing partner of TerraNova Partners LP.

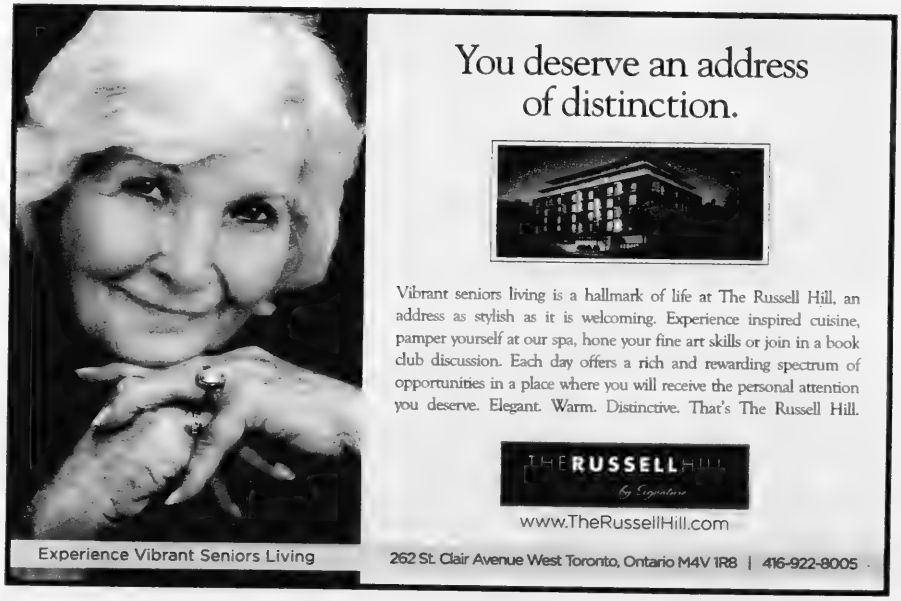
Each of the five recipients are the subject of a short documentary. The films will be screened at the June 5 award ceremony.

Silberman, who was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her service to the community earlier this year, said being recognized by Skills For Change is humbling.

"To be recognized formally and publicly for doing something for which I feel such passion, which is so inbred in my DNA, is truly humbling," she said. It acknowledges not just the end product, but the process – the history, my familial background and upbringing, my parents and my beloved late husband Sam's lessons about humanity and compassion, gratitude and appreciation… that compelled the choices I've made, that have allowed me to reach this point."

For more information about Skills For Change, visit www.skillsforchange.org.

**CANCER FIGHTERS: Students at Robbins Hebrew Academy's Beth Tikvah campus recently held their fourth annual "Relay for Life" fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society. They raised more than $3,600 and learned how to reduce the risk of cancer in their own lives. Pictured creating cereal necklaces are, from left, junior kindergartners Joseph A., and Ronnie T., kindergartner Charlie S., Grade 2 student Sydney A., and Grade 1 student Samantha S.**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# New director for Ontario Jewish Archives

**Bill Gladstone**
Special to The CJN

It is perhaps fitting that Dara Solomon began her new job as director of the Ontario Jewish Archives at the beginning of May, which has been designated Jewish Heritage Month in Ontario.

Not only does the experienced museum curator bring a new face to the archives, she has also set up a new Facebook page for the important but still fairly low-profile institution, located in the Lipa Green Centre on Bathurst Street.

Solomon, a native Torontonian who returned here this spring after an absence of 13 years, was most recently employed as curator of the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco.

In her six years there, she developed numerous impressive exhibitions, aided by an annual exhibition budget of $1.5 million. One of the things she enjoyed most was "helping the community tell their narratives," and she plans on helping Toronto's Jews tell their community-related stories as well. (Of course, her budget here will be only a tiny fraction of what it was in San Francisco.)

**Dara Solomon, the new director of the Ontario Jewish Archives.**
*[Bill Gladstone photo]*

"I was drawn to this job because the archives has this incredible collection of documents and artifacts, but hasn't really had a very public face," she said. "Lots of historians come and use the archives, but nobody really knows what's here. The opportunity to make that material much more accessible and to tell those stories really excited me."

An alumnus of Bialik Hebrew Day School, Solomon has a good working knowledge of Hebrew and can read some Yiddish. She earned an honours BA in art history and religion from the University of Toronto in 1997, then an MA in arts administration from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is married with a 2-1/2-year-old daughter.

Her family saga seems thoroughly woven into our community's past. Her mother was part of the Kokotow family from Kirkland Lake. Her maternal grandfather was a bottler of Coca-Cola in that northern Ontario town. On the paternal side of her family, her grandfather was one of five brothers in the trash business in Toronto and her grandmother was part of Toronto's well-known Grafstein family.

On the archives' new Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/OntarioJewishArchives), Solomon plans to tell the story of one or more objects from the archival collection each week, hoping to spur interest, discussion and memories.

"The great thing about social media is the conversation that it starts, so hopefully people will start adding to the stories online," she said.

She has already started researching an exhibit on *landsmanschaft* societies that the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto plans to show in the so-called "Bridge of Hope" between the Lipa Green Centre and the Holocaust Museum being developed in the neighbouring Prosserman JCC.

She's also keen on inviting artists to do projects with the archives, for instance re-photographing old synagogues that may have been previously photographed half a century ago. "You can tell a whole new story by having these two elements juxtaposed together," she said.

Perhaps most important from the client point of view, she wants to put sections of the archives' catalogue on the Internet so that researchers can access it remotely.

"It's definitely a priority. I think that all these stories I want to tell, you can't tell them without imagery. And I think that putting [the catalogue] online is where you're going to get lots of people involved."

Founded in 1973, the Ontario Jewish Archives has had only three directors in its nearly 40 years of institutional life.

The founding director was the late Stephen Speisman, whose strength, according to Brooky Robins, chair of the archives' nine-person board, was in "collection and acquistion."

Its second director was Ellen Scheinberg, who arrived in 2002. Scheinberg oversaw the computerization of a large part of the archives' 5,000 cubic feet of textual records, as well as the digitalization of many of its 50,000 photographs, and the compilation of several virtual exhibits. "Now we're at another level, where we want to do more outreach and more exhibits," Robins said.

Scheinberg left the Ontario Jewish Archives in 2010. She subsequently worked for the Archives of Ontario for a short period and earlier this year founded her own company, Heritage Professionals. A department of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the archives was without a director for nearly a year and a half while the board searched for the right person.

THE WAR IS OVER, BUT IZZY'S BATTLE CONTINUES...

"They look after you at Beit Halochem, and they ask for nothing in return."

In January 2009, **Izzy Ezagui** and 7 soldiers in his unit of the IDF were anxiously waiting in a tent by the Gaza border during Operation Cast Lead. Just before they were about to go in as reinforcements, rockets slammed into their tent. Izzy and 3 others were seriously wounded.

When the smoke cleared, Izzy saw that part of his arm was missing and that he was bleeding profusely. With all his strength, he walked to the nearest bomb shelter where the medics began treating him. Despite losing 40% of his blood, Izzy remained awake and lucid.

He is an exceptional young man who made Aliyah at 19, entered the army, was gravely wounded, and still returned to serve Israel as a commander in the Givati Brigade. "I believe in the nation of Israel and our history. I feel honoured to be able to participate in protecting Israel." Izzy received a "Citation of Excellence" from President Peres in 2011.

Izzy goes to **Beit Halochem in Tel Aviv** where he socializes with other disabled members, swims, works out in the comprehensive Fitness Centre and receives physiotherapy.

The specialized therapies, sports and cultural programs along with the state-of-the-art equipment and facilities in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem, Naharya and Beer Sheva assist the wounded in their rehabilitation.

**Izzy, along with other Israeli heroes will be sharing their experiences through a multi-media concert — JUNE 7, 2012, 7:30 P.M., TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, 5040 YONGE ST. Please show your support by attending our concert. (Details below.)**

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# Emunah dinner aids children in Israel

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Wednesday night's annual Emunah Family in Israel Dinner is thought to be the organization's biggest one yet, according to the dinner co-chairs Edie Kalb and Sari Rosenblum.

This year, the dinner was in honour of Phil and Faygie Schwartz, Toronto philanthropists who have been extremely generous in helping the Jewish community both in Canada and Israel. The Schwartzes, who are among the founders of Toronto's Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot high schools, are making aliyah in the fall of this year. They will be joining three of their four children, as well as their grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Israel.

"They are pillars in our Jewish community," said Rosenblum of the honorees, adding that it was their commitment and generosity that ensured the success of this year's Emunah dinner and fundraising efforts.

Emunah Women of Canada is a national non-profit organization of women who volunteer and fundraise primarily to benefit Israel's children, women and senior citizens. The organization is an affiliate of World Emunah, which has been around since the 1930s.

The funds collected from this year's dinner, which was held at the Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto synagogue, are being donated to Neve Michael Children's Village in Pardes Chana, Israel.

Neve Michael is a safe haven for children who have been separated from their biological parents due to traumatic circumstances, including alcohol and drug addiction and abuse. The children are given housing in a family environment with therapists and counsellors who live on site. They are educated and cared for until they are 18 years old and able to join society as healthy adults.

Faygie and Phil Schwartz were honoured at the Emunah Family in Israel Dinner.

"Any Jewish child in danger can go to this place to be safe and sheltered from whatever horrible situation they're going through," said Rosenblum about Neve Michael. Kalb added that "children often get the brunt of whatever dysfunction is going on at home," explaining the importance of helping the kids to recover and grow.

Currently, the centre houses about 300 children aged four to 18, but they are planning on building additional housing and facilities. "This expansion project is because [Neve Michael] needs upgrading, renovating, expanding to help more children," said Kalb.

In addition to the on-site therapy, education and family units, Neve Michael runs a 24-hour crisis centre to remove children from immediate danger around the clock. Eventually, these children are transferred to the village, where they, too, can receive the care and security they need.

"They get that sense of family and love and community," said Rosenblum.

Most of the children leave the facility and go on to lead successful and safe lives as adults. "They become quite productive members of society," said Kalb.

The Schwartzes visited Neve Michael on a recent trip to Israel and were able to see the work of the important institution that they are helping. "We were impressed by the staff that we met, the counsellors that we met," said Faygie, who herself has been an Emunah volunteer for many years.

Phil added that while Neve Michael exists for sad reasons, it is a place that "results in happiness."

The Schwartzes said they are grateful for the opportunity to help Emunah with this cause. "We are extremely impressed by the hard work, integrity and drive of the [Emunah] volunteers," said Phil.

The Schwartzes feel that the work of both Emunah and Neve Michael are integral to helping the Jewish community. As Faygie said, using the Hebrew phrase, the organizations deserve a lot of respect for their efforts, "kol hakavod!"

For more information on Emunah and Neve Michael, visit emunahcanada.org.


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# Madrassah barred from Toronto public schools

Compiled by CJN Staff

A Toronto Islamic school has been told it can no longer use Toronto public school facilities while police conduct a hate crimes investigation.

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) revoked the permit of the East End Madrassah after news reports showed the school was using materials that called Jews "treacherous," "crafty," accused them of conspiring to kill the Islamic Prophet Muhammad, and in a section on jihad, compared the beliefs of the Jews with those of Nazis.

David Spiro

The madrassah had contracted with the TDSB to hold its classes at the David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute, a public school in the Lawrence Avenue and Brimley Road area. The madrassah is run by the Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat (ISIJ), located in Thornhill.

TDSB spokesperson Shari Schwartz-Maltz said the board is asking for a meeting with representatives of the madrassah to ensure its teachings comply with the board's policies.

"We've had a relationship with the organization for about 30 years, and in that 30 years, we've had no complaints whatsoever," she said.

The madrassah issued a statement backing away from the materials: "We unreservedly apologize to the Jewish community for the unintentional offence that the item has caused.

"Our curriculum is not intended to promote hatred towards any individual or group of people, rather the children are taught to respect and value other faiths, beliefs and to uphold Canada's basic values of decency and tolerance," it said in the statement.

Jewish organizations applauded the TDSB for rescinding the madrassah's use of public school facilities.

"We commend the TDSB for moving to suspend the East End Madrassah's permit as an excellent first step, in accordance with the terms of the permit which allow the board to revoke such arrangements with or without cause. Given the presence of antisemitic passages in the curriculum, and the dubious activism of its religious leadership, it is clear that the madrassah has disqualified itself as a partner with the school board on any level. We are hopeful that the board comes to this conclusion in due course and that the madrassah is not welcomed back into our public schools," said David Spiro, Greater Toronto co-chair of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).

"We are pleased to note the TDSB has taken action in response to the alarming antisemitic hate taught to Muslim schoolchildren at Toronto's East End Madrassah," said Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC).

"We hope the school board will now go one step further and put a plan in place to ensure no group is ever targeted as the Jewish community has been, and that ancient hatreds are never again endorsed and encouraged in Toronto classrooms," he added.

FSWC said it remained concerned that this type of anti-Jewish material might be taught in other Islamic facilities in Ontario. It welcomed any initiative by school boards to investigate all forms of racism and intolerance in the education system.

The Board, Staff and Students of
**Eitz Chaim Schools**
express their sincere condolences to
Mrs. Nancy Friedberg
on the passing of her dear father,

**Mr. David Harris, ז"ל**

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# Lebovic Campus' Schwartz/Reisman Centre enjoys incredible success even before its doors open

*Sharp Family Atrium, facing east*

*By Daniel Horowitz & Taali Lester Tollman*

With the Schwartz/Reisman Centre on York Region's Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus set to open, excitement is building up north like never before. For months, community members have been watching with great anticipation as the building was under construction, keeping track of all the special facilities the Centre will offer.

Although its doors don't open until June 1st, registration has already soared to 40% above projections with over 2,100 members signed up and ready to go, demonstrating that the need for the programs and services provided by the Schwartz/Reisman Centre is stronger than ever.

The Lebovic Campus location of the Jack & Pat Kay Centre Camp has already reached its original target of 250 campers, with sales still going strong. Meanwhile, the Gorman Shore Goodman Childhood Education Centre, which opens in September, is already 75 percent full.

"We knew there was a big need for this type of Jewish community centre in the region," Sherry Kulman, executive director of the Schwartz/Reisman Centre explained. "UJA Federation had the vision to build in York Region, understanding the Jewish population growth that was and is still taking place. It is a very exciting time to be a resident here. We know that the Schwartz/Reisman Centre will become the premier place for young families, teens, adults and seniors alike to spend their free time, enjoying our state-of-the-art facilities." ***(continued on opposite page)***

*Preschool Classroom in the Gorman Shore Goodman Childhood Education Centre*

*Daycare Multipurpose Room in the Gorman Shore Goodman Childhood Education Centre*

*Dance Studio in the Community Arts Centre*

*Paint & Multimedia Studio in the Community Arts Centre*

# State-of-the-art Schwartz/Reisman Centre already changing life north of Steeles

*(cont'd from previous page)* It is difficult not to be awestruck when entering the Centre. The beautifully designed building emerges seamlessly from the ground up, melding perfectly into the landscape. Once inside, members will immediately feel welcome and at home.

The Phil Granovsky Sports & Recreation Pavilion is home to the salt water Brown/Lederman Outdoor Pool and two indoor salt water pools, including the Jacob's Ladder Therapeutic Pool.

Truly an example of one-stop shopping for all your cultural, recreational and health needs, the Schwartz/Reisman Centre offers the Jack and Pat Kay Centre Camp, pre and afterschool programs, prenatal classes, Jewish learning, youth groups, art classes for all ages in partnership with the Koffler Centre of the Arts, dancing, bridge, computer classes, Hebrew lessons and so much more.

"Years in the making, the Schwartz/Reisman Centre on the Lebovic Campus is finally getting ready to open its doors – and its arms - to the residents of York Region," said Ted Sokolsky, President & CEO, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. "Life north of Steeles Avenue will never be the same again, as so many of the services and programs needed to live full, healthy and happy Jewish lives will all be available under one roof. Registration is already higher than we ever anticipated, and the opening is still a week away. UJA Federation leadership dreamed and planned for this moment and great philanthropists made it a reality and now that it's here, it's ever better than we could have imagined."

*Fitness (Spinning) Studio in the Phil Granovsky Sports & Recreation Pavilion*

*Community Arts Centre*

*Jacob's Ladder Therapeutic Pool*

*Fitness & Conditioning Centre in the Phil Granovsky Sports & Recreation Pavilion*

*Underground Parking Foyer*

The Schwartz/Reisman Centre
UJA Federation

(Shai Gil photography)

# Israel not likely to hit Iran, retired officer says

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

You can count Oded Erez among the former Israeli military intelligence officers who don't think their country should attack Iran's nuclear facilities.

It's not that Iran has suddenly become a peace-loving neighbour, wishing nothing but goodwill for the Jewish state. It's just that he believes the job is better left to the United States.

"Israel won't do that dirty job. If a decision is made to do an attack, the Americans are better [positioned] to get better results on a first attack" with its air power and cruise missiles. And Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has over the last two years successfully made the case that Iran is not strictly an Israeli problem, it's a concern for the entire world, Erez said.

Whether the United States will, in fact, takes military action draws a shrug from the former head of Israeli Air Force intelligence. That's an open question, he suggests, but nevertheless, he believes Israel can live with a nuclear Iran.

Erez, now retired from the IDF, was in Toronto recently to speak to a small gathering assembled by CAASI, the Canadian Association for Aviation and Space in Israel. Like others in the Israeli military, he continued his career in the business world, serving on the board of Imagesat International and Palram Industries. He's currently a board member of the Israeli Air Force Association and of the Fisher Institute of Air and Space Strategic Studies.

In an interview with *The CJN*, Erez said predicting Iran's actions "depends how you see Ahmadinejad as a leader. Is he crazy, or is there certain logic there?

"I think he's logical in his own way and knows if he'll start something with Israel, he'll be repaid. And he doesn't want to be repaid."

Erez believes Ahmadinejad wants to make Iran more important, more powerful – a regional hegemon. "And he's showing off as the big player. 'You want to tell me what to do? I'll tell you what to do.' That's his thinking," Erez said.

Erez said the Saudis should be more worried than Israel about Iranian ambitions.

Turning to the area of his technical expertise, unmanned drones and satellites, Erez said both technologies have made surveillance a much safer activity.

In his early years in the Israeli Air Force, Erez flew surveillance aircraft, and in 1964, during a flight over Syrian territory, he discovered, by accident, an unknown air base.

Satellite technology made gathering such intelligence much safer, especially after the Soviet Union developed anti-aircraft missiles – the kind that shot down American U2 pilot Gary Powers.

Satellites also provide information in real time. Israel now has seven or eight satellites in orbit, most of them operated by the military, gathering images as they traverse the planet.

Oded Erez

Imagesat, on the other hand, is a private corporation that sells images taken by its satellites to clients around the world. Many clients want the information contained in satellite images, but few can afford to actually launch and maintain one, he said.

Drones likewise can provide photographic imagery of sites, and the technology that goes into them has grown by leaps and bounds from the device's early years.

Erez, who began his involvement with UAVs (unmanned air vehicles) in 1970 and served as a unit commander and later as base commander of a drone unit, said Israel has been a leader in developing drones. It long ago adopted the philosophy that "even if the mission fails, you don't lose prisoners of war or leave widows behind," he said.

Drones are harder for enemies to locate, due to the composite, radar-evading materials that go into them. They're also quieter than other military aircraft, and their range is impressive. The United States recently tested one that flew nonstop from Los Angeles to Australia, a 36-hour flight in the air, he said.

With the introduction of GPS into drones, "You can make the bird fly precisely, like clockwork," he said

Israel markets its drones to clients such as India and Azerbaijan.

But, "in the defence business, you never sell your most up-to-date stuff," he said.

JNF
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF TORONTO
Notice of
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
A meeting of Members* of the Jewish National Fund of Toronto will be held at 6:45 P.M. on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at The Toronto Botanical Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. East, Toronto.
Nathan Disenhouse, President, JNF Toronto
*All donors in good standing to the Jewish National Fund are regarded as members.

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# *Gift gives Russian Jewish centre its own home*

**Janice Arnold**
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — At 29, David Schottenstein is one of the most successful young entrepreneurs in the United States. His Columbus, Ohio-based custom clothing business, Astor & Black, reached annual sales of more than $20 million last year.

This online company, which he founded in 2004, has done so well that in March, the Massachusetts-based private investment company Castanea Partners announced it was making a major investment in Astor & Black, whose clients include corporate executives, professional athletes and other celebrities who appreciate the personal visits the company's clothiers make to their offices or homes for fittings.

Although the terms were not disclosed, Castanea says it invests between $15 million and $75 million in businesses it likes.

Schottenstein celebrated the windfall by making a $500,000 donation to the Jewish Russian Community Centre of Montreal, headed by Chabad Rabbi Israel Sirota.

Why? One reason is that Schottenstein's wife, Eda, is Rabbi Sirota's daughter. Schottenstein himself is a graduate of the Lubavitch Oholei Torah Rabbinical Seminary in New York City.

The donation has allowed the centre, which was founded by Rabbi Sirota almost 40 years ago soon after he immigrated to Montreal from the Soviet Union, to finally have a place of its own after moving around to a series of rented premises over the decades.

The new centre is located at 5380 Bourret Ave., the former Congregation Anshei Ozeroff, which most recently housed a Jewish school, Académie Taryag Arizal.

"Everyone is very excited about this, even those who are not so religious," said Mark Groysberg, head of the United Community of Russian-Speaking Jews of Quebec and publisher for 18 years of the Russian Jewish newspaper the *Voice of the Community*.

Based on government data, he thinks there are at least 20,000 Jews of Russian origin in Quebec, including a few in Sherbrooke and Quebec City, although many aren't formally affiliated with the Jewish community.

"Even if there is only half that, it is a very big number," said Groysberg, who immigrated from Ukraine in 1990. He believes the new centre will help bring more Russian Jews into community life.

ADVT.

# An Open Letter: Stop Bill C-31 - Protect Canada's Refugees

**In 1939, the Canadian government refused to allow the SS St. Louis ship to land in Canada. The SS St. Louis was carrying 937 desperate German refugees most of whom were Jewish. Many eventually perished in the Holocaust. Much has changed in Canada since 1939. However, there is now a Bill before Parliament that would create an historic backward shift in the way Canada responds to the needs of people seeking protection.**

**For 60 years, Canada has upheld the principles and respected the legal obligations of the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention, in particular by not returning refugees to countries where they face serious threats to their lives or freedom.**

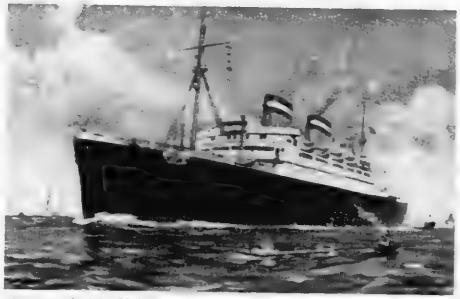
For 60 years, Canada has also opened its doors in response to major international crises. In 1956-57, 38,000 Hungarian refugees came to Canada. In 1972, Canada welcomed 6,000 East Asian refugees from Uganda. In 1979, the Progressive Conservative government encouraged Canadians to privately sponsor Indochinese boat people. Over 60,000 refugees were resettled in Canada in 1979 and 1980. 34,000 were privately sponsored.

In 1986, the Canadian people collectively received the Nansen Award, in recognition of outstanding service to refugees. The award committee cited "the major and sustained contribution of the People of Canada to the cause of refugees" through individuals, families, voluntary agencies, community and religious organizations, as well as the three levels of government.

*Passengers aboard the SS St. Louis. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Dr. Liane Reif Lehrer. (http://www.ushmm.org)*

Bill C-31 would destroy this proud heritage. The arrivals of the Ocean Lady and the Sun Sea respectively carrying 76 and 492 Sri Lankan refugee claimants prompted the Canadian government to proclaim a "crisis" and to table a Bill that would destroy Canada's proud humanitarian tradition.

**Bill C-31 provides one Minister with arbitrary powers to jail some refugee claimants,**



*A postcard of the SS St. Louis, May 1939. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (http://www.ushmm.org)*

**including minors.** Innocent men, women, and youth - young and old, healthy and disabled - against whom there is no suspicion of any wrongdoing or risk, could languish in jail for months. This provision violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and international human rights law. Even if their claims are accepted, **these refugees will be barred from applying for permanent residence for five years** after the acceptance of their claims. This will **prevent them from reuniting with children or spouses for many more years.** Bill C-31 allows the Minister to curtail appeal rights for refugee claimants whom the minister deems "bogus" because they come from a list of designated countries, **creating a discriminatory two-tiered system.** Bill C-31 allows the government to **jail any permanent resident entering Canada** without charges, based on mere suspicion of criminality.

Bill C-31 imposes **overly short timelines** before refugee determination hearings, which will seriously disadvantage refugees who have experienced trauma such as torture or spousal violence, those who lack important documents, and those who need time to build trust to freely tell their story.

**Our current law already contains many provisions for detaining people - if there is a risk or danger. Targeting people who are not suspected of wrongdoing and posing no risk will not stop human smuggling, nor is it a rational means of enhancing security. Tough measures, including life in prison for smugglers, already exist in our current law. Depriving people of a fair and adequate process and appeal will not help Canada determine who is or is not a "bogus" refugee. It will needlessly punish recognized refugees and their families, and it risks sending genuine refugees back to danger.**

## We, the undersigned, call on the government of Canada to uphold Canada's humanitarian traditions and withdraw Bill C-31:

Rabbi Ron Aigen, *Cong. Dorshei Emet* • Sharryn Aiken, *Prof. Queens* • Irene Angelico, *Filmmaker* • Rivka Augenfeld, *Refugee rts adv* • Aviva Bassmen, *Exec. CARL* • Morton Beiser CM, MD, FRCP, *Dist. Prof, Ryerson* • David Berger, *Fmr Cdn Ambassador to Israel* • Philip B. Berger, *MD, Prof, U of T* • Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld, *Rabbi Emer., Temple Emanu-El** • A. Alan Borovoy, *CCLA* • Raoul Boulakia • Raymond Breton OC, FRSC, *Prof. Emer., U of T* • Neil Caplan, *Teacher, ret. VC** • Maurice Chalom, *Écrivain* • Harold & Mary Chapman, *Past Pres, Cdn Council of Liberal Congregations* • Sheri Cohen • Carole Dahan • Nathalie Des Rosiers, *CCLA* • Arthur Drache • Rabbi Edward Elkin, *First Narayever Cong.** • Hélène Engel, *Musician* • Daniel Fine • Gerri Gershon, *Trustee, TDSB* • Mitch Goldberg, *VP, CARL* • Donald Goldberg, *RIA* • Sheila Goldbloom • Richard Goldman, *Director, CAR* • Rabbi Tina Grimberg, *Cong. Darchei Noam* • Frank Guttman • Alice Herscovitch • Peter I. Hidas, *Historian & 1956 Hungarian Refugee* • Barb Jackman • Joy Kogawa, *Poet & Writer* • Hélène Klodawsky, *Filmmaker* • Dale Laskin • Shelley Laskin, *Trustee, TDSB* • Alan Lavine • Lazer Lederhendler, *Lit. Translator* • Rabbi Leigh Lerner • Rabbi Aaron Levy, *Makom** • Audrey Macklin, *Prof, U of T* • David Matas, *Fmr Exec. Cdn Bar Assn* • Noa Mendelsohn Aviv, *CCLA* • Dan Mendelsohn Aviv, *Jewish educator* • Dr. Karen Mock, *Exec, B'nai Brith Canada* • Ryan Peck, *ED, HALCO** • Jim Pfaus, *Prof, Concordia* • Peter Pickersgill, *Cartoonist & Columnist* • Lisa Rae Pickersgill, *Fmr Cdn Immigration Officer* • Anna Porter, *OC, O. Ont., Writer* • Arlene Perly Rae • Robin Seligman, *Fmr Exec. Cdn Bar Assn* • Ruth Selwyn, *Hum rts adv* • Peter Showler, *Fmr Chair, Imm. & Refugee Board* • Myer Siemiatycki, *Pres. Cong. Darchei Noam* • Maureen Silcoff • Imre Szeman, *Canada Research Chair, U of Alberta* • Harold Troper, *Author & Prof, U of T* • Lorne Waldman, *Pres. CARL* • Mort Weinfeld, *Prof, McGill** • Daniel Weinstock, *Canada Research Chair* • The Very Rev. the Hon. Lois M Wilson, *CC, Fmr Pres. World Council of Churches** • Lise Winer, *Prof, McGill** • Judy Young-Drache • Dr. Joseph Yu-Kai Wong, *CM, MD, DSc* • Pia Zambelli, *Fmr Mbr, Imm. & Refugee Board* • Fred H Zemans, *Prof. Emer., Osgoode* • Joyce Zemans, *CM*

*Institutional affiliation listed for identification purposes only

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

If this Bill slips under the radar and is allowed to pass, it will change the way Canada responds to people in crisis. **Please help to share this information**, and ask your friends, co-workers, and family to do the same. For more information on the Bill, links to other sources, MP contact information, and ways to take action, see **www.ccla.org/protectrefugees** or **www.refugeelawyersgroup.ca/billc-31**.

If enough people express their concerns, the government will have to listen.

**Please join us by calling or writing to your MP. Let them know that Bill C-31 does not belong in Canada.**

# 'We had to clean up the riffraff left behind'

**Continued from page 3**

Unsatisfied with that response, the young Bernd wanted to know what his father really did in the war, why he felt the way he did about Jews and why he said the Holocaust never happened.

Now 54, Wollschlaeger recalls arguing with his father about the Holocaust. After initially denying the Wehrmacht had anything to do with it, his father eventually said, "It had to happen. We had to clean up the riffraff left behind by others."

Wollschlaerger researched his father's tank unit and learned it had participated in at least one atrocity: it had used 200 human shields in an operation early in the war in which all the civilians were killed. What's more, his father commanded the unit involved.

"I was shocked that my father would adhere to a cold-blooded, life-denying ideology," Wollschlaeger said.

His curiosity about his father's attitude to Jews led him "to embark on a spiritual journey."

He sought out the tiny Jewish community in Bamberg, his hometown. "Through their eyes I wanted to experience Israel, experience the Jewish People and what the Holocaust meant for them," he said.

He was surprised that the Bamberg Jews "related to me in a normal way, even a friendly way… They accepted me as the Shabbes goy" – the gentile who performs certain tasks for them on the Sabbath.

His time with the Jews of Bamberg served as a sort of "spiritual retreat" from the conflict in his own home. They became his "family of choice."

He began accumulating Jewish paraphernalia such as kippot and books. His parents thought he had joined a cult. When his father took "a very aggressive stand, I told him I needed to find out why [he] hated them so much that [he was] willing to kill them."

His father's answer: "It was either them or us."

But Wollschlaeger could find nothing among the Jews that made him hate them. On the contrary, he found "the Jewish culture fascinating, [particularly] their adherence to their own culture and history, despite what had happened to them."

Wollschlaeger studied with a Frankfurt rabbi for two years, and in October 1986, he was converted by a rabbinical court. The conversion marked a total and final break from his father, who felt betrayed. "I never saw him again. He died six months later," Wollschlaerger said.

A few months after converting, Wollschlaeger obtained an Israeli visa and left for the Jewish state, without much advanced preparation. "I did *goornicht* (nothing)," he joked.

He spent six months in a kibbutz and took part in an absorption program. He worked in the banana orchards and studied Hebrew.

A physician in Germany, he later went through a one-year internship program to obtain his Israeli licence. He practised medicine at the Ichilov hospital and married an American Jewish woman. He served in the Israeli Defence Forces as a doctor for two years and raised his children as Jews.

In Israel, he felt accepted: "Once you join the tribe and are willing to defend the tribe in the army, you're one of them," he said.

They lived a normal Israeli life until the 1991 Gulf War, when Iraq fired missiles into Israel. It so unnerved his wife that she moved the family back to her native United States.

"I went, it was the only family I had, the only normal life I had," Wollschlaeger said.

A few years after moving to the United States, his family life fell apart and his wife, who only then learned of his real past, felt "betrayed," he said.

He remarried and had another child. His new wife and child accompanied him to Germany where Wollschlaeger sought closure. He visited his parents' graves, and in a remarkable chapter that closes his book, he notes that his mother, who had visited him in Israel, hinted that the family had hidden secrets. Could this be what his late sister had once suggested – that they had Jewish ancestors on their mother's side?

"Would that have explained my unstoppable quest for answers? Might that explain why I was attracted to the Jewish faith? Why I felt the spirit of the Jewish prayers in my heart and soul?" he asks.

As he leaves, he tells his mother, "You can be proud of me. I made it against all odds."

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# TJBF

## Toronto Jewish Book Festival
## June 4 – 7, 2012 | Book sales: 10 AM – 10 PM
## The Bram and Bluma Appel Salon at the Toronto Reference Library | 789 Yonge St., Toronto

### MONDAY, JUNE 4

1 PM | $5 at the door
**Reinventing Israel and the Jews: David Berlin and Dr. Dan Mendelsohn Aviv** Sponsored by The Canadian Jewish News.

2 PM | $5 at the door
**Bernie Finkelstein**, author of ***True North: A Life Inside the Music Business***, interviewed by **Jake Gold**

5:30 PM | $5 at the door
**Mal Coven**, author of ***How I Succeeded in Retirement and The Bi-Way Story***

6 PM | $5 at the door
**Who Do You Think You Are: *Jewish-Style*** with **Peter Jassem**, **Sharon Singer**, **Edwin Goldstein**, **Bonnie Lawrence Shear**, and **Ben Schlesinger**. Sponsored by The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto).

8 PM | $25 advance or at the door
**An Evening with Shalom Auslander Interviewed by Michael Wex**

Join us for a rare opportunity to hear brainy, angst-ridden, hilarious and no-holds-barred **Shalom Auslander**, author of ***Hope: A Tragedy***, just released to rave reviews! Auslander has been called "America's hottest, funniest, most controversial young Jewish memoirist" and his work has been dubbed "blackly hilarious."

"A virtuoso humorist, and a brave one: beware Shalom Auslander, he will make you laugh until your heart breaks."
*– New York Times Book Review*

### TUESDAY, JUNE 5

11 AM | FREE
**Karen Levine and *Hana's Suitcase*: 10th Anniversary.** Ages 9 – 13.

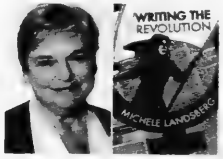
1 PM | $5 at the door
**Richard Brody on Claude Lanzmann's bio** Promotional Partner: Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre.

2 PM | $5 at the door
**Arthur Fleischmann on *Carly's Voice: Breaking Through Autism***. Sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section.

5:30 PM | $5 at the door
**The Lives of Legends: Canadian icons Celia Franca and John Hirsch** with **Carol Bishop-Gwyn** and **Fraidie Martz**.

6 PM | $5 at the door
**Writing the New Toronto** with **Catriona Wright**, **Amina Farah** and **Irving Ellman**, **Robert Rotenberg**. Presented together with Diaspora Dialogues.

8 PM | $15 advance or at the door
**Past, Present, Future – Feminism in Canada and Israel: Michele Landsberg** with **Dr. Rachael Turkienicz**




Journalist, author and social activist **Michele Landsberg** was the first feminist writer to have a regular voice in a Canadian daily newspaper. ***Writing the Revolution*** weaves together key columns from 1978 to 2003 with reflections, anecdotes and analysis of the heady days of Second Wave feminism and beyond. Sponsored by The ShaRna Foundation.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

11 AM | FREE
**Aubrey Davis reads *A Hen for Izzy Pippik***. Ages 4 – 8.

Noon | $5 at the door
**A Little Music! A Little Yiddish!** Singer **Inga Filippova-Williams** and Professor **Kalman Weiser**. Presented together with Jewish Music Week. Sponsored by Committee for Yiddish, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

1:30 PM | FREE
**Book Launch: *The Baby Experiment* by Anne Dublin**. Ages 12 – 14. Sponsored by the Tyrus Reiman Memorial Program for Children's Literature.

5:30 PM | $5 at the door
**New Takes on Jewish Montreal** with **Sara Ferdman Tauben**, **Seymour Mayne** and **B. Glen Rotchin**.

6 PM | $5 at the door
**Happy Birthday Jewish Fiction .net** with **Morley Torgov**, **George Jonas** and **Dr. Nora Gold**.

8 PM | $15 advance or at the door
**What do we talk about when we talk about "Jewish Science"?**

Author and professor **Steven Gimbel** argues that you cannot understand Einstein's science without knowing the history, religion and philosophy that influenced it. In *Einstein's Jewish Science* he intertwines science, history, philosophy, theology, and politics in fresh ways to solve the multifaceted riddle of what religion means – and what it means to science. Sponsored by Canadian Friends of Hebrew University.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 7

10:30 AM | FREE
***Yuvi's Candy Tree* by Lesley Simpson.** Ages 4 – 8.

1 PM | $5 at the door
**Spotlight on the Azrieli Foundation**
A special screening of a series of short films profiling the authors in the Azrieli Series ***Holocaust Survivor Memoirs***.

2 PM | $5 at the door
**All About Survival: Two Family Stories** with **Lilian Nattel** and **Dave Margoshes**.

8 PM | FREE
**HELEN AND STAN VINE CANADIAN JEWISH BOOK AWARDS**

The 24th annual awards celebrating excellence in Canadian writing on Jewish themes and subjects. Books in a variety of genres will be recognized at the awards ceremony – this year hosted by journalist and host of CBC's *The Sunday Edition*, **Michael Enright**.

The 2012 winners are:

**Fraidie Martz** and **Andrew Wilson**, **David Bezmozgis**, **Denis Vaugeois**, **Eli Pfefferkorn**, **Richard Marceau**, **S. Weilbach**, **Kalman Weiser**, **Rebecca Margolis**, and **Lesley Simpson**.

Entrance to book sales is FREE. Advance tickets for 8 PM author talks:
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All other tickets can be purchased at the door.

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# Ottawa gives $400,000 for Auschwitz upkeep

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has pledged $400,000 to help the preserve the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial in Poland.

Harper made the announcement May 14 while hosting Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk during his state visit to Ottawa.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation is a Polish non-governmental organization that's seeking to preserve the former Nazi concentration and extermination camp by raising 120 million euros ($154 million Cdn) to cover the site's conservation costs.

The foundation was created in January 2009 by Prof. Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, a former Auschwitz prisoner and current chairman of the Auschwitz Council.

In 2009 Tusk asked the heads of 40 countries to help cover the costs of maintaining the site. Last week's grant fulfils Harper's pledge to contribute.

**Prime Minister Stephen Harper, right, with Polish PM Donald Tusk**

The funds will come from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's budget.

"Canada's support for the memorial site will help with the conservation of the buildings, grounds, and the thousands of historical objects that are endangered by erosion and deterioration," the prime minister's office said.

The memorial comprises almost 200 hectares, and includes 155 buildings, 300 ruins, including those of the gas chambers and crematoria, as well as more than 100,000 personal items that belonged to the people who were killed, along with archival documents and prisoners' artworks.

Canadian Jewish community leaders and representatives of survivors' groups praised the announcement.

In a joint statement, David Koschitzky, chair of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, and Hank Rosenbaum, co-president of the Canadian Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants organization, lauded the government's gift.

"Auschwitz-Birkenau serves as a stark reminder of the depths of evil the Jewish people, and indeed the entire world, faced in recent history," Rosenbaum said. "[The government's] commitment is a tribute to the survivors who overcame these horrors, rebuilding their shattered lives and contributing so much to Canadian society in the years that followed."

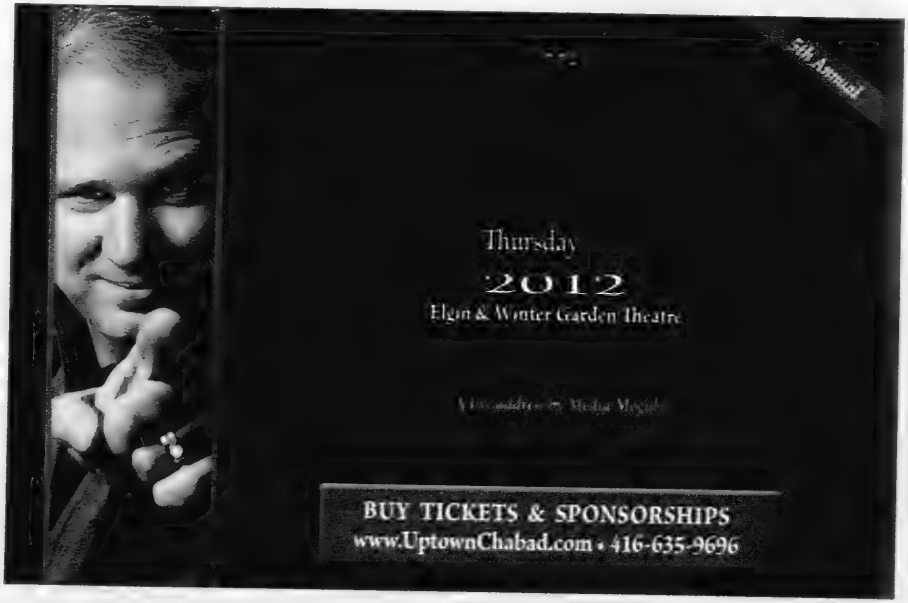
Frank Dimant, CEO of B'nai Brith Canada, said the grant is important, because it's "critical for future generations to bear witness against Holocaust deniers."

On its website, the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation states that unless enough funding is found, much of its buildings and surroundings will go to ruin.

"[T]he clock is running faster and faster. If we do not find a way today to underwrite a comprehensive plan for conservation on a permanent basis, we will never manage to catch up with the natural erosion and deterioration of many buildings and other objects," said foundation president and museum director Piotr M. A. Cywinski.

"Until now, the entire burden of maintaining this place has fallen on Poland, which will continue to finance the ongoing operation of the museum."

Canada follows numerous other countries that have given aid to the NGO, including Israel ($1 million in 2011), the United States ($15 million in 2010), the Netherlands ($400,000 in 2011), Poland (10 million euros in 2011), Austria ($6 million in 2010), and Germany (60 million euros in 2009).




# שישאר בינינו

## גידי קורן וחברים

**זמרת רחוב:**

העיתונים דווחו שבשכונה תל אביבית צלצלו השכנים למשטרה להתלונן על כך שזמרת רחוב מטרידה את מנוחתם. באה ניידת משטרה וסילקה משם את זמרת הרחוב, שעטפה את הגיטרה שלה, אספה את המטבעות והלכה לדרכה. יש בוודאי מאות סיפורים כאלה בכל מקום, אבל הסיפור שלנו שונה, כי זמרת הרחוב אותה גרשו השוטרים היתה מירי אלוני, אחת מהאמנים הבולטים ביותר בתולדות המדינה. מירי תהיה חרוטה בזיכרון הלאומי כמי ששרה את "שיר לשלום" כשלצידה עומד יצחק רבין. וכמו שהצליח יגאל אמיר לרצוח לא רק את רבין ז"ל, אלא גם את תהליך השלום עצמו, כך גם הלכה מירי אלוני מדחי לדחי והגיעה לרחוב. מעבר לטרגדיה האישית של זמרת מחוננת שמאבדת הכל- גם השלום כבר לא זקוק לציפור השיר משלו, כי הוא מת מזמן ולא השאיר אפילו חלום של שלום.
אבל שישאר בינינו.

**סובלנות**

תודה לחברי שמחה על הקטע הבא, פרי עטו של שדר ההוקי המפורסם ג'יג מקדונאלד, תושב אודיליה:
" אינני מבין את ידידי שמתנגדים להקמת מסגד נוסף בטורונטו. לדעתי כל אזרח קנדי צריך לעודד לסובלנות ללא הבדל דת או גזע!
על כן צריך לאפשר בניית מסגד נוסף במסגרת עידוד הסובלנות. ועל כן, בשם הסובלנות אני מציע שיאפשרו פתיחת שני מועדוני לילה משני צידי המסגד. אחד מהם יהיה מיועד לחד מיניים ויקראו לו "קאובוי הטורבאן", והשני ייקרא "תיסלם איסלאם". מצד אחד של מועדון הלילה יפתחו איטליז שמתמחה במאכלי חזיר, ולידו מסעדת פורק שתיקרא "צלעות עיראק".
מהצד השני של הכביש תיבנה חנות לאנג'רי שתיקרא "לויקטוריה אין שום סודות" ולידה חנות אביזרי מין שעונה לשם "אהבה נוסח טורקיה".
כל הפיתוח הזה ללא ספק תעודד מוסלמים להצטרף להפגנות למען סובלנות של אחרים, אותה סובלנות שהם דורשים משאר הקנדים כלפי המסגד שלהם. "
אבל שישאר בינינו.

**תרומת בת מצווה**

מדינת ישראל רעשה והתרגשה: ילדת בת מצווה תרמה את כל מתנות המסיבה שלה, סך חמישים אלף שקל, כדי לארגן ימי כיף לניצולי שואה. כולם התרגשו והזילו דמעה, והיא אפילו הוזמנה להיפגש עם נשיא המדינה שמעון פרס.
חברי הטוב שראה את החגיגות האלה השתומם מאוד: על מה כל המהומה, הרי בקנדה ילדים יהודים רבים עושים זאת כל שנה. הקשיב אותו חבר לטלביזיה מישראל וגילה שאכן, הילדה דוברת אנגלית ועלתה לפני זמן קצר מטורונטו....
זה גרם לי לחשוב: מדוע בטורונטו כן, ובישראל לא? התשובה שלי: כי בישראל זה זמן רב שאין חינוך יהודי אצל חילוניים. מילת המפתח בחינוכו של ילד ישראלי היא "אני אני אני", והמחשבה לתת למישהו שנמצא בחוסר כל נראית שם לאנשים רבים מוזרה ביותר, כמעט תמוהנית. אז מדוע שילדים שם יחשבו אחרת ? האדם הוא תבנית נוף מולדתו, אמר טשרניחובסקי. אבל שישאר בינינו.

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# Ride 2 Remember raising funds for Holocaust Educators Study Tour

## *Eighth annual event revs up on June 1st*

*By Daniel Horowitz*

It's long been believed that education is the most valuable tool at our disposal in order to ensure that humanity is not doomed to repeat its mistakes. When it comes to the Holocaust, teaching the next generation about hatred, intolerance, and antisemitism is vital.

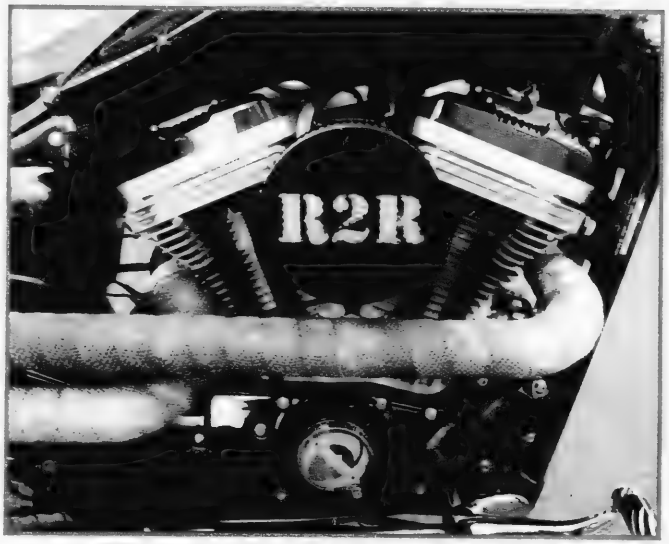
Fortunately for all of us, the members of the Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance (JMA) share that sentiment.

The JMA, which will be holding its 8th annual - and first Canadian – Ride 2 Remember (R2R) in Toronto on June 1, 2012, has chosen the Holocaust Educators Study Tour – which is perfectly aligned with its philosophy - as the recipient of its fundraising efforts.

Every R2R, which is dedicated to the six million Jews who lost their lives during the Holocaust, is an annual fundraising initiative with the goal of funding Holocaust education at local community centers, schools, museums, universities and colleges throughout the world.

Under the auspices of UJA Federation's Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, this year's fundraising recipient, the Holocaust Educators' Study Tour, sends non-Jewish Canadian educators to Europe to visit sites of historical Jewish importance, including Auschwitz-Birkenau and Oskar Shindler's factory, where they learn about the Holocaust in a meaningful and in-depth manner. The group is led by professional Holocaust educators and, when possible, a Holocaust survivor.

These encounters are supplemented with pedagogical methods and expertise to enable participants to teach about the Holocaust in new ways upon returning to their classrooms.




*The 8th Annual Ride to Remember take to the streets of Toronto on June 1st*

"When I was first apprised of the Holocaust Educators Tour, which is only made available when there is funding available, I knew that it was the perfect project for us to support," said Stephen Stein, Chair, 2012 Ride to Remember Organizing Committee. "To teach non-Jewish educators - many of whom teach in places where Jewish students are few and far between - about the Holocaust, is invaluable, and was very appealing to us. Our fundraising goal is to raise enough money to send at least 40 educators to Europe."

"It is so meaningful that the Ride to Remember has designated the Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre as its recipient," says Mira Goldfarb, Executive Director, the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre. "Their support will allow us to continue to engage teachers across Canada in learning about the Holocaust and Jewish heritage with a most profound and life changing experience. Our Educators' Study Tour not only prepares teachers, but also honours our survivor speakers who have given so generously of their time, sharing their experiences both of loss and resilience in the Holocaust. Teaching teachers has a 'multiplier effect,' and this is especially gratifying both for the survivors and our organizational leadership."

The day prior to the Ride 2 Remember, JMA riders will come together in Ottawa where they will be holding a joint "Never Again" pledge, on Parliament Hill.

If you want to see the riders off on June 1st, they will be leaving the parking lot of Thornhill's Shaar Shalom Synagogue at approximately 9:30 am, before heading south on the 404 to the CNE grounds. They return north along University Avenue before ending their ride at Holy Blossom Temple for a luncheon and brief ceremony.

For more information, or to make a donation to the JMA's Ride 2 Remember, visit holocaustcentre.com/Educators-Students/Educator-Study-Tour.

# Legacy of Life: Faye Mintz *z"l*

Born and raised in Toronto, Faye Mintz (nee Ulster) grew up in a traditional and warm Jewish home, thanks to her father (a rabbi), her mother, and her three siblings. She dreamed of becoming a kindergarten teacher; however when her father died when she was just 13 years old, she and her siblings took on the responsibility of supporting the family.

Our mother met our father, Al Mintz, while working as a bookkeeper where he was an accountant. Thus began a love affair that spanned more than 60 years and produced five children and 13 grandchildren.

Faye's life was governed by her all-encompassing love of family. Our hearts are warmed by memories of Friday night dinners, where we would gather around the Shabbos table for a delicious meal. While we laughed at our father's jokes, complained about our siblings, and tried to speak over each other, our mother just sat and kvelled at her lot. She was happiest, however, during the summers at our cottage in Belle Ewart, where she was surrounded by not only our family, but by her siblings, nieces and nephews.

Faye enjoyed socializing with her many friends, knitting, playing maj and bridge, and travelling. Of all the countries she visited, none could compare to Israel, which reinforced her Jewish ideals and traditions. She loved how Israelis grabbed hold of life. And, she tried to live her life that way, even in her later years, when illness made things difficult for her.

*Irwin and Faye Mintz*

Our mother believed in *tikkun olam*, and every Monday for more than 20 years, she donned her pink smock and volunteered at Baycrest. Her love of Baycrest led her and my father to establish an endowment to help fund research into aging. She was also involved with Reena, and the Al and Faye Mintz Reena Elderhome stands as testament to her desire to give back to the community.

As a committed UJA donor, Faye chose to support the Lebovic and Prosserman centres through our family foundation, and to endow her Lion of Judah so that she could provide a Jewish legacy in perpetuity.

Faye's goodness and kindness continue to reverberate in the community, but her personal legacy lives on in the sense of yiddishkeit, values and integrity she instilled in her children and grandchildren. We hope to carry on her commitment to the Jewish community and beyond in a way that would make her proud.

(As told by her children, Bonnie, Harley, Don, Risa and Steven).

*Legacy of Life features the inspiring stories of Jewish Toronto's outstanding individuals who, through their commitment, vision and generosity, have left an indelible imprint on our community. If you have a suggestion for future Legacy of Life profiles, please call the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto at 416-631-5703.*

Jewish Toronto is published as a community service by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

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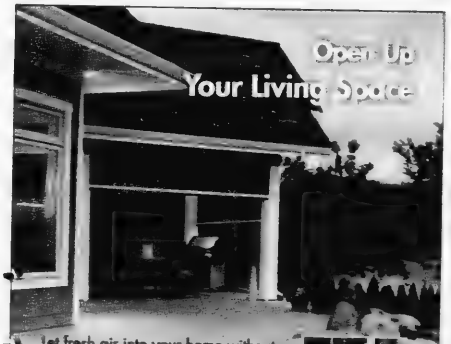

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# Six Days plus 45 years, Pt. 1

Forty-five years ago, Israel and its neighbours fought a war that set into motion events that are still felt today. Although the Six Day War is well documented, the web presents us with the ability to reread the same breaking news that gripped the world in June 1967.

This sampling of stories is not intended to be comprehensive history. Rather, it illustrates the gamut of emotions felt during that war and foreshadows the conflict that remains today.

**June 4: War could be hours away**

From the *Sydney Sun-Herald:* The British prime minister, Mr. Wilson, yesterday warned that war could be only hours away. And, in Tel Aviv, today, the new Israeli defence minister, Gen. Moshe Dayan, declared that Israel would fight and win its own battles, with Israeli troops. **[http://bit.ly/6day39]**

**June 5: War in Mideast – Arab-Israel feud erupts**

JERUSALEM (AP) – For the third time in 20 years, war broke out today in the Middle East between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Gunfire sounded in Israel and in three of its Arab neighbours – Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The Arabs, sworn to destroy Israel, were battling the Jewish state's forces on two fronts, at Egypt's Sinai frontier and on the Syria and Jordan borders. Each side accused the other of lighting the fuse for the explosion which, as in 1956, threatened to involve the major powers. **[http://bit.ly/6day23]**

**June 6: Israel claims land and air successes as Britain and U.S. declare neutrality**

From *The Guardian:* Israel claimed early today that it had achieved victory in the air by destroying 374 Arab aircraft… In Moscow, the Soviet government condemned Israel for an act of aggression and demanded that it should immediately and unconditionally stop all military action… The American State Department declared U.S. neutrality "in thought, word, and deed…" **[http://bit.ly/6day24]**

*Jewish & Digital*

*Mark Mietkiewicz*

**June 7: Ram's horn signals a victory**

JERUSALEM (UPI) – A Jew in a paratrooper's uniform blew a triumphant blast on a ram's horn at the Mandelbaum Gate today and signalled the fall of Jordan's old section of the Holy City to Israeli forces. For the first time in 20 years, Israelis prayed at their Wailing Wall. There was fighting, bloodshed, prayer and joy. **[http://bit.ly/6day25]**

**June 8: Egyptians crushed in Sinai Desert**

(UPI) – Israel jubilantly declared victory over its Arab enemies Wednesday 60 hours after the first shots were fired in the Mideast war. The Jewish state then called for "permanent peace" in the Middle East. **[http://bit.ly/6day26]**

**June 9: Arab leader blames West for 'setback'**

From the *Milwaukee Journal:* President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic announced his resignation in a speech, radio reports in Beirut, Lebanon, said Friday… "We cannot hide the fact that we have suffered a grave setback," he added. **[http://bit.ly/6day27]** (Note: from the following day: **Nasser stays on** – "I am complying with the will of the people.") **[http://bit.ly/6day28]**

**June 10: Soviet breaks off Israel relations**

MOSCOW (UPI) – The Soviet Union today broke relations with Israel and threatened to take sanctions against the Jewish nation unless it immediately stops military operations against the Arab states. The Israeli ambassador was told to close his embassy and leave the country as soon as possible. **[http://bit.ly/6day29]**

Next time, the war ends and a new reality sets in.

*Highway@rogers.com*

# *Finding a new Shavuot ritual*

It's easy to forget about Shavuot.

The holiday comes at the end of the school year, with the rush of final exams and the start of little league. It's clustered with other celebrations, such as Mother's Day and Yom Ha'atzmaut, graduation and the beginning of camp. The foods of the holiday – generic dairy – pale in comparison to the unique symbols and memories of apples and honey, jelly donuts, hamentashen and matzah.

But most of all, unlike other holidays with their unique rituals such as sitting in the sukkah, lighting Chanukah candles, or a seder, Shavuot's custom of all night learning is lacklustre. For reasons of scheduling and interest, it's able to capture the imagination of only a small demographic.

The nexus of these factors leads Shavuot to be one of the least celebrated of the Jewish holidays.

Because of the lack of compelling ritual, my celebration of Shavuot has changed through my stages of life.

As a child, Shavuot was marked by end-of-the-year ceremonies in synagogue. Junior congregation was invited into the sanctuary, and the youth leaders announced our names and gave us a Jewishly oriented children's book as a capstone to the year. The ceremony was a wonderful way to mark the end of the year and a great pull for "regulars." But it was an insiders' event, honouring those who were already engaged in synagogue life.

In high school it was cool to stay up all night – at least among my very limited group of friends. We would gather at one synagogue, eat a lot of ice cream, learn a little Torah and fall asleep on the couches. As a day school student with no classes the next day and parents committed to the endeavour, it was easy for me to participate. Few of my peers in the throes of exams showed up.

*Class Act*

*Daniel Held*

During university, I was on summer vacation by the time Shavuot rolled around. Some years, I was traveling and experienced Shavuot with a local Jewish community. Other years, the holiday presented a pause from a summer job. Unlike the High Holidays or Pesach, Shavuot doesn't have a gravitational pull that brings students home for the holiday.

Last year, for the first time, I attended a Shavuot retreat. A growing number of synagogues and independent minyanim organize such programs combining Torah learning, tfillot and recreational activities.

They're slightly different in each community. They take the form of multi-day immersive experiences at camps or shorter programs in parks and other natural sites, with programs for a specific age group or events that cross generations.

In the spring months, Shavuot retreats capitalize on the opportunity to spent time in budding nature and a relaxed environment to study Torah and build community.

Shavuot retreats offer a potential new ritual that can cross the gamut of life's stages and rejuvenate the celebration of Shavuot. From young children and their families to high school and university students to empty nesters, Shavuot retreats offer the opportunity to bridge the holiday's two parallel themes of Torah study and celebrating the first fruits of nature while engaging participants in memorable experience that will draw them back year after year.

# Rights body had become anti-Israel

**David Matas**

Guest Voice

I welcome the call of MP Irwin Cotler, the Liberal critic for justice and human rights, for an alternative mechanism to replace the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, known as Rights and Democracy ("Cotler slams decision to shutter rights agency," April 19). There is a need for a mechanism to co-ordinate various government rights and democracy initiatives abroad.

Whatever one thinks of the value of external criticism of democratic countries with independent judiciaries and free media, Rights and Democracy, when it came to Israel, went far beyond that. Rights and Democracy had joined the anti-Zionist pack.

Attempts by the board to assert accountability and transparency led to staff rebellion and a self-serving false narrative. That narrative has now assumed the status of urban legend, which, regrettably, is repeated in *The CJN* article, written by Janice Arnold.

The article states that former president, Rémy Beauregard, died of a heart attack the night after a particularly acrimonious board meeting. I was at the board meeting, and it was not acrimonious.

The article states that Rights and Democracy was an arm's length organization financed only 80 per cent by the government of Canada. In fact, it was financed 100 per cent by the government of Canada.

The article states the organization's chair, Aurel Braun, objected to three grants given to organizations to monitor human rights in the aftermath of the Gaza war of 2008-09. These grants were used to finance work that became the basis of the Goldstone report (in which it was stated that Israel had intentionally killed Palestinian civilians during the Gaza war), work Goldstone himself later rejected. It is misleading to call them grants to monitor human rights. Moreover, at the time the grants were decided, the reputation of all three beneficiaries was known. Al-Haq and Al Mezan as leading proponents of anti-Israel lawfare and key advocates of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel, and B'Tselem, as engaged in methodologically tendentious research against Israel.

*The CJN* article refers to the heart of the dispute as being about differing views on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Yet, the demonization and delegitimization of Israel are more than just a view on the Arab-Israel conflict. They are a view on human rights, whether the Jewish People are to be treated equally with the rest of the peoples of this world to a right to self-determination.

The three grants were one of a litany of rogue activities. To give but one other example, staff of Rights and Democracy worked on Durban II, the 2009 United Nations anti-racism conference in which Israel was targeted. The government of Canada, to its credit, decided to boycott Durban II. Beauregard, when asked at a parliamentary committee whether Rights and Democracy had participated either directly or indirectly in Durban II misled Parliament by stating that it had not.

Repeated board member requests to the agency for the relevant staff reports were unsuccessful. Only independent investigative work, including an effort by *Ottawa Citizen* columnist Terry Glavin, produced them.

*The CJN* article is unfair to both Cotler and Braun by suggesting that they hold opposing views when, to my knowledge, they coincide. I was a member of the board not just recently, when Braun was its chair, but earlier when Cotler was its acting chair. When Cotler was acting chair, we decided to close down the Middle East program at Rights and Democracy to avoid a continuation of the problems that had then started to arise.

The Jewish community has seen at the UN Human Rights Commission and the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva how quickly and easily human rights institutions become instead anti-Zionist institutions. When we build the alternative mechanism that Cotler and Braun both want, we have to ensure that the mechanism actually respects rights and democracy.

*David Matas is senior legal counsel at B'nai Brith Canada.*

# *Let's rejoice in our Torah this holiday*

***Sephardi Window***

***Rabbi Ilan Acoca***

Through years of experience, I have come to realize that Jews seem not to attach the same importance to Shavuot as they do to the other yamim tovim.

Both Pesach and Sukkot have an abundance of rituals that every Jew begins to learn at an early age. On Pesach, we eat matzah and have a seder, and on Sukkot, we sit in a sukkah and shake the lulav. Yet on Shavuot, it seems as if there's nothing "fun" to do. Why is this so?

As we all know, Shavuot commemorates God's giving the Torah to us, His Chosen People. This unique event was of such importance that He didn't want us to be distracted by any rituals whatsoever, so that we may devote all of our attention to this special gift.

The giving of the Torah was so crucial to the world that the first Rashi of the Torah says that the word *bereshit* (in the beginning) means *bishvil reshit* (for the sake of the beginning). The word *reshit* alludes to the Torah. What Rashi is saying is that if the Torah would not have been given, the world would not exist.

There is more, however, regarding the meaning of Shavuot, the Festival of Weeks, which is revealed by examining the timing of the holiday. More precisely, why are we given "seven weeks" without specifying a calendar date?

With enormous ramifications, God was setting the stage for all time when He gave the *Torah Sheh B'al Peh* (the Oral Torah), which provides, in fact, the justification for rabbinical interpretation of the *Torah Sheh B'chtav* (the Written Torah). Not only did God say to the sages of history, "You figure out the calendar date of Shavuot," but He was also saying for posterity that, when questions about the Written Torah arise, Jews are to turn to the rabbis, who hereby have the authority to elucidate such questions.

In the same vein, on Shavuot we read the Book of Ruth. As we know, Ruth was a convert who came from the nation of Moab. Yet, according to our Written Torah, the Moabite is not to become a member of the Jewish Nation (Dvarim, 23:4). Thus, when the legitimacy of Ruth's conversion was questioned at the time of the ascendance to kingship of David (Ruth's great-grandson), the sages determined (Yevamot 77a), with the authority of the Talmud (the *Torah Sheh B'al Peh*) that we have just discussed, that the exclusion of the Moabites referred to men but not women.

On this and every Shavuot, let us not feel bereft of rituals, but, rather, heartened by our tradition of the all-night study, during which we review and contemplate our lives in light of our two Torahs – written and oral – that have guided us always.

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# WJC president meets Harper in Ottawa

**ndy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

The president of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa last week to discuss rising global levels of antisemitism and anti-Zionism and to suggest ways to continue pressuring Iran on its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Ronald Lauder was in Ottawa on May 16 on a visit to Parliament Hill hosted by members of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA). He also lunched with Foreign Minister John Baird.

Lauder has met with Harper before, hosting the prime minister at his New York home last fall as part of the WJC's acknowledgement of Canada's support for Israel and other Jewish causes, he said.

He said Canada has taken a greater leadership role in the international community with respect to the Middle East, Iran and the support of Israel, and he was in Canada to offer the WJC's support and counsel to the government on issues relating to the Middle East and antisemitism.

Ron Lauder

Speaking to *The CJN* from Ottawa, Lauder, an American businessman and philanthropist – listed by *Forbes* in 2011 as one of the richest people of the world, with an estimated net worth of $3.3 billion – said he was in Canada because of Harper's strong support for Israel and to "formalize" relations between the WJC and CIJA.

Asked what specifically he spoke to Baird and Harper about, Lauder said he briefed them "on some of my travels and some of the major issues facing Jews today, not only in Israel but also around the world."

His travels have recently taken him to Turkey, France, Italy and Israel.

"There are major issues facing world Jewry," he said. "Frankly, Canada has been an outspoken supporter of Israel, and this trip was a way to say 'thank you' and also brief [Harper] on what's happening to world Jewry."

Lauder also said he gave the prime minister his opinion on how the new Israeli coalition government could affect the peace process with the Palestinians.

The spectre of renewed, virulent antisemitism as a result of the world economic downturn was also on the agenda.

"Whenever there are financial problems, you do see the rise of antisemitism. And you can tie that back to Iran. Whatever happens, there will be an effect on oil prices, which in turn will have an [economic] effect on the rest of the world. And the question is: what can be done?" Lauder said.

As to his dealings with CIJA – which replaced the now-defunct Canadian Jewish Congress, the WJC's longtime Canadian affiliate – Lauder said the Canadian Jewish community is "strong and very self-sufficient."

Shimon Fogel, CIJA's CEO, said his organization wants to solidify its relationship with the WJC, because the world body's "extensive network" has a lot to offer to Canadian Jews.

Fogel also said that with the convergence of issues affecting Jews worldwide, co-ordination between the WJC and CIJA makes sense.

"It allows us to leverage WJC to support the work we do [in Canada]," he said.

He said the WJC also recently started giving money and resources to CIJA for its advocacy work in Canada and abroad.

Fogel wouldn't reveal how much assistance the WJC has given CIJA, but he said it's been enough to start planning more trips to Israel for MPs and senators, and to promote CIJA's anti-boycott movement, for example.

"These things cost real money. And his help is a huge boost to CIJA's capacity to deliver to our constituency," Fogel said.

Lauder confirmed that the WJC and CIJA are working on joint initiatives regarding antisemitism or anti-Zionism.

"We have interesting plans, but we're not yet ready to discuss them. Part of the reason I'm here is to understand what Canada needs and what [the WJC] can give and then put the pieces together."

He added: "We're also talking about 70 or 80 countries working together on these efforts. It's a difficult world out there, and it could become more so [for Israel and Jews] in the coming years."

# Aboriginal leader looks to Israel as role model

**Myron Love**
Prairies Correspondent

**WINNIPEG** — Two years ago, Ron Evans, the former grand chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the current chief of Norway House Cree Nation in northern Manitoba, visited Israel for the first time.

Although he had to cut his trip short after just three days because of a family emergency, Evans was inspired by what he saw: "In Israel, I saw such a young country that has come so far in just a few years," he said.

"The Jewish People are an ancient people who have overcome tremendous adversity and have become very successful. They have been able to maintain their culture and heritage while, at the same time, embracing the modern world. Our youth have much to learn from that."

Evans was determined to share his Israel experience with his community. To that end, in co-operation with the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, he organized a Young Leadership Mission to Israel from Norway House, a community of about 5,000 to 6,000 people 456 kilometres by air north of Winnipeg.

"This is the first mission to Israel of this kind in Canada," said Shelley Faintuch, the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg's community relations director and local director of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, who helped plan the itinerary and accompanied the group of 30 young people from Norway House and a band councillor on the trip to Israel. They left on April 29.

**Chief Ron Evans**
***[Shelley Faintuch photo]***

"The focus of the mission was on leadership development," Faintuch said. "The goals were to teach these young people – through seeing the example of Israel – to take responsibility for developing programs and initiatives in their community.

"Even though this was supposed to be an educational program rather than just a tour, we showed them Israel from top to bottom."

For most of the young people, and possibly all of them, this was the first time they had ever been overseas, Faintuch said. Their first stop in Israel was at Better Place, the company behind Israel's first electric car manufacturer.

"We wanted to show that Israelis and aboriginal peoples share a sense of responsibility for taking care of the earth," she said.

The mission participants saw Israel in all of its religious and ethnic diversity. Among the people they met were young Israeli leaders in the north; Druze villagers; an Ethiopian-born Israeli police officer; David Weinberg, Israel office director of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs; and Bassam Eid, the longtime director of the Palestine Human Rights Monitoring Group.

The aboriginal youths ate at an Arab restaurant, stood on the border near Lebanon, stuffed papers in the cracks in the wall at the Kotel, participated in an archeological dig and learned something of the long history of the Jewish People, visited the former British detention camp at Atlit, stood on Masada and absorbed the atmosphere of Yad Vashem.

"Yad Vashem was a very emotional experience for the group members," Faintuch said. "One individual said that he never really understood the Jewish People until visiting Yad Vashem."

For recreation, Faintuch noted, the visitors were taken rafting and to the ice rink at Metullah, where they did some skating and helped some of the Israeli skaters.

The Christian part of the tour included visits to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Garden of Gethsemane and Christian holy sites around the Sea of Galilee.

A special moment for Faintuch was when her son, Zev, met the young Canadians in Jerusalem and showed the visitors some of Jerusalem's nightlife. He also spoke to them about his decision to come to Israel and volunteer to serve in the Israeli Army.

The group returned to Winnipeg on May 6.

"The highlight of this mission for me," Evans said, "was in seeing the changes in our young people on a daily basis. They were in awe of Israel and all the places we visited. Everyone in our group wants to go back to Israel."

Evans said he is planning to take a group of potential young leaders from his community to Israel every year for the next nine years and more.

"We have already started our fundraising for our mission next spring," he said.

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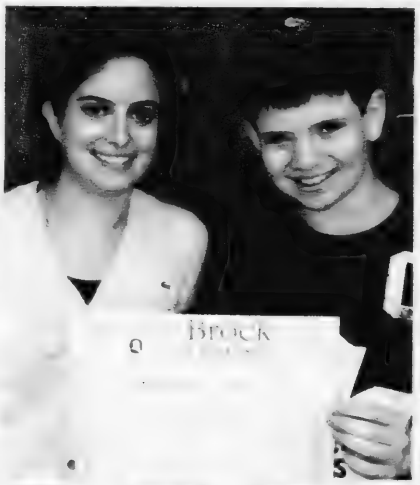

**MATH WHIZ**

Toronto Heschel School Grade 6 student Jake Wyman, pictured with math teacher Bailey Grad, placed seventh in Canada, fourth in Ontario and first in the private school division of the recent Brock University Caribou Mathematics Competition.

**BUTTERFLY EFFECT:** Preschool students at Temple Pre-School each made a beautiful beaded butterfly. These butterflies will be sent to the Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas, where they will eventually be part of an exhibition in remembrance of the 1.5 million children who perished during the Holocaust. With the children is one of their teachers, Susan Schwartz.

**MUSTARD MANIA:** Miles Nadal JCC Nursery School students got their hands dirty with their middle school buddies from Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School. The two groups, which meet every two weeks as part of an inter-grade learning initiative between the schools, spent the morning planting and playing. They'll get to find out how long mustard seeds take to grow – but will they eat them?

# Mazel Tov מזל טוב

Mazel tov to Samuel Sheinkman on your 90th birthday from your loving family and friends.

Mazel tov Justin & Tali. Parents Murray & Sonya Kaufman, Dovid & Leah Cowan (Manchester, England). Grandparents Harold & Dena Baumander. August wedding in Jerusalem

Big sister Madison welcomes Reagan. Parents are Lowell & Heather Dubin. Grandparents Phyllis & Marvin. Dubin, Betty & Tony Craig. Great-grandfather, Sid Brown.

Chaya Mushka Lasry is celebrating her forthcoming bat mitzvah in Israel with her parents Sarah-Faiga & Yossi, eight siblings, Bubbie Mickey Sern and Uncle Menachem.

Mazel tov on the engagement of Shai Auerbach & Bracha Sorscher.

as featured on onlysimchas! Celebrating Jewish Life

Happy 45th wedding anniversary to Bella & Leon Celemencki. With love from: Jacky and Steve, Michelle and Arielle, Natalie, Stan, Jaden and Jessika.

Email your digital photos to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click the "Family Moments"

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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

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FREEDOM 55

**Deadline reminder: Because of Shavuot, May 25 is the deadline for the issue of June 7. June 4 is the deadline for the issue of June 14. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, May 24

**SMALL WONDERS BAKE SALE**

A charity bake sale benefiting Small Wonders, an organization that supports Jewish couples experiencing infertility, will be held, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 53 Alexandra Wood. Homemade and COR baked goods and floral centrepieces available. For info, e-mail to bakesale@smallwonders.ca.

## Saturday, May 26

**SHAVUOT SERVICES**

Learn and socialize with the Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W., **May 26**, 10 p.m. till dawn. Multiple sessions available. For more details, visit facebook.com/villageshul.

Meet biblical characters and enjoy a festive dairy lunch with Chabad of Markham, **May 27**, 9:30 a.m. 905-886-0420 or www.chabadmarkham.org.

## Sunday, May 27

**GOING FOR GOLD**

**Paul Rosen,** gold medallist sledge hockey player in 2003, 2004 and 2006 Paralympics speaks to Singles In The Park, 7 p.m., Earl Bales Community Centre, 4169 Bathurst St. $10. RSVP required 416-631-0005 or debbygo@rogers.com. Singles In The Park is open to single, divorced and widowed Jewish men and women over 55.

## Monday, May 28

**MEDINA THEATRE AUDITION**

Medina Theatre Ensemble is holding auditions for *Opening Night*, May 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave. RSVP required, **Fran**, 416-638-2716, or **Morris**, 416-785-0344.

## Tuesday, May 29

**HOME BUYERS INFO NIGHT**

A real estate agent, home inspector, lawyer and mortgage broker discuss what first-time home buyers need to know, 6:30 p.m., Miles Nadal JCC. RSVP bsulman@trebnet.com.

**CHUG HA-TANACH**

**Lionel Sharpe** discusses the Book of Zechariah, 8 p.m., Beth David Synagogue.

**FINDING YOUR RELATIVES**

**Karen Lasky** and colleagues from the Jewish Genealogical Society discuss, "How to Find Your Relatives," Temple Har Zion. $3/$5. Bring a dairy lunch at noon, program begins at 12:30 p.m.

**FROM VIOLENCE TO VIOLINS**

**Moshe Hammer,** award-winning violinist, talks about the non-profit music program he founded. Beth Tikvah Synagogue, noon. By reservation only, 416-221-3433, ext. 352, or helen@bethtikvahtoronto.org.

**Continued on page 31**

THE SAM & SARAH KERZNER HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL INSTITUTE GUEST SCHOLAR WEEKEND

Beth Tzedec Congregation is proud to welcome back the Henry and Sally Schaffer Professor of Holocaust and Jewish Studies at Union College, New York

**Professor Stephen Berk**

*Theme: Israel in Ferment*

**Friday, June 1 to Sunday, June 3**

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**Friday, June 1** Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 PM
Dinner and lecture follow:
*"Israel's International Predicament"*

**Shabbat, June 2** *Shaharit* 8:45 AM
Pulpit lecture: ***Persia, Iran and the Jews***
Luncheon & lecture following Service:
***One Nation's Celebration, Another Nation's Tragedy***

Package Price for dinner AND lunch: Adults $68/Children (ages 4-13) $34. (Adults $36/Children $18 for dinner OR lunch.) RSVP by **Tuesday, May 29** to 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

**Sunday, June 3** *Shaharit* 8:45 AM Lecture 10:00 am
***Obama and Israel: Truths and Fictions***
Co-sponsored by the Beth Tzedec Men's Club and Sisterhood.

**Beth Tzedec Congregation** 1700 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario M5P 3K3
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**Continued from page 30**

**Rabbi Michael Skobac** discusses "The Real Messiah: Cross-Examining Christian Missionary Claims," 8 p.m., The Lodzer Congregation, 12 Heaton St. Contact toronto@jewsforjudaism.ca or 416-789-0020.

## Wednesday, May 30

**JEWISH GENEALOGY**

**Marc Stevens**, author of *Escape, Evasion and Revenge*, discusses uncovering his father's secret past in Nazi Germany and discovering his Jewish roots, to the Jewish Genealogical Society, 8 p.m., Edithvale Community Center, 131 Finch Ave. W. www.jgstoronto.ca

**HISTORY OF ANTISEMITISM**

**Prof. Derek Penslar** discusses the new book from Facing History and Ourselves, *A Convenient Hatred: The History of Antisemitism*, 7:30 p.m., Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, 230 St. Clair Ave. W. RSVP Jeannette_Slater@facing.org or 416-901-3831, ext. 3.

## Thursday, May 31

***ZAMIR***

Beth Emeth Synagogue shows the film *Zamir:Jewish Voices Return to Poland*, with an introduction by **Yitzhak Argaman**, 7:30 p.m. Tickets $15/ $8 (youth). 416-633-3838.

***AGE RAGE***

National Council of Jewish Women, Shalom branch, presents **David Cravit**,author of *Age Rage: The Coming War of the Generations* at 8 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. RSVP info@ncjwc-ts.org or 416-633-5100.

## Other News

**JEWISH FOLK CHOIR**

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir holds its 86th annual spring concert, June 3, at 3 p.m., Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave. For tickets, call 905-669-5906 or folkchoir@hotmail.com.

***SOUL TO SOUL***

National Yiddish Theatre's *Soul to Soul: Yiddish and African-American Musical Celebration* will be presented at Holy Blossom Temple, June 5, 8 p.m. $30. For tickets, 416-789-3291, ext. 24, or www.holyblossom.org.

***CELEBRATION OF LIFE***

Beit Halochem Canada, Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, presents *Celebration of Life*, concert, June 7, 7:30 p.m., Toronto Centre for the Arts. For tickets, 905-695-0611 or www.beithalochem.ca.

**JEWISH MEDICAL ETHICS**

May 31 is the early bird deadline to register for Torah in Motion's conference on Jewish Medical Ethics, Aug. 16-19. www.torahinmotion.org or 416-633-5770.

## JF&CS GROUPS

All programs require pre-registration and are open to all members of the community. To register, call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or www.jfandcs.com. All classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St., unless otherwise noted.

High Conflict Divorce: A workshop for parents in a high-conflict situation. Not for individuals in an abusive situation. May 24, 6:30 p.m., Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

Let's Be Blunt: A Forum on Teen Drug Use, May 24, 7 p.m., William Lyon MacKenzie Collegiate, 20 Tillplain Rd.

**BEREAVED PARENTS**

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. On June 10, the group is attending a fundraising performance of *Lost in Yonkers*, St. Lawrence Theatre for the Arts. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. Dance with live music, June 3, 7 p.m. $5. Casino Rama, June 13. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, social bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Caregivers Support Group.** A group for caregivers burned out caring for loved ones with dementia or other illnesses will be held May 30, 7 p.m., L'chaim Retirement Home, 718 Sheppard Ave. W. 416-398-7898.

**National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Aviva Branch**, is looking for women over 70 for their group. They meet Tuesdays midday. Call 416-633-5100.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts.Call **Morty**, 416-783-6478.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Bernard Betel Centre** 416-225-2112. May 29, **Myriam Shechter** discusses, "Great Russian Music: Tchaikovsky," 10 a.m.; May 31, **Dr. Sharon Cohen** discusses Alzheimer's disease, 1:30 p.m.

**Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. June 7, Opera educator **Iain Scott** presents "*Nabucco*: Verdi's Jewish Opera," 1:30 p.m. $5.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526, **Colin Blayney.** Ongoing yoga, dance fitness and aquafitness classes.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

**Kevin Courrier** teaches a course on gangster films, 1 p.m., May 23-June 13.

**Iain Scott** teaches a course on Mozart's opera, 7 p.m., May 23-June 20.

**Bruria Cooperman** discusses "Jewish Words: Weapons of Mass Destruction," May 29, 1:30 p.m.

**Hugh Innes** teaches a course on Democracy in Our Time, June 5-26, 10:30 a.m.

Register now for bridge and mah-jong classes beginning in June.

Ongoing programs include current events, Thursdays at 12:45 p.m.; duplicate bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.; folkdance, Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

Leil Tikkun Shavuot, all-night Torah study and more, May 26, 9 p.m.-6 a.m. Family tikkun and dinner (for a fee) at 5:30 p.m. Ext. 154.

*When This War Ends*, a chamber jazz opera with a Canadian perspective on world conflict, May 31, 8 p.m., Al Green Theatre. For tickets, visit www.spectrummusic.ca.

Toronto Jewish Film Society screens the film *Daniel*, June 3 at 4 and 7:30 p.m. with guest speaker **Kevin Courrier.** Ext. 606.

**Adam Nayman** discusses the films *Clockwork Orange* and *Barry Lyndon*, June 4, 7 p.m.

Tickets on sale now for MNJCC Community Choir in concert, June 6-7, 8 p.m. ext. 0.

The Annex Festival will be held June 10, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. along Bloor Street.

**Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** teaches a class on Thinking Jewish, June 11-25, 8 p.m. Ext. 154.

Summer Institute for Creative Adults offers classes for adult singers, July 16-20. Ext. 250.

Adult daytime choir meets Tuesdays, 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

Shabbat party for children up to 4 years old, Fridays at 10 a.m. Ext. 277.

Call for submissions to the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition. Deadline July 3, 2012. For submission guidelines, esthera@mnjcc.org or ext. 606.

*Spark: Igniting with Photography*, a collection of portraits by youths in the Jane-Finch community is in Al Green Gallery until May 29.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services every Thursday at 7:15 a.m. and Sunday at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

**SWIM TO STOP BULLYING: Grade 4 students at Leo Baeck Day School, north campus, recently held a swim-a-thon to raise money for anti-bullying programs. The event was organized by student Samantha Gisser (in front wearing glasses). Students swam a total of 500 laps and raised more than $1,200, which was split between the International Bullying Prevention Association and Leo Baeck Day School.**

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***SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22***

# Hillel International CEO visits Toronto

Michelle Bitran
Intern

Hillel of Greater Toronto's annual general meeting on May 16 featured a special guest. Wayne Firestone, president and CEO of Hillel International, came from the United States to congratulate Toronto's Hillel on its recent growth and success.

"This is a different Hillel than the one that many of us encountered when we were in college or when our parents were in college," said Firestone, who has been involved with Hillel since he was an undergraduate student at the University of Miami.

He explained that Hillel has been engaging many more Jewish students and growing worldwide, building 25 new facilities in North America in the last five years.

The AGM, held at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, marked the transition between the outgoing chair of the board of Hillel of Greater Toronto, Lindy Goodman, and the incoming chair, Shelly Feld. Firestone presented Goodman with the prestigious Exemplar of Excellence Award for her outstanding work and devotion as chair.

Feld thanked both Goodman and executive director of Hillel of Greater Toronto Zac Kaye for their leadership, and spoke of his excitement at taking on his new role, continuing his family's tradition of strong involvement in the Jewish community.

He added that in recent years, as Toronto's Hillel has made an effort to connect with more Jewish students on campus, there has been new understanding of what's important to students and how to attract them. "We have found that it's not about planning programs to bring the students to us, but it's about reaching out," he said.

Wayne Firestone
*[Michelle Bitran photo]*

Three students who were actively involved in some of the Hillel outreach initiatives over the last year shared stories of their experiences. Allysa Moses, who just completed her studies at the University of Toronto, was one of the Campus Entrepreneur Interns. She and the other interns were responsible for engaging previously uninvolved Jewish students on campus, and they reached about 640 new students in the last year.

"The interactions that I had with each student opened my eyes to the diversity of the Jewish community," Moses said, adding that, through her internship she learned the importance of "being interested, not interesting," or listening to others rather than talking.

Moses was joined at the podium by Eyal Melamed, who just completed his studies at York University, as well as Isaac Kates Rose, who completed his studies at U of T. Melamed helped develop the new Pisga initiative to connect with Israeli and Russian-Israeli students, and Kates Rose was an Ask Big Questions fellow, working to engage students in a more communicative campus environment through asking interesting, and sometimes difficult, questions about life, Judaism and the Middle East.

Firestone, who became president of Hillel International in 2006, feels that it is exactly this kind of outreach to the Jewish community on campus that will bring Hillel the success it is seeking. As part of a five-year strategic plan, Hillel plans to reach out to and maintain contact with 70 per cent of Jewish students on all campuses, up from a current 45 per cent active involvement rate, based on American data.

The number of students involved with Hillel in the United States is already up about 36 per cent since 2005, according to Hillel's research, and Firestone is optimistic that they will continue to grow. "We indeed are going to be the meshugeneh organization that actually takes the risks that are necessary to advance Jewish life," he said of the importance of continuing to expand outreach programs like those at Toronto's Hillel.

Firestone presented data showing the importance of Hillel as a formative experience in the lives of most Jewish community leaders, adding that the campus is the best place to get young Jews involved in an enduring commitment to their communities.

"There is actually a love affair going on between Jews and higher education," he said.

It's this involvement with Hillel and the greater Jewish community in young adulthood that will facilitate the growth of community leaders and a strong overall Jewish community in the future, he said. Attracting intelligent, thoughtful and inquisitive young people is imperative.

"We are actually a strategy for the Jewish People."

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Daniele Lerner, a Torontonian who graduated in anthropology with a specialty in pre-med from Barnard College in New York, was chosen to be the academic speaker representing graduating students in her year at the Barnard commencement ceremony, which took place May 14 in New York. Lerner, 21, shared a podium with U.S. President Barack Obama, who also spoke at the commencement. Lerner is the daughter of Mitchell and Leah Lerner of Toronto, and is a graduate of Bialik Hebrew Day School and the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.**

*[Barnard College/Asiya Khaki photo]*

# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

### BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rose Gottlieb | May 4/12 | 342 Spadina Road |
| Channah Tokar | Apr 30/12 | 3039 Sinclair Street |
| Leah Mosley | May 4/12 | 429 Walmer Road |
| Lilia Bergson | May 7/12 | 30 Wigan Crescent |
| Moissei Kalmanovitch | May 7/12 | 3270 Bathurst Street |
| Esther Kaell | May 8/12 | 21 Michael Drive |
| Professor Robert Fenton | May 8/12 | 5 Montessor Drive |
| Henry Seldon | May 8/12 | 322 Richview Avenue |
| Joe Fruitman | May 8/12 | 174 Clifton Avenue |
| Lionel Fishman | May 10/12 | 156 Cactus Avenue |
| Gloria Miller | May 9/12 | 4005 Bayview Avenue |
| Gerald Weiman | May 10/12 | 8 Kimloch Crescent |

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Marianna Michaels | May 8/12 | 111 Avenue Road |

### Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Katz, Zipora | May 4/12 | |
| Kates, Harold | May 4/12 | 2075 Bayview Ave |
| Black, Ian | May 3/12 | 58 Spring Fair Ave |
| Almassy, George | May 5/12 | Private |
| Nudelman, Gail | May 5/12 | 1925 Steeles Ave. E |
| Oziel, Solomon | May 5/12 | Private |
| Katzman, Irvin | May 6/12 | Private |
| MacTinger, Mary | May 7/12 | 484 Steeles Ave. W |
| Zicherman, Ilona | May 8/12 | 15 Rockford Rd |
| Harris, David Phillip | May 8/12 | 9 Lower Links Rd |
| Gimelshtein, Elena | May 8/12 | 68 Charlton Ave |
| Weiss, Louis | May 9/12 | Private |
| Karasik, Rose | May 9/12 | 14 Barksdale Ave |
| Verbian, David | May 9/12 | 250 Roehampton Ave |
| Perel, Rhoda | May 10/12 | 131 Beecroft Rd |

**Bertha S. Orth** ז"ל,
*nee Stein,*

92, beloved wife of the late Sylvan;
loving mother of Dr. David (Barbara) Orth;
cherished Babi of Joel (Jessica) Orth and Dina (Rob) Golden;
great-grandmother of Emily, Aaron, Elaina, Naomi and Lily;
dear sister of the late Freda (Sam) Warner.

Graveside services were held in Chicago. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Anshe Emet Congregation, 3751 North Broadway St., Chicago, Illinois, USA, 60613.
For information: Shalom Memorial Funeral Home, 847-255-3520.

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# Shavuot – when vegetarian cooks are in the limelight

**Dorothy Lipovenko**
Special to The CJN

What's not to love about Shavuot? No fasting, no month-long housecleaning that leaves you collapsed like a cheap umbrella in the wind, nothing essential to the celebration that can be spoiled by rain or snow.

Shavuot asks so little but gives so much in return, especially its twin customs that reflect the best in domestic pursuits: home decor and cooking. It's easy to love a holiday where cheesecake stars at the table, and flowers or other greenery appear in our homes for a command performance, to reprise what is believed to have been their role at Mount Sinai when the Torah was handed down.

Shavuot is also the time when vegetarian cooks get to shine. The festival's customary consumption of dairy foods is a showcase for our year-round culinary and dietary preferences.

### DILLY LOX QUICHE

This dish pays homage to "necessity is the mother of invention." On discovering key ingredients missing for a quiche an hour before guests were due, I made some fast substitutions that yielded this simple, delicious pie. It's higher in fat and sodium than we usually eat, so this is served strictly for guests/holidays only.

1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell
6 large eggs (discard three yolks)
1/2 of a 100-gram package of lox or smoked salmon, cut into small pieces
2/3 cup chopped red or yellow onion
2 tbsp. milk
3 tbsp. soft herbed cream cheese
6 medium white button mushrooms, sliced thin
1 tbsp. (well-packed) snipped fresh dill (well-washed)
pinch each black pepper and Italian seasoning
1 medium red potato, peeled, sliced thin and cooked until tender-crisp

Partially thaw the pie crust, prick the bottom in a few spots and bake at 325 until slightly browned. Remove from oven and set aside to cool.

In a small skillet on low heat, briefly sauté the mushrooms in two teaspoons of water. Remove from heat and spread on bottom of pie crust.

In the same skillet, sauté onion on low heat in two tablespoons of water until softened, stirring occasionally to avoid sticking. Add fish pieces just before onion is done, stir for a minute and remove from heat.

Beat eggs, milk, cream cheese, pepper and Italian seasoning with a wire whisk in a mixing bowl until well blended. (If using a processor or blender, pour combined mixture into a bowl). Stir in dill and onion/lox and pour into the pie crust. Arrange potato slices on top and dust very lightly with paprika for colour. Bake 40-45 minutes at 350, until firm and set.
Serve immediately with spinach salad and/or Israeli salad. Serves four.

### PINDJUR CHICKPEA SALAD

I recently discovered the magic of pindjur, a tomato/eggplant relish available in jars. It can be high in sodium, so I use it sparingly, just a tablespoon or two in roasted eggplant spread, pasta sauce and even atop pizza. On a whim, I turned to pindjur to jazz up a chickpea salad, and it's now a dinner table regular or cold appetizer for Shabbat lunch in summer. Among the kosher brands of pindjur available, I use Melis, available in 10.5-oz. jars.

1 19-ounce can chickpeas
1 large tomato, diced, or 12 small cherry tomatos, halved
1 small red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
1 cup peeled and diced English or Kirby cucumber
1-1/2 tbsp. finely diced red onion
2 generous tbsp. pindjur
2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
3/4 tsp. ground cumin
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
black pepper

Drain chickpeas in a colander, rinse well under cool running water and drain well. Place chickpeas, tomato, red pepper, cucumber, onion and pindjur in a serving bowl and toss lightly. Sprinkle spices, lemon juice and a generous pinch of black paper on the salad and toss again. Adjust seasonings to your taste. (I'm more generous with the pepper).

Refrigerate until ready to use, either cold or at room temperature. Enjoy with crusty bread, challah or pita, and slices of avocado and hearts of palm on the side. Serves four as an appetizer, two as a main course.

# Battle of the kosher chefs

**Reva Kaiser**
Special to The CJN

**As the luminous digital numbers counted down to zero, the already frenetic activity on stage intensified. Hands deftly flitted from frying pan to plate, from sieve to saucer. The staccato chop-chop beat of knife on board, the hazy helixes of steam rising under the spotlights, the taunting aromas of seasonings and spices, of sauces and sautées, were a symphony to the senses.**

**This was the Taste for Success Kosher Chef Challenge, billed as the first of its kind in Canada, a fundraiser for the recently founded Toronto Teachers' Center of Torah Umesorah, a not-for-profit organization committed to providing teachers with resources and tools to promote educational excellence.**

**To read the full story, please go to cjnews.com**

# *Lower fat choices key to good health*

**Randy Fingrut**
Special to The CJN

The parents of the baby boomer generation had the right idea: serve a glass of milk at most meals, instead of pop or juice. Dairy products are necessary in our nutritional regime because they are so rich in nutrients including calcium, potassium, protein and vitamin D. There are many ways to incorporate dairy into our daily diet.

First, consider that along with all the benefits of dairy foods, there is one drawback – fat. The good news is that there are now many low-fat or no-fat dairy choices on the market. When you do your weekly groceries, include low-fat milk, yogurt and cottage cheese, and reduced fat cream and hard cheeses. While planning meals, consider adding some different ingredients to your dairy purchases. A variety of fruits, cereals, peanut butter or nuts can be put into yogurt or smoothies.

Using other ingredients from your pantry or refrigerator along with dairy products will also help you create wonderful muffins and cakes. Additionally, adding dairy to your savoury dishes will inspire you to fashion wonderful main courses including quiches, pastas, puddings and soups.

Breakfast has traditionally been the meal when dairy foods are served. We often enjoy dairy foods at lunchtime as well. So why not marry the two and consider planning a brunch, either as an excuse for a family get together or for a special occasion or holiday. Shavuot, when dairy foods are traditionally served, is the perfect time.

### LEMON POPPY SEED PANCAKES WITH STRAWBERRY SAUCE

Like the popular lemon poppy seed loaf, these fluffy pancakes will fly off the table. Consider doubling the recipe, so there will be enough for seconds.

1-1/4 cups skim milk
1 egg, beaten
zest of one lemon, zest removed with a microplane, or chopped very fine
1 tsp. pure lemon extract
2 tbsp. melted butter
additional butter or oil to brush onto the skillet or griddle
1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
2 tbsp. sugar
2 tbsp. poppy seeds
2 -1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt

In a small bowl, combine skim milk, egg, lemon zest, lemon extract and 2 tablespoons melted butter until blended.

In a large bowl whisk together flour, sugar, poppy seeds, baking powder and salt. Gradually combine the wet mixture into the dry ingredients.

Brush skillet or griddle with melted butter. Heat to medium-high. Using 1/4 cup measure of batter for each pancake, pour batter into the pan about 2 to 3 inches apart. Cook the pancakes until the edges brown and the pancakes begin to bubble. Carefully turn the pancakes over and continue cooking until they are golden. Serve immediately. Serves 4.

**Strawberry Sauce**
2 cups strawberries, washed, hulled and sliced in half
1/4 cup water
1/4 cup sugar
zest of one lemon, zest removed with a microplane, or chopped very fine
1 tbsp. cornstarch mixed with 2 tbsp. water

Combine strawberries, water, sugar and lemon zest in a small saucepan. Place over medium heat and cook until strawberries are soft, about 4 to 5 minutes.

Add cornstarch mixture to strawberries. Stir until sauce begins to bubble and thicken. Remove from heat. Serve warm or at room temperature. You can make the sauce the day before and refrigerate.

*More delicious recipes available at cjnews.com*

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# Nuclear talks with Iran termed 'ridiculous'

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Talks between Iran and world powers that end in agreed-upon measures that would nonetheless allow Tehran to continue and pursue military aspects of its nuclear program are "ridiculous," Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said last week.

Barak's comments, made in an interview with CNN's Piers Morgan, came ahead of this week's round of talks between Iran and representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany (known as P5+1), due to take place in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

Referring to the talks, Barak indicated that while Israel trusts the "United States and other members of the P5+1," it expects them "to set the bar at a place where it becomes clear that at least... it blocks Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons."

He added: "If the world community set the threshold that even if fully accepted, let alone only partially accepted by the Iranians, to keep moving toward a nuclear military program, that's ridiculous, a delusion."

As to Israel's desired result in the upcoming talks, Barak said: "There is a need to stop enriching uranium, to 20 per cent, or even three to five per cent, and to take all the enriched uranium out of the country. You can allow them to play with some negligible amount that will never suffice for even one single weapon."

Ehud Barak

When asked whether or not Iran was in the category of nations against which military actions must be taken – similar to attacks on reactors in Iraq and Syria – Barak said: "I cannot improve your description, it was so close to perfect. I think that the real challenges now are these negotiations, what should be done about the negotiations."

Tehran's bid to gain nuclear weapons capability is "a real challenge to the whole world, not just to Israel," Barak added.

"I think a nuclear Iran will change the whole landscape of the Middle East. We have to do something to block it from happening – through sanctions or negotiations or [anything] else," he said.

Last week, the RAND Corporation, a think-tank that advises the Pentagon, warned against an Israeli or American attack on Iran's nuclear reactors and recommended that the Obama administration try to "quietly influence the internal Israeli discussion over the use of military force."

In a document published in the think tank's periodical, the *RAND Review*, RAND openly disagreed with stance of Barak and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who favour an attack on Iran and were set to meet with U.S. Defence Secretary Leon Panetta and other high-ranking officials this month.

Without naming names, RAND sided with former Mossad chief Meir Dagan and the former head of the Shin Bet, Yuval Diskin, who have publicly questioned the idea.

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An overwhelming majority in the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution rejecting containment of Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program, but a sponsor made clear that the bill did not authorize use of force.

The non-binding resolution, which also says it is in the U.S. "vital interest" to keep Iran from achieving a nuclear capability, passed 401-11 on Thursday, and a similar resolution is under consideration in the Senate.

*Please read story on cjnews.com*

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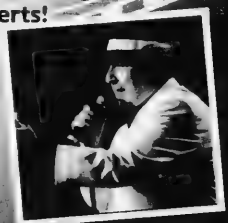
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# South Sudanese, Israel have common adversary

**Continued from page 1**

With Sudan having often served as a safe haven for enemies of Israel and the West, the South Sudanese and Israel have had a common adversary.

In the mid-1990s, Osama bin Laden found shelter in Sudan. In 1995, Sudanese intelligence agents participated in an attempt to assassinate then-Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak, an ally of Israel and the West. Khartoum signed a military co-operation agreement with Iran in 2008, and in 2009, Israeli warplanes reportedly bombed a 23-truck weapons convoy in Sudan bound for the Gaza Strip.

The first contact between militants from southern Sudan and the Israeli government was in 1967, when a commander with the Anyana Sudanese rebel movement wrote to then-Israeli prime minister Levi Eshkol. The officer explained that his militants were fighting on Sudan's southern flank, and that with some help, the Anyana could keep Israel's enemies bogged down and distracted.

According to James Mulla, the director of Voices of Sudan, a coalition of U.S.-based Sudanese-interest organizations, Israel's support proved pivotal to the Anyana's success during the first Sudanese civil war, which ended in 1972.

Israel "provided advisers to the Anyana, which is one reason why the government of Sudan wanted to sign a peace agreement," Mulla told JTA.

Over the years, there have been reports of the Israelis continuing to aid South Sudanese rebels during Sudan's second civil war, which lasted from 1983 to 2005.

Angelos Agok, a U.S.-based activist and a 13-year veteran in the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, recalls that the SPLM's ties to Israel were kept discreet.

"It was an intricate case, where South Sudan was still part of Sudan, which is an Arab country," Agok said. "We didn't want to offend them, and we had to be very careful diplomatically."

Agok said SPLA leaders travelled to Israel for training. The Israeli government declined to comment on the subject.

Koren says the relationship with South Sudan is consistent with Israel's strategic interests in East Africa, where state failure and political extremism have provided terrorist groups with potential bases of operation.

"In the long run, we're expecting that friendly countries like South Sudan could be an ally like other states that are built in a non-extreme way," he said.

Agriculture is another reason for the alliance. South Sudan's economic future likely depends on large-scale farming. There was little commercial development in the region during the war years, and the country still imports much of its food from Uganda, despite sitting on some of Africa's richest potential farmland.

It's an area in which Israel has deep expertise. "We have the initiative and we have the abilities to contribute and to help," Koren said of South Sudan's agricultural potential.

Israel already has a small presence in the country in the form of IsraAid, an Israeli NGO coalition. In March, an IsraAid delegation helped South Sudan set up its ministry of social development, which will provide social-work-related services to a population traumatized by decades of war.

Eliseo Neuman, who is the director of the American Jewish Committee's Africa Institute and travelled to Juba with the SPLM when South Sudan was under Khartoum's control, says the close ties between Israel and South Sudan could complicate both countries' relationships with the Arab world.

"Some allege that now [the north has] Zionists on their southern frontier – meaning the South Sudanese," Neuman said. "Any very overt strengthening of the relationship might be an irritant."

The relationship faces another potential pitfall: the future of the estimated 3,000 South Sudanese living in Israel who fled to Israel via Egypt during the long civil war.

Israel "takes its obligations as a signatory to the Refugee Convention very seriously, given the history of the Jewish people," said Mark Hetfield, an official at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. "But at the same time, they need to send a signal to people coming for economic reasons that they can't sneak into the country under the guise of being asylum seekers."

In February, Israeli Interior Minister Eli Yishai announced plans to begin deporting South Sudanese who would not accept government financial incentives to leave the country voluntarily.

Hetfield says the group would like the Israeli government to grant South Sudanese a "temporary protected status" that would prevent them from being deported to their unstable homeland.

Mulla does not think that the Israeli refugee issue will have an impact on the broader strategic alliance between South Sudan and Israel. However, he said he has raised the issue of the possible deportations with the South Sudanese ambassador in Washington and hopes that something can be done to halt the process.

Advocates for the Africans are appealing to Israel's Supreme Court in an attempt to stall or halt the deportations.

# *Time magazine crowns Netanyahu as 'king of Israel'*

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*Time* magazine crowned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as the "king of Israel," in its cover story last week.

The story profiles Netanyahu and marks his recent feat: brokering a 94-member coalition with the rival Kadima party.

In the article, managing editor Rick Stengel outlines Netanyahu's recent achievements and explains why he is worthy of the title "king of Israel."

"Netanyahu is poised to become the longest-serving Israeli prime minister since David Ben-Gurion, the founding father of Israel. He has no national rival," Stengel writes. "His approval rating, roughly 50 per cent, is at an all-time high. At a moment when incumbents around the world are being shunted aside, he is triumphant. With his bullet-proof majority, he has a chance to turn himself into the historic figure he has always yearned to be. He has become, as some commentators have dubbed him, the king of Israel."

Stengel interviewed Netanyahu at his official residence in Jerusalem, and noted that Netanyahu "would like to be a hero, but he will not be one at the expense of Israel's security.

"He wants to be a defining figure in Israeli history and a significant player on the world stage, but he will not risk what he sees as Israel's safety to be one," Stengel writes. "His ambition and now his security as prime minister, though, may let him take that risk. Of the Palestinians, he says, 'If they figure it out, they will never have a better partner than me. I can make it happen and make it stick.'"

Stengel also inquired about Netanyahu's much-discussed relationship with Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, to which the prime minister replied that he has only seen Romney a handful of times over the years and only once this year, when they spoke for 10 minutes, mainly about Iran.

***Appelfeld Wins Award***

Israeli author Aharon Appelfeld, 80, became the oldest person to win the coveted Independent Foreign Fiction Prize. The British award was announced May 14. His *Blooms of Darkness* tells the story of an 11-year-old boy and his relationship with a prostitute who agreed to hide him from the Nazis in a brothel. Appelfeld and the book's translator, Jeffrey Green, will each receive $8,100. The author of more than 40 works, Appelfeld, a Holocaust survivor, said the book is "a work of fiction that includes my personal experience during World War II."

***New PA Cabinet***

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas swore in a new cabinet in a move that could spell the end of a Fatah-Hamas unity government. It's the second reshuffle since the government was formed in 2007 under the leadership of PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. In the new cabinet, Fayyad gave up his finance minister portfolio to another political independent, former university president Nabil Qassis. The new 21-minister cabinet includes nine new members and a record six women. The Hamas government in Gaza reportedly decried the move, calling it illegitimate and in conflict with the March agreement to establish an Abbas-led unity government.

***Structures razed***

Israeli security forces razed several structures at two illegal West Bank outposts. Israel Defence Forces troops, Border Guard forces and police razed a building late in the evening of May 16 at the Ramat Migron outpost, and then razed other structures at the nearby Oz Zion outpost. The Ramat Migron outpost, located next to the Migron outpost, has been demolished and rebuilt several times. Migron has been ordered razed and its residents moved by Aug. 1. Five women were arrested in the operation.

***With files from JTA***

# Technion helps to develop high tech in NY

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

From its very earliest days, Israel's Technion has been associated with some of the world's foremost scientists.

A few years after the cornerstone of the university was laid down 100 years ago, the school received a visit from Albert Einstein, perhaps the most renowned scientist of all time.

Einstein planted a palm tree in front of the Technion building in the Hadar neighbourhood of Haifa. The tree still stands as "a shrine that we protect," said Boaz Golany, Technion's vice-president for external relations and resource development.

## Haifa school turns 100

The school would eventually outgrow its facilities in midtown Haifa and move to a 300-acre site on the Carmel, but it always strived to play with the big boys. From Einstein's involvement with the school – he would serve as president of the Technion Society in Berlin in the 1920s – to its three recent Nobel Prize winners, the Technion has been a world leader in many scientific areas, Golany said.

Golany was in Toronto and Montreal recently to update the university's supporters about developments affecting the school.

The Technion is particularly proud of winning – along with its partner, Cornell University – a competition to establish an applied science graduate school and research campus at Cornell's New York City Tech Campus on Roosevelt Island.

Only 10 overseas universities were invited to tender bids, an elite grouping that indicates how highly the Technion is perceived abroad, Golany said.

The partnership will see the Technion help design the curricula and programs at the Technion-Cornell Innovation Institute (TCII). "We bring to this marriage some elements of Technion's record of successes," Golany said. "We have an excellent record of working in R&D [with] large corporations working in Israel."

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg sees the Tech Campus as potentially vaulting New York City into the same level of scientific innovation and commercialization as enjoyed by Boston and Silicon Valley, Golany said.

TCII will be organized into multidisciplinary hubs on the Israeli model.

"Part of what we bring to the table is the international flavour," Golany said. "Without us, Cornell would have had a hard time competing with the likes of Stanford and Columbia universities. We brought them the edge."

There's also an element of payback in the Technion's involvement in New York City, Golany suggested.

One hundred years ago, when Technion was just getting on its feet, it received substantial support from a Russian tea merchant. But the money ran out in the middle of construction and so the school turned to an American benefactor, financier Jacob Schiff of New York. He provided the supplementary funding that allowed for completion of Technion's building. "Here we are closing the loop and giving back something to the city that gave us the critical support to get off the ground," Golany said.

Winning the competition certainly doesn't hurt Israel's image either, he continued. "It's very flattering and rewarding for us in Israel that we could be called by the mayor of New York to help [the city] climb the ladder and be an important centre for tech companies."

There were a handful of naysayers who challenged the involvement of an Israeli school. A number of pro-Palestinian groups at Cornell accused the school of doing business with an "apartheid university," he said.

The allegations are divorced from reality, and Cornell's administration dismissed the charges, Golany said. There are 1,500 Arab students at the Technion out of a student population of 13,000, pretty much matching the proportion of Arabs in the general population. The school also has several Arab faculty members, including Hossam Haick, who developed a groundbreaking nano technology that detects cancer, and it offers a scholarship fund for Arab students "funded by Jewish money."

Funding, of course, is a key component in any institution of higher learning, and the Technion relies on support groups abroad, particularly Canada and the United states, to help it afford the facilities that make it world class.

Despite the economic dislocations of recent years, support from Canada is on the rise, Golany said. "We have people who want to believe in us and believe in our achievements," he said.

Hershell Recht, national development director of the Canadian Technion Society, said the group is looking to add support groups in Calgary and Vancouver in coming years. "We are going to plant our flag right in the middle of the [Calgary] Saddledome," he said.

Supporters, many of them non-Jews, are attracted by the school's many innovations and the benefits that accrue to people around the world, Golany said.

"You get a bigger bang for the buck" at the Technion, Golany said. "Plus, you're investing in the future of the Jewish people. A strong Israel means pride and a sense of belonging and a purpose to Jewish communities."

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# Facebook IPO: Is it good for the Jews?

**Uriel Heilman**
JTA

**NEW YORK —** If the Talmud were written today, would it look like Facebook?

First, the rabbis of the mishnaic period post a Jewish legal rule. Then, talmudic sages weigh in with their comments, all pithy and lacking punctuation. Almost immediately, the comments grow far longer than the original post. Eventually, outside links to the Shulchan Aruch and Maimonides' compendium of Jewish law appear on the right side.

It may sound too cute by half, but if you look closely, the Talmud and Facebook actually share similar layout.

They also share a few basic ideas about commentary and community. The Talmud enabled scholars who lived in different times and different places to argue with each other, creating a virtual community. Facebook allows people who live in different places and may not know each other to do the same.

"Every piece of information that's offered opens up the opportunity for commentary, for amplification – whether it's a link from the *New York Times* or something that happened to you at the Israeli Interior Ministry or an idea that you simply want to express," said Esther Kustanowitz, a Jewish social media expert who works part time for the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. "And Facebook doesn't just amplify the message, it expands the conversation."

On the eve of Facebook's initial public offering, scheduled for May 18, Jews – like everyone else – were still figuring out how Facebook can serve their personal or professional needs.

What started out in a college dorm in 2003 as a way for Harvard University students to rate women's comparative "hotness" (it was then called Facemash.com) has morphed into a medium for more than 900 million people worldwide to communicate with each other, rally support or opposition, publicize news, make money, flirt and fulminate in ways both profound and mundane about the million and one things happening at any given moment.

For a few in the Jewish community, Facebook's IPO raises the $64,000 question – or in this case, the $64 billion (all figures US) question – of how much of that newly created wealth will go to Jewish causes. The jury's still out on whether Facebook's Jewish creator, Mark Zuckerberg, will turn into a major Jewish giver following the IPO, when the just-turned 28-year-old figures to become one of the richest people in the world.

**Israeli President Shimon Peres met with Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg in California when Peres launched his official Facebook page this past March.** ***(Flash 90 photo)***

But the real story of Facebook's impact on the Jewish world ultimately is likely to be more about the ways it is prompting Jews to change the way they think, behave, organize, and even mourn and celebrate than it will be about Zuckerberg's tzedakah.

Facebook helped thousands of Israelis co-ordinate last summer's socioeconomic protests, the biggest in Israel's history. The site helped J Street turn from a fledgling, little-known upstart into a broad-based, left-wing alternative to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Most Jewish community institutions, however, haven't yet figured out how to maximize the potential of Facebook, according to Lisa Colton, president of Darim Online, a Virginia-based company that helps Jewish organizations adapt to the digital age.

Partly, Colton says, that's because Facebook is inherently threatening to institutions.

"Facebook is about people more than it is about institutions. It supports individuals connecting with and learning from each other," she said. "It's a wonderful way for individuals to circumvent institutions."

Facebook enables Jews to construct communities organized around areas of interest rather than geography, religious denomination or institution.

When Montreal native Hindy Poupko Galena and her husband, Seth, began using Facebook to update friends and family about their year-old daughter's fight against a rare bone marrow disease, a community of sympathizers quickly emerged that included thousands of people who had never met the toddler, Ayelet.

Strangers reached out to the Galenas – members of the modern Orthodox community on Manhattan's Upper West Side – not just with messages, but with care packages.

"It allowed people to connect with what was going on a very deep and real level," Hindy said. "So many people came out of the woodwork and e-mailed me and said, 'I had a sick kid and never told anyone about it, but I now feel that I can tell people about it.' "

Even now, months after Ayelet's death in January at age two, the Facebook-based community, which they call Ayelet Nation, serves as a source of sympathy for the Galenas.

"For a girl who only lived two years, it's very comforting to know that people know her name, and I think that was only possible because of Facebook," Hindy said.

Whereas many Jewish institutions such as synagogues, JCCs and the Israeli rabbinate, to name just a few, define their community by who's inside and who's out, Facebook offers an opportunity for a Jewish community with no bounds.

"It can take Jewish leaders off their pedestals and get them to interact with real people and real life in a multidimensional way," said William Daroff, the director of the Washington office of the Jewish Federations of North America, who has more than 3,000 "friends" on the social networking website.

"And it's not just about the Jewish world, but a place for us to talk about our kids and our dogs and the games we like to play and who we really are."

As Facebook evolves, the Jewish communities it enables will change, too.

"I think it really is analogous to having phone lines, which later enabled faxes and early Internet," Colton said. "With Facebook, it's not about what we see and use today, it's about what its foundations and widespread adoption make possible in the future."

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# Jewish Book Awards will honour 9 authors

**Bill Gladstone**
Special to The CJN

S. Weilbach, an 80-year-old Holocaust survivor in Vancouver, has won the 2012 Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Award in the Poetry category for a long poem she had put off writing for decades because the memories were too painful.

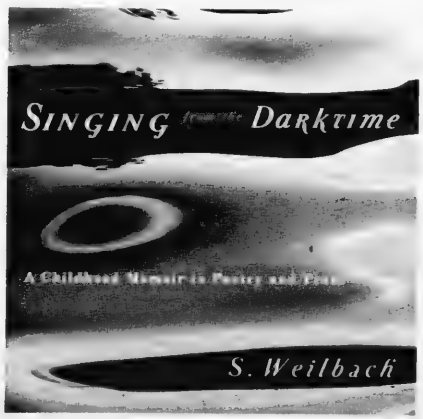
The author's first book, *Singing from the Darktime: A Childhood Memoir in Poetry and Prose* (McGill-Queens University Press) recaptures the immediacy of Weilbach's feelings as she travels with her parents and grandfather aboard the ill-fated refugee ship, the St. Louis, along with more than 900 refugees hoping to escape the Nazis' clutches in 1939. Blocked from landing in Cuba, America or Canada, the St. Louis was ultimately forced to return to Europe.

In an online interview, Weilbach explained that the childhood feelings and memories she revisited in writing her story were far too delicate to be expressed in prose: only poetry would suffice. However, she uses prose in a latter section in which she and her family disembark from the St. Louis to begin new lives in wartime Britain.

Weilbach's sense "of profound grief and the helplessness of trying to save anyone," as she described it online, comes across in her writing. One stanza in particular, occurring just as the passengers learn they will not be landing in Havana, seems to convey some of the surreal imagery of the iconic Edvard Munch painting *The Scream*:

*The empty deckchairs line along the painted wall, / And I sit down and watch the seabirds swoop. / But all at once I hear some footsteps race /Across the boards above my head / And someone yelling, "no-o-o-o!" When I stand up to look / A sudden bright red streak / Is trickling down the glassy wall. / From every side the people run. / A woman in a purple dressing-gown / Bursts through the bulkhead door / Near where I stand. / She screams and screams.*

Weilbach's childhood memories of her family's dairy farm in Germany, the long and increasingly desperate sea voyage, and subsequent return to normalcy are conveyed with vividness and profound directness. She is a deft painter of human nature, interpersonal relations and even God's role in human affairs as her child's mind tries to puzzle out what she sees happening in front of her.




"We were delighted to discover this little book, which had not had much publicity," Judy Stoffman, chair of the nine-person Canadian Jewish Book Awards jury, told *The CJN*.

* * *

Nine prizes will be given out at the 24th annual Canadian Jewish Book Awards ceremony on June 7.

Winner of the prize in fiction is David Bezmozgis for his first novel, *The Free World* (HarperCollins). As previously reviewed in this space, the book follows members of the Latvian Krasnansky family who attempt to immigrate to "the free world" in 1978, but get stalled in a bureaucratic purgatory in Rome. Dark and deliciously ironic, *The Free World* must have eclipsed any other fiction entry of 2011 and would have been all but impossible for the jury to overlook.

I found *A Fiery Soul: The Life and Theatrical Times of John Hirsch*, by Fraidie Martz and Andrew Wilson (Vehicule Press), particularly engaging. Solidly researched and filled with anecdotes, it is – like a good souffle – "fluffy, not stuffy" as it recounts the key episodes of Hirsch's remarkable career and private life. No wonder it won the prize for best biography.

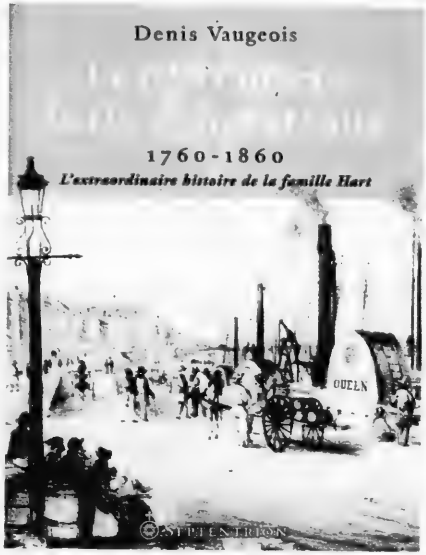
Perhaps Canada's most gifted theatrical director, Hirsch was a Holocaust orphan who arrived in Winnipeg in 1947, and directed theatrical triumphs (and many failures) in Manitoba, Stratford, Toronto, New York and Los Angeles. High points included a brilliant production of S. Ansky's *The Dybbuk* and, when Hirsch was head of CBC drama, the famed *King of Kensington* TV series. This highly readable bio celebrates Hirsch's accomplishments but is not hagiographic, clearly revealing that its subject could be "a monster" as well.

This year the jury made a rare decision to award a prize (History) to a book written in French and as yet unavailable in English. Perusing Denis Vaugeois's *Les Premiers Juifs d'Amerique, 1760-1860: L'extraordinaire histoire de la famille* Hart, it's clear to see why. Published by Septentrion, this beautifully illustrated history of Quebec's historic Hart family likely trumps all previous works on the subject. Let's hope the English edition is not too long in coming.

Richard Marceau's *Juif, Une Histoire Quebecoise*, was also published originally in French (by Editions du Marais) but has appeared in English as *A Quebec Jew*. It won the memoir prize. The author, a lawyer and former Bloc Quebecois MP, converted to Judaism after meeting his future wife. As his book recounts, his Jewish faith and love of Israel have become as much a part of his identity as his French Quebec roots.

Rebecca Margolis took the Yiddish prize for *Jewish Roots, Canadian Soil* (McGill-Queen's University Press), an academic study of Montreal's vibrant Yiddish cultural scene from the 1930s onward, and how it helped to sustain Jewish culture in the Diaspora.

Also written in academic prose, Kalman Weiser's *Jewish People, Yiddish Nation: Noah Prylucki and the Folklorists in Poland* (University of Toronto Press) took the scholarship prize. Prylucki was a leading Jewish cultural and political figure in pre-Holocaust Eastern Europe, whose path from Zionism to secular Yiddish culturalism illuminates the dilemmas and competing options facing the Jews of his era.




The other winning titles are *The Muselmann at the Water Cooler* (Academic Studies Press) by Eli Pfefferkorn, which took the Holocaust literature prize; and *Yuvi's Candy Tree* (Kar-Ben Publishing), by Lesley Simpson, which won the prize in youth literature.

*The 2012 Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards take place at the culmination of the Toronto Jewish Book Festival, at the Toronto Reference Library, Bram and Bluma Appel Salon, Thursday June 7, 8 p.m. Admission is free and everyone is invited.*

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# EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

## MICHAEL WEX INTERVIEWS AUTHOR SHALOM AUSLANDER TO OPEN BOOK FESTIVAL

**Shalom Auslander**, who has been called "America's hottest, funniest, most controversial young Jewish memoirist," is being interviewed by Toronto author **Michael Wex** (whose wry humour is renowned) to open the inaugural Toronto Jewish Book Festival on June 4, 8 p.m. in its new location at the Toronto Reference Library's Bram and Bluma Appel Salon. Auslander is the author, most recently, of *Hope: A Tragedy*. $25 advance or at the door.

Other programs feature **David Berlin**, author of *The Moral Lives of Israelis – Reinventing the Dream State*, with **Dr. Dan Mendelsohn Aviv**, author of *End of the Jews: Radical Breaks, Remakes and What Comes Next*; Canadian music impresario **Bernie Finklestein**, author of *True North: A Life Inside the Music Business*; business entrepreneur **Mal Coven**, author of *How I Succeeded in Retirement and the Bi-Way Story*; **Carol-Bishop-Gwyn** and **Fraidie Martz**, authors of new biographies of dancer **Celia Franca** and theatrical director **John Hirsch**, respectively; and numerous others.

The festival runs June 4 to 7 and culminates in the Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards. For the full festival program, visit www.koffler arts.org.

* * *

**Tribute to Sidney Lumet:** Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Daniel*, starring **Timothy Hutton**, **Mandy Patinkin** and **Amanda Plummer**. Based on the lives of **Julius** and **Ethel Rosenberg**, Jewish spies executed for treason against the United States, *Daniel* is a powerful look at how the sins of the parents are visited upon the children.

Directed by **Sidney Lumet** and scripted by *E. L. Doctorow* from his novel *The Book of Daniel*. Guest speaker **Kevin Courrier**. Miles Nadal JCC, Al Green Theatre. Sunday June 3, 4 and 7:30 p.m. $15, $10. Seats on sale 15 minutes before each screening.

* * *

**Festival and Book Launch:** *Letters & Pictures from the Old Suitcase*, an anthology of poetry and short prose by 32 Canadian Jewish writers, is being launched at the Hamilton Jewish Literary Festival. Other events include readings, workshops and panel discussions. Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Ave. N., Hamilton. Sunday June 3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

* * *

**Lost in Yonkers: Marion Ross**, **Linda Kash**, **Sheila McCarthy**, **Ari Cohen** and **David Eisner** star in the Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company production of *Lost in Yonkers*, the **Neil Simon** play about two brothers left in the care of their stern grandmother in wartime Yonkers. $42.50 to $79.50. St. Lawrence Centre, Jane Mallett Theatre, until June 10. www.stlc.com, 416-366-7723.

* * *

**Names in the News:** "The brilliant young American cellist **Alisa Weilerstein**," as the *New York Times* has described her, performs *Shostakovich's Cello Concerto* with the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra** as part of the TSO's *Brahms Symphony 2* program on May 24 and May 26. The *Times* lauded her "impassioned, intelligent playing" of this work. www.tso.ca

* * *

The Temple Mount is the subject of a three-part series beginning May 23.

### Arts in Brief

• *The Temple Mount* is a three-part documentary series on Vision TV that relates the history and explores mysteries surrounding Jerusalem's Temple Mount, past, present and future. Part One, *Solomon's Temple*, airs May 23, 10 p.m., with the second two parts at weekly intervals in the same time-slot. Produced by Arcadia Entertainment Inc.

• Critic **Adam Nayman** continues his series of lectures with film clips, this time discussing **Stanley Kubrick's** *A Clockwork Orange* and *Barry Lyndon*. $12 drop-in, students $6. Miles Nadal JCC, Monday June 4, 7 to 9 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 606.

• Hear the **MNjcc Community Choir** in concert. $10. Miles Nadal JCC, Al Green Theatre. Wednesday June 6 and Thursday June 7, 8 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 0.

• Opera educator **Iain Scott** presents *Nabucco*, **Verdi's** Jewish opera, with video excerpts of a performance. $5, includes refreshments. Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC, Thursday June 7, 1:30 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 155.

• Koffler Centre of the Arts and Luminato present Tel Aviv's Batsheva Dance Company performing the North American premiere of *Sadeh21*, choreographed by artistic director **Ohad Naharin**. MacMillan Theatre, 80 Queen's Park. Thursday June 14. www.kofflerarts.org

• Submission deadline is July 3 for the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition. esthera@mnjcc.org, 416-924-6211, ext. 606.

* * *

### At the Galleries

• *Journey* is a collection of art works by students, teachers and artists **Samuel Bak**, **Donna Zeka**, **Bruce Brown** and **Mary Ann Grainger** on the theme of genocide. Al Green Gallery, 64 Merton St. until May 30.

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# Toronto actor stars in *Rent*

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Aaron Sax made his theatre debut at the age of six, delivering exactly one line as Tweety Bird in a summer camp production of *The Looney Tunes*.

He was either a very convincing bird, or a very cute kid, because as he grew with the years, so did his parts in camp and children's theatre troupe plays.

Now 23, Sax is gearing up for his most exciting lead role yet. He will be starring as Mark Cohen in the modern musical *Rent* at the Lower Ossington Theatre. Sax has already performed in major and supporting roles at the theatre in musicals, including *Spring Awakening* and *Forever Plaid*, but he is extra enthusiastic about his upcoming part, which he starts tonight.

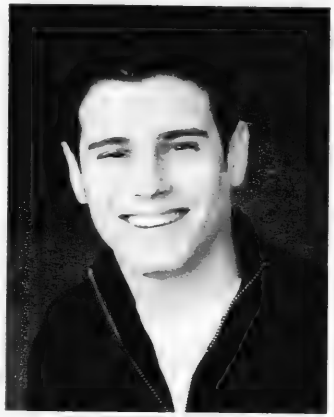
"Mark is one of my dream roles," said Sax of the show's narrator, a young struggling documentary filmmaker. He added that he naturally gravitates toward roles that interact with the audience, or, in theatre-speak, "break the fourth wall."

Mark Cohen leads the audience through the bohemian life of artists in New York, following a storyline that is based on Giacomo Puccini's famous opera *La Bohème*.

"In a role like that, the audience has to like you or else the show's in trouble," said Sax of the challenges that come along with playing a lead character who interacts both with the audience and with the other characters. "I'm learning what it's like to carry a show," he added.

As a graduate of Sheridan College's renowned music theatre program, Sax has spent plenty of time preparing for exciting roles like this one. "It's one of the toughest things I've ever had to do," he said of the rigorous program, explaining that when he applied to it in his last year of high school, he had not expected to get in. To his surprise, he was given an immediate and very rare recommendation for direct acceptance at his audition.

Despite the difficulty of the music theatre program, which, with classes and rehearsals, often had Sax at school for 13-hour days, he credits it with giving him the training he needed to become a professional actor.



**Aaron Sax** *[Jonathan Tan photo]*

Sax also said that it was at Sheridan, where he was the only Jewish student in his year, that he became more aware and appreciative of his culture. Now, he said, he frequently chooses Jewish characters for audition material, as he often feels more connected to them. One of his favourite characters is *Fiddler on the Roof*'s Tevye.

Sax's love of performance has led him not only into traditional musical theatre but also into children's theatre. "Children's theatre is pretty awesome because your audience is engaged all the time," he said.

He has been working with well-known children's entertainers Judy and David since October on their *GoldiRocks* and *Jigjilump* shows. Sax has also performed in the children's productions *Angelina Ballerina* and *Pinkalicious* with the Vital Theatre Company.

It comes as no surprise that Sax has both an affinity and talent for children's theatre. This summer will be his second summer running the theatre program for campers at Camp Wahanowin, where he first debuted on stage as Tweety almost 20 years ago.

Whether Sax is performing for children or adults, he feels passionately about theatre, and tends to prefer musical theatre to drama. "I enjoy singing and I enjoy acting through the songs," he said.

Sax said he is looking forward to all the varied theatre opportunities that are coming his way, and he is eager to try new and different roles. For him, each experience in theatre is worthwhile. "Everything you do, you meet different people and make different connections and further yourself in a different way."

*Rent* runs at the Lower Ossington Theatre from May 24 to June 16. For tickets, visit lowerossingtontheatre.com.

# Dancer 'stole' hearts on *Canada's Got Talent*

**Susan Minuk**
Special to The CJN

Although he didn't win, Shale Wagman gained a lot from his experience on *Canada's Got Talent*.

"I got a lot of exposure and had so much fun, even though I didn't win," the 12-year-old ballet dancer from Vaughan, Ont., said. "I met so many great people, and I am excited for what's going to happen next."

Scott Moore, president of broadcasting for Rogers Media, said he was surprised Wagman didn't win.

"Shale was one of my top two personal choices. I thought he was going to win. Shale is a natural, refined already at such a young age. He stole everybody's heart," Moore said.

**Shale Wagman**

"I first saw Shale at the Toronto auditions and I was captivated by him. Here is a young man, unlike a lot of his friends, taking the road less travelled – getting up on stage and showcasing his talent with such pride," Moore said.

Sagkeeng's Finest, a trio of First Nation dancers from Manitoba, were the winners at the show's finale, which aired May 14.

The underdogs rose to the occasion. Their hearts came across to Canada, and they were voted most-improved act throughout the competition.

"They never thought they would make it through the auditions, let alone take the whole thing," said the host of the show, Dina Pugliese.

She added, "It's the X factor. All 12 acts were phenomenal. It was a matter of who resonated to Canadians that would motivate them to vote and what was that extra something about their story or performance that night that would make somebody pick up the phone or log on to the website and vote."

Wagman, meanwhile, will continue competing. His summer plans include a national dance competition in Florida.

"I'm going to sleepover camp, and of course I will be dancing all the time," he said.

"We are going to see a lot more of Shale Wagman," Stephan Moccio a judge of *Canada's Got Talent*, said.

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# 'Israeli idol' rocks for a good cause

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

The star of a popular *American Idol*-type show in Israel, rocked the crowd at a sold-out show last week in honour of an Israeli organization that works to treat former IDF soldiers suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Idan Amedi sang at a benefit concert for Peace of Mind (POM), a program funded by The Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma (ICTP), that benefits discharged Israeli soldiers by bringing them to Toronto for a therapeutic, week-long retreat. The concert was held May 14 at Thornhill's Sephardic Kehilla Centre.

Linoy Hazan, POM's Canadian co-ordinating director, explained that since 1989, ICTP has been working to treat the estimated nine per cent of Israelis who suffer from PTSD – which is three times the level of that in the most western countries.

"Different groups of discharged vets are brought here several times a year. They are housed by members of our community and attend community events while they're here" and take part in daily therapy sessions, Hazan told the gathering.

She said the program helps veterans find their way back to civilian life by providing them "with an opportunity to strengthen their mental health and resilience."

Last week, Toronto hosted a unit from the IDF's Nahal Brigade, a combat unit.

Before Amedi, 24, who finished second in the eighth season *Kochav Nolad (A Star is Born)*, took to the stage, Israeli Consul General for Toronto and Western Canada Amir Gissin briefly welcomed "his brothers from the Nahal unit.

"It's been 25 years since I ran with the Nahal uniform and cap," Gissin began.

"Some of us went through experiences more than others and it is very difficult to begin to understand these experiences that stay with you and don't go away... And this is why it is important that we have a project that gives them a true chance for a new beginning."

Few can relate to the troops as well as Amedi, who was still in uniform when he auditioned for *Kochav Nolad* in 2010 with a song he wrote called *Pain of The Warrior*, which is about his experiences as a combat soldier.

Little did he know that two years later, that song would be used in therapy sessions by an ICTP therapist.

**Idan Amedi rocked a full house at Thornhill's Sephardic Kehilla Centre.**

Hazan explained how Amedi came to volunteer his time and talent to help raise awareness about the organization.

"He was doing a performance in Israel, and one of our therapists had heard his song, *Pain of the Warrior*, that talks about nightmares and blood on the uniform. He started to use his song in therapy sessions," Hazan said.

"After seeing him perform, the therapist approached him and explained to him how much his song has helped other soldiers involved with the organization."

She said when Amedi learned more about POM, he was eager to help in any way he could, and insisted on performing the benefit concert free of charge.

"That's the kind of person he is. He's so grounded," Hazan said.

Throughout the hour-long performance that had some audience members singing along to the tracks off his 2011 debut album, he spoke to the crowd in both Hebrew and English, sharing an anecdote about fans encountering him on the street (a fan told him, "You wish you were Idan Amedi. He's way better looking"), as well as the meaning and inspiration behind some of his songs.

One of the songs he performed at the concert was written while he worked on Soon We'll Become a Song, a project in which musicians composed songs using the poetry of fallen soldiers.

When he received a stack of letters written to the girlfriend of a soldier who died in the Second Lebanon War, Amedi used direct quotes from the letters to write a song about the soldier's pain and longing for his girlfriend and family.

Following the performance, which ended with the visiting IDF veterans dancing around him and serenading him with a song the unit used to sing during training camp, Amedi was showered with thank-you gifts donated by a number of host families from the Jewish community, including an iPad and a Toronto Maple Leafs hockey jersey with his name stitched on the back.

The concert raised $40,000 for the cause. "Every single dollar raised today will go towards sustaining and improving this very worthy endeavor," Hazan said.

For more information about Peace of Mind, visit www.traumaweb.org.

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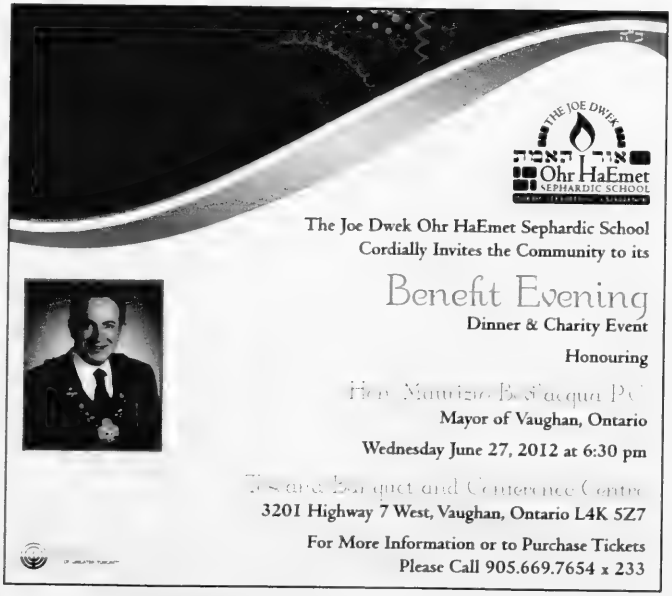
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# IOC rejects moment of silence for Munich 11

JTA

**JERUSALEM** — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has officially rejected a request to hold a moment of silence for the Munich 11 at the London Olympics this summer.

"The IOC has officially paid tribute to the memory of the athletes on several occasions," IOC president Jacques Rogge wrote in a letter dated May 15. "Within the Olympic family, the memory of the victims of the terrible massacre in Munich in 1972 will never fade away."

Families of the athletes initiated the request for the moment of silence at the opening ceremonies. Palestinian Black September terrorists killed 11 Israeli athletes and coaches at the 1972 Games in Germany.

Rogge's letter came in response to an official request filed last month by Danny Ayalon, Israel's deputy foreign minister.

"Unfortunately, this response is unacceptable as it rejects the central principles of global fraternity on which the Olympic ideal is supposed to rest," Ayalon said last week in a statement. "The terrorist murders of the Israeli athletes were not just an attack on people because of their nationality and religion. [They were] an attack on the Olympic Games and the international community. Thus, it is necessary for the Olympic Games as a whole to commemorate this event in the open, rather than only in a side event."

The Israel National Olympic Committee will hold its own memorial ceremony during the Games, as it has at every Olympics. Rogge pledged that IOC representatives would attend the ceremony.

Israel has regularly requested a moment of silence at the Olympics; the IOC has consistently turned down that proposal.

Also last week, the American Jewish Committee called on the IOC to reconsider its rejection.

"The 40th anniversary of that tragedy is a perfect opportunity for the Olympics to properly honour the memory of those innocent Israelis," AJC executive director David Harris said. "The IOC refusal to hold a moment of silence during the London Games' opening ceremony, which will be watched worldwide, is simply shameful."

**The 1972 Israeli Olympic team**

U.S. Reps. Nita Lowey and Eliot Engel, both New York Democrats, and the Anti-Defamation League in recent weeks also had called on the IOC in letters to approve the moment of silence.

The Jewish Community Center of Rockland County, N.Y., a member of the JCC Association, and Ankie Spitzer, the widow of Israeli fencing Coach Andrei Spitzer, initiated an online petition in mid-April seeking a moment of silence at the London Games. It has garnered some 38,000 signatures from around the world.

"The 11 murdered athletes were members of the Olympic family; we feel they should be remembered within the framework of the Olympic Games," Spitzer wrote in a letter accompanying the petition.

# Olympic torch sets down in Israel

© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

**TEL AVIV** — The torch that will be used to light the Olympic flame at the opening ceremony on July 27 landed in Israel earlier this month for a two-day visit. The torch was displayed at an Olympic sports event in Haifa.

"This is a great honour for us," said Olympic Committee of Israel (OCI) president Zvi Varshaviak, as he posed with the unlit torch. "I hope that just as the torch reached us, our athletes will return from London with medals."

"This is the first time the torch has reached Israel on its way to the Olympic Games," said OCI director general Efraim Zinger. "This is a piece of history. The Olympic Games is a great social event, and I hope that after they see the torch in Haifa..., many more children will share the Olympic experience."

# *Browns sign lineman*

JTA

**CLEVELAND** — Offensive lineman Mitchell Schwartz, a second-round draft pick of the Cleveland Browns, signed a four-year, $5.17-million (US) contract with the team.

Schwartz, a tackle from the University of California, Berkeley, was selected 37th overall in April's draft. The Jewish player was among eight draft picks signed by the team last week. Browns head coach Pat Shurmur said Schwartz displayed solid technique that could quickly catapult him into a full-time player, according to the *Cleveland Jewish News*.

"He is very sound in his fundamentals," Shurmur said. "He's very detailed with his sets, he is good with his hands, he understands what the defence is going to do by the way they are aligned. He's a very sharp guy."

Schwartz, whose older brother Geoff is in his fourth season in the NFL, said he had a "pretty decent understanding of what to expect" coming into camp, and wanted to focus on improving daily.

"Obviously whatever your weakness is, you kind of want to make that into your strength," he said. "At the same time, you don't want to let your strengths become your weaknesses. It's always a nice little balance. So far, we've been doing a little bit of everything. Working different techniques in the run game, different techniques in the pass game with our hands, our feet."

Schwartz also responded to draft pundits' assertions that he was "NFL ready," crediting his coaches at the University of California for giving him a strong foundation.

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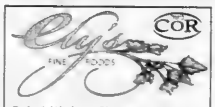

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Visit our new website @ heebonics.ca HEEBONICS

# Filmmaker's work shows human capacity for change

**Vicky Tobianah**
Special to The CJN

Michael Oved Dayan recalls growing up with a camera in his hands. He was the family filmmaker, responsible for documenting his family's events. Even though his passion for film quickly grew, he didn't think he would make a career out of it.

His plans changed when he was finishing his master's dissertation in communications at McGill University and decided to make a short biographical film called *Glimpses of Heaven*, about three West Coast Canadian artists who use their art to cope with childhood traumas.

The film earned him an honourable mention in the Rhode Island International Film Festival in 2008, and he was named best director in the Las Vegas International Film Festival in 2007.

"It fared much better than what I had imagined. It received a lot of great feedback from people who have felt inspired by it and that made me feel really good, knowing that I could participate in a meaningful conversation in life," said Dayan.

Dayan, who grew up in Vancouver, completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto in conflict resolution, game theory and international relations. During this program, he spent a year abroad at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In Israel, he also interned in the department of human rights at the Justice Ministry.

After finishing his master's degree in religion, politics, peace and reconciliation at Columbia University in New York, he returned to Canada to obtain his PhD in communications from McGill University.

It was while studying communications that he became interested in the way the media could be a therapeutic tool.

"Through filmmaking, I learned that helping people construct their life narrative really provides them with a therapeutic perspective on life," he said.

When a friend told him about a medical clinic he had visited in Tibet, Dayan immediately knew he wanted to turn it into his next film.

"I have this mandate that I want to make biographical films and I want them to have a redemptive quality – to make films that show personal growth and human capacity for change, and I saw that in this town of Tibet," he said.

Michael Dayan followed Dr. Isaac Sobol to the remote village in Eastern Tibet called Yushu, where he established a primary care medical health clinic.

Citizens of Yushu waited to be seen by Dr. Sobol at the clinic.

Michael Oved Dayan

The film, called *High Plains Doctor: Healing on the Tibetan Plateau*, follows Dr. Isaac Sobol, a Jewish doctor and chief medical officer of health in Nunavut, on his 10th trip to Yushu, a remote village in the Kham region of eastern Tibet, where he establishes a primary-care medical health clinic. The film was shot in 2007 in two locations: Iqaluit, Nunavut, and Yushu, Tibet.

"Isaac shares his reflections on what he's seen treating aboriginal people in Canada and the similarities the people in Tibet are experiencing ... like challenges in keeping pace with modernity. [For both of the communities], there have been so many changes in the way things are done that traditional ways are not sustainable."

There is one "western" doctor for about every 17,000 people in Tibet, so Sobol and his team worked with very limited resources and attempted to treat the hundreds of patients who lined up every day at the clinic.

"People would spend a week walking to the clinic and then wait in line for hours to see Sobol. The problem with Tibetan medicine is that the changing climate affected their traditional herbs and medicinal plants, and during China's Cultural Revolution [which purged Chinese society of many of its traditional and cultural elements], a lot of books were destroyed so the ancient medical knowledge has been lost," said Dayan.

"They don't have money to access doctors so you see conditions that would have been treated much earlier in Canada."

Sobol did not know that this trip would be his last. On April 14, 2010, a 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit the town of Yushu, killing more than 2,000 people, injuring about 10,000 and destroying the small town.

Dayan believes his film is now the only existing footage of this village.

"About 80 per cent of the village was destroyed after the earthquake, and I haven't been able to find anyone else with footage of this town," said Dayan.

Dayan said he hoped to portray the exchange between Sobol and the inhabitants of the town.

"Sobol goes to Tibet to help them, but in the end he also receives a gift from them. They give him a sense of purpose. As a Jew, he feels like he can relate to the Tibetans because his family survived the Holocaust. There was this idea they weren't meant to exist because of their religion, so he understands the Tibetans' feelings of marginalization," said Dayan.

The film premièred on CBC earlier this month. Dayan has already started working on his next film, called *Abraham's German Children*, which looks at relatives of Nazis who have converted to Judaism.

For more information about Dayan's films, visit www.helliwellpictures.com.

More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca

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# Sustainable institutions

Have you heard the term "low-hanging fruit"? Generally, it's used to describe something that is easy to reach and enjoy.

Imagine you are sitting on a synagogue or school board, and the building/house committee brought the following proposal forward: "If you follow our recommendation to change a set of bulbs, we can cut our operating costs for the affected part of the building by 78 per cent." How do you probe that number? What is the impact on overall costs? Is 78 per cent a real number?

Last month, I posed a question as to whether you know what is driving your organization's operational costs when it comes to energy. This month, we will begin to work through an exercise to determine how you can make a quantitative and informed decision about changing equipment to reduce the amount of energy consumed.

*Sustainable Jew*

*Fred Winegust*

For many years, lighting has been considered the low-hanging fruit of electricity consumption. At a synagogue or school, the number of unique light-bulb types is generally larger than at home. In addition to incandescent bulbs, the building will likely have a mix of fluorescent, halogen, older generation compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) and other types of bulbs.

Few organizations in our community have an inventory of their electrical lights organized in some easy to analyze format, for example, by room or within a heating/ cooling zone. Even fewer know the schedule of occupancy of those rooms or zones. Why is this important? Simple math!

Assuming a room has 100 90-watt halogen floodlights, it consumes nine kilowatt hours for every hour the lights are on. If the consumption charge is 10 cents per kilowatt hour, you are paying 90 cents for every hour the lights are on. If your lights in the room are on for six hours each day, the room costs you $5.40 a day to operate and $1,971 for the year.

What if you now replaced the 90-watt bulb with a 20-watt bulb? Under the same assumptions, two kilowatt hours times $.10 cents per kilowatt hour times six hours costs $1.20 to operate per day and $438 per year. This reduces operating costs by 78 per cent.

If you were a member of the board, or a fee-paying member of the synagogue, or a tuition-paying parent of a Jewish day school, and keep seeing fee increases attributed to increased operating costs, what additional questions would you be asking to ensure that the 78 per cent saving is real?

This example and others will be discussed at an upcoming meeting to be called by David Sadowski, executive vice-president of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, responsible for Jewish community properties. The meeting will bring schools and synagogues together to review best practices in energy management and conservation, share success stories, and establish a base of information on energy consumption that would help community organizations get a handle on operational expense.

*Winegust@gmail.com*

**SECRET INGREDIENT DOUBLE CHOCOLATE ZUCCHINI BREAD**

**1 ½ c flour • ½ tsp baking soda • ¼ tsp baking powder • ¼ tspn salt • ½ tsp cinnamon • 1/3 c unsweetened cocoa • 1 c frozen spinach • 2 tbls canola oil • 1 small zucchini shredded • 1 ripe banana, mashed • ½ c unsweetened applesauce • 2/3 c sugar • 2 eggs, beaten • 1 tsp vanilla extract • ¾ c semi-sweet chocolate chips**

Preheat oven to 325°. Line loaf pan with parchment and spray with non-stick spray. Set aside. In medium bowl whisk flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, cinnamon until evenly mixed. Microwave frozen spinach 1 min. on high. Squeeze out extra water and drain. Process in food processor with oil until finely pureed. Transfer to large mixing bowl. Into spinach mixture, add zucchini, banana, applesauce, sugar, eggs, and vanilla. Mix well. Add dry ingredients; mix until incorporated. Stir in 1/2 c chocolate chips. Pour batter into lined loaf pan and sprinkle top with remaining ¼ c chocolate chips. Bake 1 hr. Test with skewer to see if done. Cool in pan on a rack 30 min. Cut around edges with knife; carefully lift out onto cooling rack (don't invert or the chocolate chips will get smashed).

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## On cjnews.com

*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

Ambassador Avi Pazner talks about the recent agreement between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Kadima party leader Shaul Mofaz in creating a new national unity government.

***Exclusive to cjnews.com***

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa writes about Israel's 45th Yom Yerushalayim.

Dr. Victor Goldbloom is being recognized by the Vatican for his lifelong leadership in promoting Catholic-Jewish relations.

Obama vs. Romney: where do they stand on Middle East issues?

The Borscht Belt is remembered as an escape for tenement-dwelling immigrants and a training ground for future celebrities.

### Correction

The column "Israel provokes moving memories" (Senior Side of Life, May 10) contained incorrect information. Dr. Aharon Peretz was not a witness at the Nuremberg trial, but he was a key witness at the Adolf Eichmann trial.

# The feds' fear of the stranger

What's happening to the Canadian soul? Where has our federal government stashed it?

Bill C-10, an omnibus crime bill recently passed, was overwhelmingly criticized by professionals of all backgrounds, religious leaders and vast numbers of "average Joes."

Here is an example of one of the laws found in Bill C-10. If your daughter has six marijuana plants, she can go to jail for six months. A drug dealer with 200 plants can also be sentenced to six months. A judge can no longer look at extenuating circumstances such as prior convictions.

Studies have shown mandatory minimum sentences don't work (see the *New York Times* editorial at http://nyti.ms/J6sPo0). Texas, a state not known for its compassion, told our federal government that our laws, including minimum sentencing, are too harsh. Texas would know. Our ideologically driven government refuses to listen. Why?

Bill C-31, an omnibus bill on Canada's refugee system, exists to crack down on bogus refugee claimants. The bill says "regular arrivals" or "smuggled migrants in large numbers" can be detained for 14 days and then a review takes place. If the individuals are kept incarcerated, then there is a six-month review. This wording was only amended after a public backlash. Initially Bill C-31 stated refugees could be detained for one year without review. What?

*Urban Writer*

*Avrum Rosensweig*

New Democratic Party immigration critic Jinny Sims said this about Bill C-31: "What we have heard overwhelmingly from witnesses is that the bill will do nothing to prevent human smuggling, while punishing refugees."

In a recent *Toronto Star* article by Harold Troper, Dr. Joseph Wong and Joy Kogawa, they stated, "Not only does this bill run contrary to the tradition of humanitarianism so many Canadians are proud of, it returns Canada to the days when racism and xenophobia were part of our official immigration policy."

There's more federal disappointment.

As of June 30, refugees with chronic diseases such as hypertension, angina and diabetes will be denied medical care. Dr. Mark Tyndall, head of Infectious Diseases at the Ottawa Hospital said: "This new refugee health-care policy violates my ethical obligations as a physician. It is unethical and a disgrace to Canadian society."

Tyndall continued: "I have never met a refugee who came to Canada because they wanted better health care."

Michael McBane, the executive director of the Canadian Health Coalition, said about this law: "The dismantling of one of the oldest parts of Canada's public health-care system – health care for displaced persons who arrived in Canada following World War II – is symptomatic of the Harper government's approach to health care. 'Cut and run' is their motto, and changing the hearts of Canadians from compassion to contempt is their goal."

There's more.

Immigration Canada is going to designate certain countries as "safe." If you come from a "safe" country, you cannot claim refugee status. Hungary, home to many Roma, will no doubt be a safe place, yet according to Amnesty International, the Roma are mistreated by Hungarian nationals. Nevertheless, the Roma will be refused entry into Canada.

There is a Jewish value that stands taller than most others. It says, we must take care of the stranger. The Jews on the SS St. Louis knew that this wasn't a Canadian value during the World War II. Their boat was turned back to Europe, sending most to their deaths. In the 1970s, the "boat people" from Vietnam were taken in by prime minister Joe Clark's Canada and "the stranger" was once again embraced by our country.

Our government is reversing so much of the love we have learned. Where have they stashed our soul?

*Avrum@veahavta.org*

# TRENDS

There's a whole new world in bath and kitchen products waiting for you in 2012 at Taps!

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*Splendure Stainless Steel $739*

**Hansgrohe Talis S**

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*Brushed Nickel $299*

**Cabano Lina 1G Kit**

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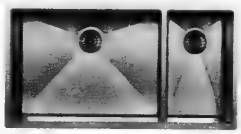

**Blanco Radius 10 U 1-1/2**

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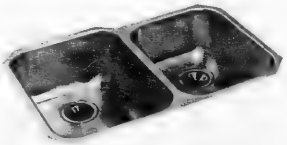

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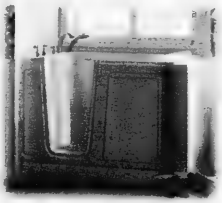

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# Many Faces... One Community

A salute to our community and its volunteers

UJA Federation
of Greater Toronto

## Volunteers are the engine that drives UJA Federation

As the Chairs of United Jewish Appeal's Campaign 2013, we are thrilled that through the following pages, UJA has the opportunity to acknowledge and thank the remarkable men, women and children who volunteer their energy, time and talents to make Jewish Toronto one of the strongest communities in the Diaspora.

Their contributions come in many different forms including creating events, canvassing donors, and spreading the word about the unique, vital and strategic work that UJA donations enable. After all, UJA Federation is our sole Jewish communal fund, serving a vast range of social, educational and advocacy needs in Toronto, Israel and across the globe.

As with any successful organization, we are powered by our incredible cadre of volunteers, who, together, comprise the engine that drives UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

In addition to encouraging others to donate generously to UJA's annual campaign, we encourage you to find a volunteer role that you would find interesting and challenging. We can assure you, you will be amazed at how rewarding it will be.

We look forward to Campaign 2013, and to meeting and working with all of the volunteers, each of whom will play an important role in the success of that campaign.

Appreciatively,

Sarena Koschitzky & Bruce Leboff
*Chairs,*
*United Jewish Appeal Campaign 2013*

UJA Federation
of Greater Toronto

Elizabeth Wolfe
Chair of the Board

Richard Venn
Senior Vice-Chair of the Board

Ted Sokolsky
President & CEO

As Jewish Toronto continues to grow and flourish, so too does UJA Federation's responsibility to ensure that our community maintains its place as one of the most successful in the Diaspora.

Of course, without Jewish Toronto's talented, visionary and tireless core of volunteers, that task would be considerably more difficult.

These unique individuals give so much of themselves for the betterment of our community, while ensuring a strong and vibrant future for all of us.

Whether it's making the Walk with Israel the annual success that it is, or helping out at community rallies or celebrations, these men, women and children help bring many dreams to fruition.

This annual Volunteer Recognition Supplement is UJA Federation's way of showing our sincere appreciation for all that our volunteers do for Jewish Toronto, and to thank them for their unrelenting commitment to tzedakah and *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wolfe
Chair of the Board

Ted Sokolsky
President & CEO

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By Rabbi N. Daniel Korobkin,
*Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation*

# Jewish Toronto is part of a "Nation of Volunteers"

Every Rosh Hashanah, we recite Psalm 47 as a precursor to our blowing the Shofar. In that psalm, the Jewish people are referred to as "the nation of Abraham's G-d." According to the Midrash, we are specifically called Abraham's nation because Abraham was the first volunteer; he freely opened his heart and home to others. Wherever he traveled, he spread a beautiful message of brotherhood and love of G-d. The Jewish people possess this quality, to freely offer their services to both G-d and to their fellow human being. It's worthwhile reminding ourselves about this quality on Rosh Hashanah, because that is a time of asking G-d to grant us the gift of a healthy new year as a just recompense for the gifts that we have freely shared with the world.

The word "mitzvah" translates as "commandment," and that seems contrary to the notion that we are a nation of volunteers. After all, how can I volunteer to do something that I'm already obligated to do? But within the varied mitzvot contained in the Torah are boundless possibilities. One can give tzedakah on a minimal level, or can voluntarily give more. One can visit the sick as often as one likes, or can volunteer for a Jewish organization that benefits the entire community. Yes, one is doing a "mitzvah," but not as an obligation, but rather with a benevolent heart.

Before the Jews had a Torah, there were no "commandments," just opportunities to do good and spread goodness throughout the world. This was Abraham's world, and it is his DNA that courses through our veins. Every impulse that drives us to volunteer our time and resources is a response to the ancient call of our father Abraham. Fortunate are those who have answered his call; Abraham is surely proudly smiling upon you.

# UJA Federation funds gender-based violence training in Juba

## *IsraAID experts lead first ever workshop in South Sudan*

*By Daniel Horowitz*

On Thursday March 2nd, IsraAID: The Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid dispatched a delegation of Israeli experts to Juba, South Sudan, with the support of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, IsraAID's largest financial supporter. The delegation - which includes three highly-skilled Israeli therapists with extensive experience in trauma and sexual abuse - is conducting the first ever Gender Based Violence (GBV) training program for social workers in Juba, aimed at fighting violence against women in the new nation.

On March 6th, the South Sudanese Minister of Social Development, Her Excellency Helen Murshalli, officially inaugurated the program which, during the 10-day workshop, saw IsraAID teach 29 social workers from the ministry and the local Non-Governmental Organization, Confident Children out of Conflict (CCC), the practical skills needed to guide and support survivors of GBV from Juba and the entire Central Equatorial district.

*IsraAID's team of experts are in Juba, South Sudan, to train local social workers about violence against women and young girls.*

In her speech, her Excellency stressed the key role that social workers play in building a stable and healthy nation. For this reason, training social workers should be a priority in the development of South Sudan. Her Excellency also praised IsraAID for organizing the first training on GBV for social workers, and highlighted the historic relationship between Israel and South Sudan, calling for a deepening and strengthening of the ties that connect these two nations, as did the Executive Director of IsraAID, Shachar Zahavi.

"IsraAID recognizes the dramatic opportunity for the organization - as well as for Israel as a whole - to contribute to nation-building and development in South Sudan through the transfer of Israeli expertise," said Zahavi. "Israel benefits from unique 'know-how' and technologies in a wide range of areas, and is therefore capable of organizing rich and impact-oriented training programs in response to the local needs, while respecting and promoting local ownership."

On March 1st, news of IsraAID'S upcoming efforts in Juba made its way to the House of Commons, where the MP for St. Paul's, Dr. Carolyn Bennett, made the following statement:

"On the eve of a visit to Canada by Israel's Prime Minister, I would like to acknowledge the important work of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto in partnering with IsraAID, an Israeli humanitarian organization, to help South Sudan fight violence against women," "...The program is funded primarily by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and by extension, charitable donations from Toronto's Jewish community, and is an example of the close level of cooperation between Canadians and Israelis on important global issues. I applaud UJA and IsraAID for this important contribution to nation-building and development in South Sudan."

*MP Dr. Carolyn Bennett*

"UJA Federation has long been a supporter of IsraAID's remarkable search and rescue, medical, trauma and other life-saving efforts when natural disasters have struck around the world," said Ted Sokolsky, UJA Federation's President & CEO. "And now, to enable these gifted Israeli experts to help eradicate senseless, brutal violence against women and young girls in South Sudan, is extremely gratifying. We will continue to provide IsraAID with our support, and the support of Toronto's compassionate Jewish community."

# Two-year-old's birthday benefits underprivileged Israeli children

*By Monique Gottlieb*

When Reuben Hason turned two last December, his parents, Cheri and Yuval, decided to celebrate a little differently. In lieu of gifts, Reuben's family and friends were asked to contribute to the Reuben Hason Birthday Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, the endowment arm of UJA Federation. Given the festive time of year and the family's strong connection to Israel, the Hasons decided to put the funds raised toward a Chanukah party for underprivileged children at the Youth Futures program in Eilat.

Historically, Eilat-Eilot has been a single-industry region, with 80% of the population employed either directly or indirectly by the tourist industry. These jobs generally don't demand professional training or promise a stable income. Through various initiatives, UJA Federation is working to transform Eilat-Eilot into a centre of opportunity. The Youth Futures program is one such initiative which empowers disadvantaged Israeli youth, providing them with equal opportunity to develop their academic and social skills, and shaping them into successful adults.

Thanks to Reuben's gift, the children at the Youth Futures program had an unforgettable Chanukah, participating in various holiday activities like cooking latkes, making candles, and decorating dreidels. As well, each child received a Chanukah present – for many of them, their first. In a letter thanking Reuben for his gift, the children wrote, "It doesn't matter who you ask, this Chanukah was like no other! All through Chanukah's school break the Youth Futures home was lit and anywhere you looked you could see happy faces."

While Reuben is still too young to understand the impact he has made, the idea of *tzedakah* runs strong in his family. The amount of money raised in honour of his birthday spoke volumes. "Everyone was happy to contribute," explained Reuben's mother, Cheri. "It was really reassuring to know that our family and friends were so eager to participate in something like this. Hopefully others will be inspired to do the same."

By giving his birthday gifts to underprivileged children, Reuben has already practiced *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Reuben's gift demonstrates how easy it can be to make a difference in the world. "I think people are intimidated; that it's a hard thing to do, but the staff at the Jewish Foundation made it so easy," explained Cheri.

*Reuben Hason celebrating his 2nd birthday*

The Jewish Foundation is involved in many charitable projects in Canada, Israel, and around the world. The Foundation specializes in matching individuals to projects and causes they are passionate about, enabling them to make a positive, meaningful impact in the lives of others. By housing a fund at the Jewish Foundation, fund-holders have the freedom to choose how they want to spend their charitable dollars without the responsibility of maintaining a private foundation.

"My grandmother always said, 'do the right thing, not the easy thing,' said Cheri. With the help of the Jewish Foundation, Reuben's birthday project was both."

*For more information on the Jewish Foundation or for details on how to establish a fund, visit jewishfoundationtoronto.com, or contact the Jewish Foundation at 416-631-5703 or jewishfoundation@ujafed.org.*

# Sam Hershenhorn Takes to the Streets of T.O. for the 45th Straight Year

## *Walk With Israel Takes Place on Victoria Day*

*By Daniel Horowitz*

As Canadians from coast to coast celebrated Queen Victoria's birthday on Monday, May 21st, thousands of enthusiastic members of Jewish Toronto took part in UJA's Walk with Israel Family Challenge. This year's Walk marked the 45th consecutive year that this - the largest one-day Israel solidarity Walk in North America – united Jewish Toronto.

The day, which culminated with great food, games, rides and inflatables for the kids at the Renee & Irwin Nadal Festival at Ontario Place, was a tremendous success, due largely to the tireless efforts of approximately 500 men, women and children who volunteer before, during and after this Herculean event.

And the Walk with Israel just wouldn't be the same without one remarkable volunteer in particular; Toronto's own Sam Hershenhorn who, at age 86, did exactly what he's done once a year for the past 45 years - he raised an impressive amount of money which will go towards UJA's transformative projects in Israel, then he simply put on his shoes, and he walked the Walk.

To put this incredible feat into perspective, consider that Sam started this annual ritual back in 1967 which also happens to be the year we celebrated the 100-year anniversary of Canadian Confederation and, alas, the year the Toronto Maple Leafs last captured the Stanley Cup.

*Sam Hershenhorn, 86, celebrates UJA's Walk With Israel along with family*

Back then, Sam completed the then grueling 26-mile UJA Walkathon with his wife, Gertrude, and children. Today, in time for this year's Family Fun Challenge, Sam's close knit circle has grown to include not only his children, but his three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

"Today, the Walk is much more about community involvement, and, of course, family involvement," says Sam.

"The Walk with Israel has always been important to me and my family because it unites our Jewish community for one purpose, Israel. It also happens to combine two of my great loves, walking and helping Israel."

For Sam, the Walk is anything but a one-day event. In fact, the event consumes a good four months of his year, as he writes letters to potential donors, collects pledges and generally prepares for the day itself.

A remarkable Diaspora community such as Jewish Toronto simply doesn't "happen". It's the result of the talents and selfless efforts of people like Sam Hershenhorn.

# Israeli Volunteers Bring the "Real" Israel to Toronto Youth

*By Daniel Horowitz*

"My job at UJA is to integrate Israel into the community using informal and formal educational and religious institutions as the primary vehicles." explains Sarah Mali, The Jewish Agency for Israel's (JAFI) Community Shlicha for Toronto, and UJA Fedeation's Director, Israel Engagement. And that's precisely what she's done.

Mali was charged with initiating and building UJA's MAKOM Young Emissary Program in Toronto in 2007, which brings pre-army, Israeli 18 year-olds to the city to voluntarily engage our youth, and to give them a first-hand, personal Israel education.

The program began with only two shlichim at Holy Blossom Temple and Leo Baeck Day School, and by last summer there were 14 young emissaries at over 20 community synagogues, schools, youth groups and overnight Jewish summer camps.

"These young emissaries were originally little mechanisms of change to fulfill our initial mandate of drawing more young people to shuls, and to deliver a taste of the real, unmediated Israel," says Mali. "Today, more schools and shuls realize that Israel engagement is a terrific added value for their members and today, they all have budget lines for Israel engagement programs."

*Sarah Mali (far right) with some of the Young Emissaries who volunteer throughout Jewish Toronto*

While the success of the UJA MAKOM Young Emissary Program is legendary, it was still just the beginning for Mali and UJA Federation.

"We soon realized from our partnering institutions that they were looking for something broader; what we term Israel engagement which is the merging of Israel education and Jewish identity building," says Mali. "We sit on the nexus between education and identity building. We have recently started a new program called the MAKOM Institutional Change Process where we work with day schools and synagogues on a two-year process to re-envision Israel in the context of their institutions and to build a strategic plan to implement those changes. We began with young emissaries, but what we're doing today – quite successfully, I believe – is establishing a field of Israel engagement based on expertise, content, professional development and the resources and personnel that can change the face of our community ten years down the line."

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**Visit:** jewishtoronto.com and follow the link: Community Resources

# Volunteer Excellence: The Community Honours Its Own

*The men and women on pages B5-B7 have made tzedakah, tikkun olam and community involvement constant priorities in their lives. Their unrelenting commitment to Jewish values helps enrich the lives of so many. They received their awards on May 23rd at UJA Federation's Awards Night.*

## BEN SADOWSKI AWARD OF MERIT

*UJA Federation created this award in 1960, the single most prestigious acknowledgement the Jewish community bestows upon a volunteer with outstanding leadership qualities and years of involvement in the Jewish and general communities. With his unwavering commitment to people, Ben Sadowski z"l, the first President of the United Jewish Welfare Fund (predecessor to UJA Federation), embodied the definition of a natural leader. This award is his legacy to the Jewish community.*

### JOSEPH STEINER

Joseph Steiner has held many positions within the Jewish community, mostly relating to Jewish education. They include: President and Chair of the Board of Directors at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, along with making his mark as the Vice-Chair for Jewish Education, a member of the Board of Directors of UJA Federation's Israel and Overseas Committee and its Israel Engagement Committee. Joseph also served as President and Chair of the Board of Directors of Bialik Hebrew Day School, and Board member and Chair, Human Resources Committee of the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School. He served as a Member of the Board of Directors, Chair of the Human Resources Committee, and Chair of the Nominations Committee, at Hillel of Greater Toronto. Joseph was also a board member of RAVSAK (North American Association of Jewish Community Day Schools). He held many positions with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Friends of Shalom Hartman Institute and of the Consolidated Board of Shalom Hartman Institute. Additionally, he was on the Board of Directors at the Melton Centre for Jewish Education of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Joseph is married to Elaine and have one son.

*"It is truly an honour to be inaugurated into the company of the distinguished community leaders who have been recipients of the Ben Sadowski Award since its inception fifty years ago. Whatever contributions I have made to Jewish Toronto are the result of collaboration with some of our community's best professionals and volunteers. I am, of course, particularly grateful and indebted to my wife, Elaine, for her advice, support and encouragement throughout my volunteer career."*

## Past Chairs Lederman Award

*This award, named for Harold Lederman z"l, is presented by UJA's Past Chairs Council to an outstanding philanthropic leader and volunteer who demonstrates exceptional commitment and achievement of great success in innovative approaches to challenges in the community. Lederman, driven by a keen social conscience and strong support for Jewish communal life, believed in the importance of continuity. His message to future generations was to be responsible, a legacy of a real philanthropic leader.*

### GEORGE GROSSMAN

George Grossman is a long time volunteer and outstanding supporter of UJA Federation. He most recently chaired UJA's Top Gifts Cabinet and did a phenomenal job canvassing and raising awareness on the importance of UJA's Annual Campaign and its funded projects. His active involvement carries on the legacy of his beloved father, Alex Grossman z"l, who devoted his life to teaching the lessons of the Holocaust while championing many Jewish causes to keep our community strong and thriving. George's community involvement includes Baycrest, where he serves as member of its Board of Directors, the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto, State of Israel Bonds, Jewish National Fund, and Massuah - the Institute of Holocaust Studies in Israel. George graduated in 1975 from the University of Toronto, Bachelor of Laws program and practiced at Mathews, Dinsdale LLP specializing in Labour Law. He is the President and CEO of Pinedale Properties Ltd. George is married to Kitty and has two daughters, Justine and Elissa.

*"Volunteerism is really about giving of yourself. And then it's about passion. You have to be committed to help; to offer your own time and effort to help others. But then it's about heart. Your commitment, true feelings and enthusiasm are what makes volunteering successful. Once you reflect your own belief, others will open to you."*

## Phil Granovsky Award for Campaign Excellence

*This award honours individuals who exemplify the best in United Jewish Appeal campaigning. When it came to the welfare of world Jewry, few were more committed than Phil Granovsky z"l, who saw Israel and the Diaspora as an extension of his family. Granovsky's selfless legacy continues to help countless people in the community every single year.*

### DAVID POSLUNS

David Posluns has been involved as a canvasser in the UJA Annual Campaign for many years. He makes it a priority to conduct face-to-face canvasses to develop a comprehensive Jewish conversation and engage each donor. David is determined to ensure that UJA gifts which benefit our community, Israel, and the Jewish people, are made to the best of each donor's ability. His approach is exemplified by the fact that he will often have multiple meetings or discussions with donors to ensure that all of their questions are answered thoroughly. David co-chaired UJA's 2008 Major Gifts Dinner; the 2009 Washington-Ottawa Fly-in, and last year's Prime Minister's Mission to Israel. He has also brought non-Jewish guests on UJA interfaith missions. Most recently, David co-chaired the King David Society for UJA's Campaign 2012 and is continuing in the same leadership role for the upcoming campaign. He has also participated in UJA telethons. David is currently a member of the Investment Advisory Committee and a member of the Board of Directors of UJA's Jewish Foundation as well as the Baycrest Hospital Foundation, and he serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He has also served on the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) Investment Institute Advisory Committee and was a moderator for a panel at a recent conference in Florida. In addition, David is the former Treasurer and Vice President of Associated Hebrew Schools, and former President of the Camp Arrowhead Parents Association. Mr. Posluns is a graduate of the Wexner Heritage Foundation Program. In his professional life, David is Chairman and Managing Director of Cedarpoint Investments Inc., a private equity and alternative investments management firm. David is married to Felicia Posluns who, most recently, served as Chair, Women's Philanthropy, for UJA Campaign 2012. They have three children - Aaron, Stuart and Julia.

*"I am extremely honoured to receive this award. Being associated with an extraordinary community leader like Phil Granovsky is truly humbling and has inspired me to try to do more for the community every day. I have always felt that it is our solemn responsibility to do everything that we can to help others who are less fortunate than ourselves and provide every member of our community with the ability to live their lives with dignity, respect and meaning. I believe that making a meaningful gift to the UJA Annual Campaign, as well as providing leadership and example through volunteering as a canvasser, are vital in order to build a vibrant community and one with heart that will always be there to support and help the vulnerable."*

## Inaugural Community Israel Engagement Award

*The Community Israel Engagement Award recognizes a program or an organization whose leadership is committed to making Israel Engagement a core part of its mission and vision, and to integrating Israel into all areas of institutional life. It honours excellence in cultivating deep, real, and multi-faceted relationships between its stakeholders and Israel.*

### THE LEO BAECK DAY SCHOOL

The Israel Engagement Committee (IEC) of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto congratulates the winner of our inaugural Community Israel Engagement Award, The Leo Baeck Day School. In 2007, Leo Baeck joined with Holy Blossom in launching the UJA MAKOM Young Emissary Program in Toronto. Since then, the school has continued to broaden and deepen Israel engagement. Leo Baeck, along with Robbins Hebrew Academy and Holy Blossom, has also participated in the IEC's Institutional Change Process, re-envisioning the position of Israel across all aspects of the school. Leo Baeck continues to demonstrate commitment to Israel Engagement through successful integration of the Young Emissaries, innovative Israel programming, and comprehensive curriculum analysis and planning around Israel education. Yasher Koach to The Leo Baeck Day School and our other nominees, each of whom is making Toronto an exemplary Israel engaged community.

# Volunteer Excellence: Leadership Development Awards

*These awards, established to encourage young men and women to assume community leadership roles, are presented to those individuals who demonstrate extraordinary commitment and service.*

## SARA GOTTLIEB

Following 15 years of working on Bay Street as an Institutional Money Manager; Sara decided to take a break and stay home with her two sons. The break afforded her the time to devote to volunteering in the Jewish Community. While working full-time Sara co-chaired the ATID (future) division of UJA and sat on the Ben Gurion Society Committee. Sara was also a Chaplaincy Volunteer with JF&CS. More recently, Sara graduated from UJA's Joshua Institute Program for Future Volunteer Leaders. Sara's current volunteer commitments include: Member of UJA's Board of Directors; Co-Chair of Campaign 2013 Lion of Judah Campaign; Co-Chair of Robbins Hebrew Academy's 50th Birthday Gala; Member of UJA's Israel and Overseas Committee; Member of JFNA's Young Leadership Cabinet; Member of JDC's Ambassador's Circle Toronto; Co-Chair of the 2012 International Lion of Judah Conference. Sara, along with her husband Darren and her two boys Kobv and Cooper, make volunteering a true family affair through their efforts on behalf of Robbins Hebrew Academy.

*"As children, my sister Adina and I were told by our parents Judith and Paul to 'lead by example' and to remember how fortunate we were. As I grew older, I was exposed to the crises affecting Klal Yisrael in Israel and throughout the Diaspora. I realized it was my turn to follow in my parents' footsteps and to 'lead by example' within my peer group and give back. Through volunteering for a myriad of worthwhile causes, I realized how important it was to inspire others to help! And, as the mother of two young boys, Kolv and Cooper, I want to inspire them to do the same."*

## JASON RUBINOFF

Jason is a member of Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) Cabinet and current Co-Chair, Keren Hayesod International Young Leadership Board. He was National Co-Chair of TribeFest in March 2012, which brought 1,500 young Jews to Las Vegas for 3 days of meaningful dialogue and leadership development. He has held numerous leadership roles within the Local, National and International Jewish Community including co-chairing past Young Leadership and General Business Campaigns for UJA of Greater Toronto; co-chairing National Ben Gurion Society and sitting on Canada's National Young Leadership Management Board with Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA. One of his proudest contributions is co-founding a scholarship fund and apprenticeship program for Ethiopian-Israeli university students. He has been the recipient of several awards including JFC-UIA National Young Leadership Award of Excellence. In his professional career, Jason works in the consumer product goods (CPG) industry where he has developed strategic partnerships with many global leading companies. Since 2006 he has worked with Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. Jason has also developed and owns a portfolio of properties at Blue Mountain. He is married to Maureen and has two sons, Daniel and Zachary.

*"I am inspired everyday when I look at my children and know that I need to do my part to ensure they are part of a vibrant Jewish Community here in Toronto and throughout the world"*

# Professional Advisory Committee Award of Excellence

*This award, from the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, recognizes the outstanding contribution made to the Foundation by professionals in our community. It recognizes the long-term impact of the contributions made by lawyers, accountants, estate planners and to the charitable organizations that reap the benefit of their efforts.*

## MARTY ROCHWERG

Marty Rochwerg has been involved in numerous Jewish community organizations. His extensive charitable volunteer involvement includes ORT Canada; Chair of the Professional Advisory Committee of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, various leadership positions with UJA Federation, TanenbaumCHAT, the Board of Jewish Education, Associated Hebrew Schools, the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University, and International Academy of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists. In his professional life, Marty is the National Chair of Miller Thomson Private Client Services Group and is among the most frequently recommended estate planning lawyers in the country. Marty has been an Adjunct Professor in Estate Planning at Osgoode Hall Law School since 1980, and is a teaching award recipient. After 40 years of marriage, Marty and Marlene have 4 graduates of TanenbaumCHAT and 7 grandchildren.

*"Having been inspired by the courage of many of my friends' parents who rebuilt their shattered lives after the Holocaust, it is my privilege to take the opportunity to try to better the lives of others."*

# Gordy Wolfe Award for Jewish Communal Professional Leadership

*This award honours the memory of Gordy Wolfe z"l, the consummate professional who served as Executive Director of Jewish Family & Child (JF&CS) for 22 years. The award recognizes a visionary professional communal leader who, like Gordy, has made a substantive difference in the life of Jewish Toronto.*

## WENDY WOLFMAN

Wendy Wolfman joined Jewish Family & Child (JF&CS) in 1989 as Manager of the Jerome D. Diamond Adolescent Centre. Over more than twenty years since, Wendy has held a number of senior positions at the Agency such as: Director of Programs and Resources, with responsibility for the Agency's child welfare programs; Director of Family and Community Services where she supported a wide range of community services delivered by JF&CS and Director of Client Service, reflecting the Agency's current strategic emphasis on client centred service. Wendy Wolfman has made an outstanding contribution and has been a model of senior communal leadership.

*"After more than thirty years of service in the areas of Children's Mental Health, Child Welfare, Family & Community Services and Client Service, being presented with this award gives me immense pride. To be recognized for my efforts and accomplishments is a great honour, but to be recognized with an award dedicated to the man who was not only my mentor, but also a dear friend, means so much more. Gordy Wolfe z"l was a supporter, a visionary and a leader.*

# Community Inclusion Award of Excellence

*This award recognizes an outstanding volunteer within Toronto's Jewish community whose exceptional efforts has resulted in a more inclusive Jewish community for people with special needs. The award has been designed to bring the importance of physical and social inclusion to the attention of the entire Jewish community. The aim is to honour and recognize an outstanding individual who has embraced inclusion and had an impact on the lives of people with special needs.*

## PAULA SONSHINE

Paula's work on behalf of people with disabilities knows no bounds. Not only does Paula volunteer for Committees and Boards but she is also a hands-on volunteer, working with new immigrants, at-risk youth, the elderly and people with disabilities. Tireless in her pursuit of equality for all, Paula is a member of numerous Committees and on the Board of Directors of Reena. Paula is also a member of Itanu Toronto-UJA Federation's Inclusion Initiative, through which she is intent on making the community a more inclusive place. She is a Board member of the Bernard Betel Centre and an active member of the Beth David Synagogue, carrying her message to the broader community. Paula, along with her husband, are Chairs of the opening of Reena's new building on the Lebovic Campus, one of a series of events, which will highlight that individuals with disabilities are truly valued members of our community.

*"I have particularly treasured my experience as a volunteer with each organization I have been involved with. I believe that it is important to think with your heart and look at people for their abilities, not their disabilities. I thank all the clients, staff, and other volunteers at Reena, the Bernard Betel Centre and Itanu Toronto for giving me these fulfilling opportunities."*

# Volunteer Excellence: Shem Tov Honourees

*Shem Tov Awards are presented, in partnership with agencies, to leaders representing the highest level of excellence in volunteer service in Toronto's Jewish community.*

## HELEN GOLDLIST
### JVS Toronto

Helen Goldlist is the immediate Past Chair of the Board of JVS Toronto. Since joining the Board in 2004, she has played a strong leadership role. She was on the executive Committee in 2005 and became the Secretary of the Board. The following year, she was Vice-Chair, and held the position of Chair from 2008-2010. Helen continues to sit on several committees, including the Chair of the Search Committee that led to hiring our new President and CEO. As Past President she continues to be actively involved in the agency. Over the years Helen has been an active volunteer bringing leadership to many areas including her synagogue, Jewish day school, several arts and professional associations. She is currently active with UJA Federation and JF&CS as well as other volunteer commitments in the community at large. We have been blessed to have her energy and passion focused on our work and we believe she is very worthy of this prestigious award.

*"Volunteering has given me so much: a chance to push for change, to have a voice, to learn, to teach, to make friends and to be part of my community."*

## ALEX KATZ, CA, CPA
### Jews for Judaism

For almost 20 years, Alex Katz has been one of Jews for Judaism's most essential volunteers. His extensive awareness of the missionary danger to Jewish continuity was recognized on CBC's "Man Alive" on which Alex was a featured authority on the growing threat of Hebrew-Christian missionaries. As a Ukrainian Jew, he understands the impact of assimilation on Russian Jewish immigrants. Alex has helped Jews for Judaism translate, edit, produce and publish books and pamphlets in Russian, including our vital The Jewish Response to Missionaries: Counter-Missionary Handbook. He continues to advise us on key issues concerning the vulnerability of Russian Jews to missionaries and cults.

*Jews for Judaism ensures Jewish continuity by countering efforts of Christian missionaries targeting Jews. Whether lecturing in local schools, one-on-one counselling with a Jew for Jesus or helping a parent, Jews for Judaism is always there for our community.*

## LESLEY MILLER
### Baycrest

For more than four decades, Lesley has been active in the non-profit sector as a professional, and as a volunteer. She has also consulted on a broad range of projects including the development of a provincial foster care recruitment campaign. Lesley earned her Masters in Environmental Studies from York University and taught there in the Non-profit Management Certificate Program. As a volunteer Lesley has held many leadership roles in a variety of community organizations. Currently, she is the volunteer Chair of Baycrest Research About Volunteering Among Older Adults (BRAVO), a federally-funded research project studying the effects of volunteering on those aged 55 and older. Throughout her varied career, Lesley has had the privilege of working with outstanding professionals and volunteers. Her fundamental belief in the capacity for people to work together to create imaginative solutions to the challenges our community faces has allowed her to grow as a person.

*"To me volunteer work is an amazing win-win situation – on one hand, I am making a contribution to my community and on the other hand, I get great personal satisfaction from my volunteer involvement."*

## SAM STRELSHIK
### B'nai Tzedek

Sam Strelshik learned about tzedakah at an early age volunteering with his parents at community events like the Walk with Israel and Telethons. At just 13, Sam opened a B'nai Tzedek fund with the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto. Soon he was volunteering at B'nai Tzedek programs, ultimately being named as one of its co-chairs. Sam also volunteers at his high school, Earl Haig Secondary School, as part of the student counsel, and with START, a program that teaches underprivileged children about the arts. Sam was also part of Canadian Young Judaea's Youth Council where he participated in several programs as well as J-Serve, a community wide *tikkun olam* event for teens.

*"I really enjoy volunteering because it's the best way to give back to the community. Seeing the faces of the people I am helping is the most rewarding thing in the world. I know as I age I will continue volunteering, it keeps me grounded and connected to the community."*

## JILL GOTLIEB
### JACS

A driving force at JACS for almost a decade, Jill's efforts have made a huge impression on all of our volunteers. Her vision and ability to always find the positive in any and all situations, is an example to all of us at JACS. The organization is grateful to her in countless ways and is thrilled to bestow this long overdue honour on such a worthy recipient.

*"JACS has helped me and many others in the Jewish community. Fortunately, through my family's charitable foundation, I was able to give back to JACS. I didn't want to stop at the donation stage, I wanted to help the organization grow and in turn be available to help more people. To me, volunteering with an organization and eventually becoming the vice chair, is a very fulfilling experience. I am always happy to see people benefiting from such a stellar organization. I have also made important and lasting friendships in the process."*

## PHIL LEPOFSKY
### REENA

Phil joined Reena in 1981 and initially lived in a group home and then a triplex before moving into his own apartment in 1985, where he quickly developed a sense of self within the community. Phil was employed at Mr. Leonards for 11 years where he received the "Employee of the Year" award in 1994. Phil worked at Allwood Products and Rainy Products for approximately one year, and is currently employed by Teknion Furniture in the mailroom where he has worked for 6 years. Phil has been a member of The Board and on several committees at Reena, including the Continuous Quality Improvement Committee and on the Holocaust Committee. Phil enjoys volunteering his time because this provides an opportunity for him to engage in discussions about what is not only important to him but also allows him to share his unique perspective. The Shem Tov Award is well deserved, Congratulations Philly!

## CAROL SAHIAN
### Bernard Betel Centre

Carol has been an active and integral volunteer at the Bernard Betel Centre since 2003, contributing over 5,000 volunteer hours with the Centre. One of her primary responsibilities has been Chair of the Social Action Committee, since 2005. This Committee informs and educates Bernard Betel Centre members about the range of social issues that affect seniors. The Committee has been instrumental in re-routing the Bathurst bus to stop at our door and to extend the length of the green light at nearby street crossings. The epitome of a genuine, altruistic leader, Carol is a strongly motivated individual who is driven to correct wrongdoings or make something better for others, pushing all her own needs aside. She transforms seniors as they connect back to society and forge ahead despite their fears, losses and declining health.

*"I volunteer because my family always gave of themselves when they could, and, since retiring, and with time on my hands, I found many interesting things to do. Most of these groups needed the help of volunteers and helping others helps me feel fulfilled."*

## SHARON SHORE
### Jewish Family & Child

Sharon is Past President of the Board of Directors of Jewish Family & Child. Sharon's leadership inspired the confidence of our Board of Directors, funders and community, leading to the advancement of a strategic vision focused on bringing more effective services to our clients and stakeholders, with dignity, agility and impact. During Sharon's term we built new Central and Downtown branches of the Agency and renewed the Agency's infrastructure, bringing our capacity in fund raising, communications, and information technology into the 21st century.

*"For as long as I can remember, both of my parents have been involved as volunteers in various capacities in the Jewish community. Being a part of and giving back to the community are virtues that I hope to pass on to my children. Rabbi Hillel has taught us that you should not separate yourself from the community because you can accomplish more as a community than you can as an individual. While volunteering at JF&CS, I was privileged to witness the positive and important impact that staff and volunteers have had on the lives of some of the most vulnerable members in our society."*

# Our Community Cares.

## Jewish Toronto Takes to the Phones!

More than 600 volunteers took to the phones at the Lipa Green Centre's Tamari Family Hall to help make Super Sunday/ Super Week a "ringing" success for UJA's 2012 Campaign. With the dedication and leadership provided by UJA's 2011 Telethon Chairs, Janice Tkatch and Caurie Glickman, Telethon volunteers helped raise more than $4 million towards the Campaign.

## Celebrating Chanukah at the Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre

In December 2011, Holocaust survivor speakers and museum educators from UJA Federation's Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre gathered together to celebrate Chanukah together while enjoying a latke and jelly doughnut. The Neuberger Centre is proud to have more than 50 survivor speakers and 20 museum educators, each of whom is a dedicated volunteer and passionately committed to Holocaust education for the future.

# Our Community Shines!

## Our Community Walks the Walk

Sunday, May 29th was a day to remember in the annals of Jewish Toronto's history as more than 10,000 enthusiastic supporters of all ages and stripes participated in UJA's annual Walk with Israel, the largest single-day Israel solidarity walk in North America. Chaired by husband and wife team Laurie Sheff and Jonny Cole, the day, which included performances by Shawn Desmond at the kick-off party, a great kosher BBQ at the Renee & Irwin Nadal Festival at Ontario Place, games, rides and so much more, was a tremendous success. Thanks to all who came out and to those who volunteered their talents to make the Walk what it was. We couldn't do it without you!

## A Great Time for All

Fun and excitement was everywhere for the close to 1,000 men, women and children who made their way to UJA Federation's 2011 Purim Bash at TanenbaumCHAT Kimel Family Education Centre, on the Joseph & Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in York Region. Participants enjoyed great food, great music and great live entertainment from David, one half of the popular children's recording artists, Judy & David.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

# Many Faces … One Community

**UJA Federation of Greater Toronto expresses profound appreciation to the countless individuals who selflessly volunteer their time and talents through our many community agencies, schools, congregations and organizations. Through their efforts, these dedicated men, women and young adults help build a more cohesive Jewish community which, in turn, preserves and strengthens the quality of Jewish life in Toronto, Canada and Israel.**

**The willingness of Toronto's Jewish community to volunteer and help one another makes it a model community – one emulated throughout North America.**

## Act to End Violence against Women (formerly Jewish Women International of Canada)

Committed to ending violence against women through education, advocacy and action. www.acttoendvaw.org

**ELEANOR MAYNE**

*"A long time member of Golda Meir Chapter of Act To End Violence Against Women, Eleanor never says no - she is the ultimate volunteer and adds value to everything she is involved within the organization."*

## Adath Israel Congregation

Perpetuates and promotes Conservative Judaism and the Jewish way of life. www.adathisrael.com

**JUDY SCHWALM**

*"The synagogue has always played an important role in my life and in appreciation I wanted to give of my time, energy and experience to help our leader pursue the challenges of furthering our congregation's mission."*

## Alpha Omega Dental Society Toronto Chapter

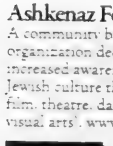
Alpha Omega, an over 100-year-old dental organization that fosters professional excellence, local outreach and international philanthropy through fraternal and Judaic values. www.aotoronto.org

**DR. CHARLES WEINGARTEN**

*"Tikkun Olam, 'Repairing the World' means that we can each make a difference by creating a better place for future generations. I volunteer for Alpha Omega as it is a dental organization rich in values of Judaism, Fraternalism and Professionalism."*

## Ashkenaz Foundation*

A community based non-profit organization dedicated to fostering an increased awareness of new Yiddish and Jewish culture through the arts (music, film, theatre, dance, literature, craft and visual arts). www.ashkenazfestival.com



**MICHELLE SACHAR**

*"Volunteering with Ashkenaz is an amazing experience. I love meeting young artists and other volunteers. There's a perception that Ashkenazi culture is just for our grandparents, but through Ashkenaz, I connect with a dynamic, youthful side of my heritage."*

* Denotes 2011-2012 partner agencies of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

## Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto*

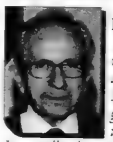
Provides students with an excellent Jewish and General Studies education based on Torah values in a safe and supportive environment. www.associatedhebrewschools.com

**CLAIRE GLOWINSKY**

*"It is my privilege to serve Associated's sacred mission. Beneath the clamour of self-interest, a quieter voice within us whispers the deeper truth that the greatest gift is to be able to give." - Rabbi Jonathan Sacks*

## Association of Jewish Seniors

Founded in 1970, it unites seniors groups and members-at-large within the Jewish community. With approximately 5,000 members, it is a collective voice to address issues concerning seniors. ajs@circleofcare.com



**BEN GOLDMINTZ**

*"I have enjoyed a lifetime volunteering in the Jewish and general communities. Now that I am retired, AJS gives me the opportunity to continue to contribute. I can still volunteer my organizational experience and professional skills, which gives me personal satisfaction, and I get to meet many wonderful people."*

## Baycrest

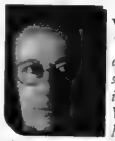
Baycrest is unique in the world, combining a comprehensive system of care for aging adults, one of the world's top research institutes in cognitive neuroscience, dedicated centres focused on mitigating the impact of age-related illness and impairment, and unmatched global knowledge exchange and commercialization capacity. www.baycrest.org

**TOBY BELKIN**

*"Volunteering at Baycrest has given meaning and pleasure to my post-retirement years. Interacting with clients, volunteers and staff and learning new skills has enriched me. It is a blessing to be able to help."*

## Beit Halochem Canada

Devoted to helping over 51,000 Israeli disabled war veterans and hundreds of victims of terror. The five Beit Halochem Centres offer state-of-the-art sports, social and rehabilitation facilities to wounded heroes and their families. www.beithalochem.ca



**VICTOR PETERS**

*"We owe a tremendous debt to those who have sacrificed their bodies in the defense of Israel. Volunteering for Beit Halochem provides me the opportunity and privilege of doing so, for which I am deeply grateful."*

## Beit Rayim Synagogue and School

Committed to providing its members with services and programs which enhance their connection to Jewish life. We are a Conservative congregation, where men and women participate equally. All of our members are encouraged to bring their enthusiasm, ideas and helping hands to our congregation. www.beitrayim.org

**STEPHEN & JANICE COHEN**

*"We were very fortunate to find Beit Rayim in 2006 as our new spiritual home, and are now regular synagogue attendees and enjoy the services, programs and friendliness of the community. Volunteering keeps us connected."*

## Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living*

A non-profit centre empowering seniors to lead active, creative and healthy lifestyles in a Jewish environment. www.betelcentre.org

**ESPERANCE RABY**

*"I love to volunteer at the Bernard Betel Centre because it is a place of warmth where I have made many friends. Each day I come I feel in my heart I have been useful."*

## Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue of Toronto (BAYT)

A family synagogue emphasizing the warmth of Torah tradition. www.bayt.ca

**DR. MELECH & HEATHER TANEN**

*"We feel privileged to work with many amazing people and with our wonderful Rabbi as the BAYT moves toward an exciting future."*

## Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation

Dedicated to cultivating, developing and sustaining Judaism and Jewish living in accordance with the ideas and standards of the Conservative Movement. www.bethdavid.com

**FAYE MAJOR**

*"The opportunity to be a part of the Beth David office has allowed me to discover just how wonderful a congregation I belong too. After all my home away from home has done for me, I am thrilled to give back."*

## Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue

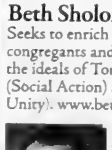
Fosters a full and joyous way of life proudly rooted in a heritage of traditional Conservative Judaism, and committed to Jewish values, education, spiritual well-being and community. www.beby.org

**KARLA YAKOBI & MICHAEL SUGARMAN**

*"We volunteer to inspire community spirit so our children feel a connection to our kehillah and to honour our families. We feel it is an essential responsibility of citizenship."*

## Beth Sholom Synagogue

Seeks to enrich the lives of our congregants and community through the ideals of Torah, Gemillut Hassidim (Social Action) and Achdut (Jewish Unity). www.bethsholom.net



**DAVID KRIEGER**

*"Volunteering is a calling, an opportunity to use what I have been blessed with to help others. As a Jew, I believe it is my obligation and indeed that we are accountable to do what we can to help elevate all others in need."*

## Beth Tikvah Synagogue

A vibrant forward-looking Conservative Synagogue dedicated to fostering spiritual and Judaic growth and fulfillment through meaningful rituals, activities and exciting educational programs. A sensitive and caring congregation attractive to all ages and responsive to the individual needs of our members. www.bethtikvahtoronto.org

**DOUG MILLSTONE**

*"Volunteerism is a core value of mine. Commitment to Beth Tikvah is a core principle of mine. As a long standing member, I readily accepted the chair of the Transition Committee that facilitated recent important changes."*

## Beth Tzedec Congregation

Canada's landmark Conservative Synagogue is a vibrant community of over 6,000 individuals. It is committed to preserving, practicing and transmitting Jewish tradition, through serving the evolving needs of members and the larger community. Beth Tzedec offers a rich and varied calendar of programs and services designed to translate our heritage into vital, relevant and meaningful Jewish thought and action. www.beth-tzedec.org

**TED ZITTELL**

*"It's been an honour to be part of our shul's energetic, visionary leadership team for the past three years. We're engaged in transformational planning, branding and progam development, all designed to ensure that our historic congregation becomes a dynamic community destination for Jewish living—for generations to come."*

## Camp Moshava

Combines a broad range of recreational camp activities with exciting thematic programming to create a Religious Zionist atmosphere filled with fun and meaning. Camp Moshava promotes a deep awareness of Halacha (Jewish Law) and a personal connection with the nation, the land and the laws of Israel (Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, Torat Yisrael). www.campmoshava.org

**PERRY KATZ**

*"Spending a Shabbat at camp and sharing in the camaraderie, the friendship, the learning and the growing, really intensified my commitment to volunteer as Chair of the Site Committee for Camp Moshava. Seeing the joy on the kids' faces makes it all worthwhile."*

## Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University

The University was inspired by and is the fulfillment of David Ben Gurion's vision for the Negev Desert in Israel. It is becoming a world leader in neurosciences, nanotechnology, cancer research, social and community involvement and has been a world leader in sustainable development and environmental science long before it became fashionable. www.cdnbgu.com

**BRUCE BRONFMAN**

*"I am proud to have been associated for over 20 years with this outstanding Israeli University. Ben Gurion produces some of Israel's most advanced research and is involved in cutting edge projects in many fields. It is an exciting and dynamic university whose research level is becoming world renowned because of your continued help and support. It is truly Israel's Jewel in the Crown in the Negev."*

## Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism

Supports the work of the Masorti/Conservative Movement in Israel which promotes Torah, Zionism and religious tolerance and pluralism, within the context of modern Israeli society. The foundation raises funds to support Masorti/Conservative programs in Israel in its over 60 Kehillot, its NOAM Youth Movement, Schechter Institute of Judaic Studies, The Conservative Yeshiva, TALI Enrichment School Programs, Kibbutz Hanaton, Bar/Bat Mitzvah for the Special Child, and many other programs throughout Israel. www.masorti.ca

**LESLIE MARMER**

*"I volunteer to give back to the community that has given so much to me already. I want to help ensure the future of the Conservative Movement. Helping today can build a stronger movement tomorrow."*

## Canadian Friends of Israel Elwyn

Canadian Friends of Israel Elwyn is a straight forward, dynamic and interactive organization that helps children in Israel who are challenged with Intellectual Disabilities. CFIE@IsraelElwyn.org.il

**ROBERT COHEN**

*"I've been honoured and privileged to be part of a very exciting Toronto based organization, under the leadership of Moshe Greengarten & David Marcu (Israel) for the past four years. Our fundraising initiatives in Canada are passionate, life changing and rewarding."*

## Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital

Serves over 250,000 people in Netanya, and is the only Israeli hospital with a no strike policy. Laniado's high standard of medicine is practiced with compassion and kindness. www.friends@laniado.ca

**ISRAEL WEINSTOCK z"l - FORMER TREASURER**

*"Sruli epitomized Chessed. His energetic commitment and dedication to Laniado and his involvement on the Canadian Friends Board, stemmed from his close relationship with the hospital's founder, the Sanz-Klausenburger Rebbe z"l, whose life-long objective was the enhancement of Chessed."*

## Canadian Friends of Yad Sarah

Israel's leading volunteer-staffed organization, providing a vital array of compassionate health and home care services for all ages. Yad Sarah's free services are delivered by over 6,000 volunteers in more than 100 branches and bring hope and help to the frail, elderly, the homebound, victims of terror attacks and children with special needs. www.yadsarah.org

**RUTH NADLER MORGENSTEIN**

*"I volunteer for Yad Sarah because as a Jew, my heart is in Israel, and as a Canadian I am fortunate to live a privileged life. As a Jew, Tikkun Olam is only natural."*

## Canadian Technion Society (CTS)

Celebrating almost 70 years in Canada, the Canadian Technion Society has operated in support of Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, acting to raise funds and friends in Canada for Technion, and to encourage interaction between educational institutions, university faculty members, and students in Canada and Technion. www.cdntech.org

**JACK BENSIMON**

*"Volunteering for CTS has blended interests including university education, technological innovation, Israel, and Jews serving mankind. Generation NEXT is establishing a new roster of successful leaders to represent Technion in creating awareness and fundraising initiatives."*

## Canadian Young Judaea

Young Judaea is built on a framework that emphasizes three core facets: peer leadership, political non-partisanship and religious pluralism. Within this framework our programs and activities focus on instilling our members with three core values: Judaism, Zionism and Jewish identity. www.youngjudaea.ca

**PHILIP BER**

*"It is tremendously rewarding being a part of Young Judaea and volunteering with an amazing group of dedicated people. As the Chairman of Canadian Young Judaea I am pleased to be able to give back to the organization/community which means a great deal to me and my family."*

## Chabad Lubavitch Friendship Circle

A youth oriented volunteer program that matches children with special needs and teenage mentors. The goal is to raise consciousness in the community and be of help to its special need population by providing regular opportunities for friendship as well as specific holiday programming for children. www.chabad.ca

**TAMARA WALL**

*"Volunteering for Friendship Circle has been a rewarding experience. This is my second year with my special buddy. He is non verbal which makes it difficult to bond with him, but I have managed to make that connection. I am grateful for this organization for giving me the opportunity to mentor a child with special needs and at the end of the day it has impacted my life in a positive way."*

## Chai -Tikvah Foundation*

To provide Jewish supportive residential options, programs, public education and advocacy, which will enhance the quality of life for individuals and families affected by mental health issues. www.chaitikvah.org

**RUDY SOLOMONVICI**

*"There are adult members of our community who are coping with mental health issues. I enjoy talking to the residents of our Homes, and getting ideas from them about how we can help them lead more independent lives. Based on these conversations, I bring suggestions to the Chai-Tikvah Foundation board meetings. It is an honour to be working with Chai-Tikvah, as they help these individuals by providing supportive housing for them."*

**"The Jewish people, ever since David slew Goliath, have never considered youth as a barrier to leadership."**

- President John F. Kennedy

* Denotes 2011-2012 partner agencies of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

## CHW Toronto Centre

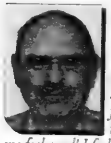
Canadian Hadassah-WIZO. CHW is a volunteer women's Zionist organization that provides support to enhance the lives of women, children and youth in Israel. In Canada, CHW supports educational projects and awareness of women's issues. www.chw.ca

**FRAN LUBORSKY**

*"I visited our projects in Israel as a Lapid representative in 2005. To witness firsthand the impact of our work, then to be sincerely thanked by so many, led me to become even more involved with CHW."*

## Circle of Care*

Supports individual independence and sustains and enhances quality of life in the community. www.circleofcare.com



**BARRY HOLTZKENER**

*"I volunteer with Circle of Care because I love the smiles I bring to our clients faces when I am delivering their meals. It just makes me feel good! I feel like I am part of a great team."*

## Darchei Noam Toronto's Reconstructionist Synagogue

Blends traditional Jewish practice with innovative forms of Jewish expression. It is a place where love of tradition and appreciation of change meet. Weekly Shabbat services provide a range of opportunities to experience prayer, study and artistic expression. www.darcheinoam.on.ca

**JANICE KEIL**

*"It is a tremendous honour to volunteer as Tu B'Shvat Coordinator at Congregation Darchei Noam. Volunteering offers me the opportunity to plant the seed of gratitude for all the blessings this incredible community has given me."*

## Downtown Jewish Community School* (DJCS)

Provides Jewish students with a basis for Jewish identity in a pluralistic community. Students are taught the concepts and skills necessary to live a Jewish life and to feel comfortable within a Jewish setting. www.djcs.org

**MARIANA CATZ**

*"I am passionate about the high quality Sunday Jewish education the Downtown Jewish Community School provides – egalitarian, pluralistic, valuing community over ideology. Ensuring DJCS sustainability is my mission - many of our children would not get any Jewish education if we were not here."*

* Denotes 2011-2012 partner agencies of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

## Emunah Toronto

A social service agency which provides sustenance, education and family counseling to needy and at-risk children and families in Israel, regardless of their religious affiliation. Through its vast network of over 250 social service and educational programs, Emunah provides care for approximately 8,000 children in over 135 day care centres and nurseries and educates more than 2,000 girls in 6 vocational and high schools. As well, Emunah supports 5 children's residential homes and youth villages which care for over 1,000 children coming from backgrounds of abuse, neglect and abandonment. www.emunahcanada.org

**MICHELLE FACTOR**

*"Volunteering for Emunah over the last several years has allowed me to combine my desire to assist families and children in crisis and my love for Israel. Kol Yisrael arevim zeh la-zeh."*

## First Narayever Congregation

To build a Kehila Kedosha, for the purposes of prayer and community activities, that is traditional, fully gender inclusive and active in *Tikkun Olam*. www.narayever.com

**ANDREA MOST**

*"I feel blessed to be a part of such a dynamic and progressive congregation and am particularly energized by the strong leadership role the First Narayever Congregation continues to play in the Jewish food movement."*

## Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

A human rights organization dedicated to supporting tolerance and social justice through advocacy and education. Programs are designed to counter racism and anti-Semitism, to foster an appreciation for Canadian democratic values, and to help make the world a better place. www.fswc.ca

**LINDA MILLER**

*"Because of its outstanding educational programs promoting tolerance and world peace, I am proud to be involved with FSWC, educating young people and giving them necessary tools to ensure a better world for all."*

## Friends of Yiddish

Promotes the preservation of Yiddish language and culture, and fosters its continued contribution to Jewish life. yiddish18@yahoo.ca

**HELEN SMOLKIN**

*"I am very proud to be surrounded by a dedicated Board of Directors and a growing membership who are committed to keeping the Yiddish language and culture alive. Our programs are of high caliber and rich in Yiddish content."*

## Habayit Shelanu Seniors Residences Corporation

A unique living environment designed and developed based on the recognition of the changing needs of older adults. The Corporation is committed to providing an environment that fosters a positive Jewish identity, and opportunities which facilitate the concept of aging in place. habayitshelanu@circleofcare.com

**JONAH PEARSON**

*"I have always been a person that feels giving back to the community is important. Habayit Shelanu offers me that opportunity. As a Chartered Accountant I am able to provide my expertise in responding to financial issues for the Board of Directors; as President of the Board I am honoured to offer direction in helping make Habayit Shelanu a great place to live."*

## Hillel of Greater Toronto*

Through exciting and creative programming and events, Hillel promotes Jewish identity, student leadership, and religious and political diversity in a dynamic and inclusive environment for all Jewish students. www.hilleltoronto.org

**BECA BOOKMAN**
**Hillel @ U of T – Israel Affairs – Gilad Shalit Campaign**

*"I volunteer for Hillel because it's my part of the community. Hillel has taught other students and myself, to be proud Jewish leaders and helped us make a meaningful impact on campus."*

**VANCE TURNER**
**Hillel @ U of T**

*"Hillel has helped me in the most positive of ways with my experience as a student at U of T and I believe that every Jewish student should be fortunate enough to experience what Hillel has to offer."*

**MITCH REISS**
**Hillel @ Ryerson University – Hillel President**

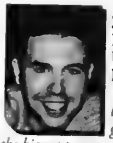
*"I volunteer for Hillel because of my passion for enhancing Jewish campus life. In addition I feel that it's important to create partnerships with other campus groups to improve the Ryerson community as a whole."*

**RUTH SHACH**
**Hillel @ York University – JLIC Media Board Member**

*"I know how much Hillel and JLIC saved my university experience when I was in my first year. I love my position because it lets me help other Jewish students who may be in the same situation."*

**KENNY MARIASIN**
**Hillel @ York University – Multi-faith Dialogue Coordinator**

*"I really like volunteering at Hillel because I'm proud to contribute to Jewish and Israeli events at York. Hillel was a way of making it a pleasure as a student and rewarding as a Jew."*



**ZACH LIKNAITZKY**
**Hillel @ York University – Hillel President**

*"I volunteer for Hillel because I want to try to give the Jewish community the biggest presence on campus as possible. As a CHAT grad, I am instilled with a great amount of Jewish pride, and I try to instill that in the students."*

## Holy Blossom Temple

A vibrant, liberal, religious synagogue community. www.holyblossom.org

**PHYLLIS CINCINATUS**

*"Volunteering at Holy Blossom Temple is my voice in the temple community and the best way to ensure that in some way my vision of what my congregation can be may be realised."*

## Israel Cancer Research Fund

The Israel Cancer Research Fund continues to be one of the largest sources of private funds for innovative cancer research in Israel. ICRF has contributed more than $43 million US for over 1,850 research grants involving all major hospitals, universities and cancer research projects throughout Israel. The results of ICRF's research have a significant impact in Toronto, across Canada, and throughout the world. www.icrf.ca

**KYLE LICHTMAN**

*"As a Young Professional, volunteering with Israel Cancer Research Fund is truly inspiring. ICRF not only has a large investment in fighting cancer, but also in the development of its "Next Generation" of leaders. Revolving Tables, ICRF's premier networking event, allows Young Professionals to support a great cause, while simultaneously enabling participants to enhance their networking opportunities. To have been part of the creation of this trailblazing event was a privilege and volunteering with ICRF is rewarding on many levels. I am very thankful to be associated with such a great cause."*

**"Do not separate yourself from the Community."**

- Pirke Avot

## JACS Toronto*

An organization led by volunteers dedicated to encouraging and assisting alcoholics, chemically dependent persons and their families, friends and associates to explore recovery in a nurturing Jewish environment. Provides support for Jews in recovery and is an information resource on the effects that alcoholism and drug dependency have on Jewish Family life. www.jacstoronto.org

**COURTNEY SAS**
*"JACS values every human life and places no judgment on the severity of one's drug or alcohol problem. When individuals and their families reach to JACS for help they are treated with dignity, respect and hope."*

## Jewish Canadian Military Museum*

Preserves our history and educates the public about the Jewish role in Canada's military. arwings1@rogers.com

**ERIC LEVINE**
*"Through volunteering, I have the opportunity to make people aware that Canadian Jews served courageously in Canada's military since Confederation. Canadian Jewish men and women contributed to securing freedom and peace."*

## Jewish Family & Child*

Supporting the healthy development of individuals, families and communities in Greater Toronto Area through prevention, protection, counseling, education and advocacy services, within the context of Jewish values. www.jfandcs.com

**HANNAH SAMUELS & STEPHANIE BERGMAN**
*"We started a school-wide program, giving students the opportunity to volunteer at The Just-A-Second Shop. We have gained so much from the experience and look forward to continue working alongside Jewish Family & Child."*

## Jewish Family & Child – Chaplaincy Services*

Supporting the healthy development of individuals, families and communities in the Greater Toronto area through prevention, protection, counseling, education and advocacy services, within the context of Jewish values. www.jfandcs.com

**DANIELLA SELTZER**
*"I enjoy visiting the old age home, since I love listening to their life stories. It does not feel like "volunteering" as I have so much fun.... I am grateful to them for enriching me."*

## Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)

To stimulate interest in the pursuit of Jewish genealogical research; To facilitate the pursuit of Jewish genealogical research locally and globally; To provide an environment for fellowship and mutual exchange among persons with an interest in Jewish genealogy. www.jgstoronto.ca

**SHELLEY STILLMAN**
*"Developing our website allowed me to utilize my strengths as well as learn new skills. Our website provides community members access to our calendar, indexed issues of our newsletter and links to genealogical resources."*

## JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto*

Welcomes, supports and integrates new immigrants today to build a strong Canada and a strong Jewish community of tomorrow. www.jiastoronto.org

**DR. CHAIM BELL**
*"I volunteer at JIAS Toronto because immigration is a stressful event. Helping and supporting someone to gain employment, particularly in their profession or a related field can aid in integrating them and their family successfully."*

## JVS Toronto*

Working in strong partnership with government and business for over 60 years to assist people to achieve their educational and employment potential. www.jvstoronto.org

**SUSAN FREMES**
*"I volunteer for JVS because I believe wholeheartedly in its mission and values and because it is so effective in fulfilling its mission. It is a privilege to work with JVS staff and my fellow volunteers. I get back far more than I give."*

## Jewish War Veterans of Canada - Toronto Region

The Jewish War Veterans of Canada are citizens, residents and landed immigrants of Jewish faith who served in the wars of Canada and/or its allies, who have formed an association in order to be of greater service to our country and to one another. jwvc@ujafed.org

**JACK CAHAN**
*"I enjoy participating in the activities of the organization and promoting the ideals to be achieved. It provides me gratification to contribute in a positive manner."*

## Jews for Judaism*

Dedicated to counteracting the multi-million dollar efforts of numerous cults and missionary groups that target Jews for conversion, offering an extensive variety of preventive education programs, materials and specialized counseling services that keep Jews Jewish. www.jewsforjudaism.org

**LAUREN ISSACS**
*"Working to bring Jewish souls back to Judaism was a wonderful way to serve my community and it was done from my heart."*

## Kehilla Residential Programme*

Identifies and champions affordable housing initiatives responsive to the needs of the Jewish community. The agency's mandate is fulfilled through research and education, project sponsorship, development consultation and property management. www.kehilla.ca

**PAUL SOLOMONS**
*"I thank Kehilla for the opportunity to give back to our community. I am grateful for the knowledge and experience gained by working in the Real Estate and Development industries and am proud to make a difference."*

## Kehillat Shaarei Torah of Toronto

Provides a synagogue guided by and adhering to the standards of Halacha. Provides services, study and activities of a variety of levels. It provides an atmosphere that is welcoming and comfortable and can be a platform for growth. www.shaareitorah.com

**DARYL BEBER**
*"Giving back is a value I hold very dear and one way I can say thank you to my synagogue community is by giving of my time and energy to help this wonderful community."*

## Koffler Centre of the Arts

Canada's only multidisciplinary, contemporary Jewish cultural institution presenting cutting-edge exhibitions of new Canadian and international art, and diverse programs in dance, literature, film, spoken word and theatre. The Koffler fosters arts education, engaging artists to teach students of all ages and stages. Based on the Sherman Campus, The Koffler Centre of the Arts also presents programs and exhibitions throughout Toronto and the GTA. www.kofflerarts.org

*The Koffler Centre of the Arts thanks its many volunteer who, over the years, have helped us serve the Jewish community with cultural programs of excellence.*

## L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women

Offers confidential peer support to Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment with an understanding of both the cancer experience and issues specific to Jewish women. In addition, L'Chaim is committed to raising cancer awareness through educational programs for both its members and the community. lchaim@ncjwc-ts.org

**BEVERLY GIBLON**
*"It has been my privilege to volunteer with L'Chaim for the past 10 years as a telephone buddy and ongoing friend, providing comfort, support, and encouragement to Jewish women diagnosed with and treated for cancer."*

## Limmud Toronto

A unique opportunity to explore and celebrate the many paths of Jewish learning – a true Learningfest! Volunteers, participants and educators are from across the Jewish spectrum and from all age groups. From the secular to the modern orthodox, all are invited. Diverse, dynamic, empowering, participatory-Limmud will take you one step further on your Jewish journey. www.limmud.ca

**HILARY EDWARDS**
*"I volunteer for the privilege of playing an active role in this volunteer-driven organization and its dynamic team, and for the satisfaction of giving and making a small difference in my community."*

## MAON NOAM Jewish Cultural and Educational Network

Created for helping immigrant families with no knowledge of their Jewish heritage, mainly Russian-speaking Jews from the former Soviet Union, to embrace Judaism, and for assisting in their integration into the Jewish community. www.maonnoam.ca

**DEVORA FLISFEDER & RAISA PLOTS**
*"We were influenced by our upbringing and from our families to help others. At Maon Noam we felt welcomed by its warm hemishe atmosphere and by the Rabbi's enthusiasm for Judaism."*

* Denotes 2011-2012 partner agencies of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

## MAZON Canada

Raises funds primarily from within the Jewish community and distributes them, on a non-denominational basis, to Canadian organizations battling hunger on the front lines. Based on the tradition of *tikkun olam*, the organization strives to link public awareness about the issue of poverty and hunger with the mitzvah of tzedakah. www.mazoncanada.ca

**JANET RYVAL**

*"In the few hours that I spend each week at MAZON, I am making a contribution towards feeding the hungry across this country as well as supporting the commitment of the Jewish community."*

## MERCAZ - Canada

The Zionist voice of Conservative Judaism within the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Canadian Zionist Federation. A grassroots membership organization, lobbying on behalf of religious pluralism and recognition of Conservative Masorti Judaism in Israel. www.mercaz.ca

**JOSH SEED**

*"MERCAZ-Canada's commitment to Zionism and religious pluralism are both values at the core of my beliefs. It is important that these ideals are upheld and that is why I choose to volunteer for this organization."*

## Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre*

Dedicated to serving the community's cultural, educational and recreational needs of downtown Toronto. Its programs and services are guided by Jewish values and are open to all, regardless of race, ethnic origin, or religious affiliation. www.mnjcc.org

*"The Miles Nadal JCC would like to thank all the volunteers who have been through our doors and have given selflessly of their time and talent. You truly make a difference."*

## Mosaic Outdoor Club of Ontario

A volunteer-run, non-profit Jewish organization that offers a diverse range of physical activities, emphasizing the outdoors and respect for the environment. Events are held in group settings with a focus on fun and social interaction. www.mosaictoronto.org

**ALYSA POSTER**

*"I love exploring the great outdoors and being active. Volunteering with Mosaic has allowed me to pursue this love, develop new skills, and work with wonderful people giving back to our community."*

## Mount Sinai Hospital

A world-class health care facility discovering and delivering the best in patient care, research and education with the heart and values true to our heritage. www.mtsinai.on.ca

**NATALIE FREEDMAN**

*"Having volunteered at Mount Sinai Hospital for over 26 years, I find working in the Recovery Room a very rewarding experience. It makes me realize how fortunate I am, and that I am doing something helpful and fulfilling."*

## National Council of Jewish Women of Canada – Toronto Section

A non-profit organization committed to enhancing the lives of individuals within our community and in the broader multi-cultural community through education, service and social action. www.ncjwtoronto.org

**HAYLEY MORRIS & DARA NATHANSON RONEN**

*"The ability to 'Pay it Forward' and help others in need is an important character trait that we are fortunate to have and to pass on to our children."*

## Netivot HaTorah Day School*

An Orthodox Jewish Day School striving for excellence in a full program of Judaic and General Studies, incorporating the Zioni Dati philosophy and Halacha and Halachic principles. www.netivot.com

**DIKLA WEITZNER & SARI WEINBERGER**

*"Being part of Netivot HaTorah's Mitzvah Monday program allows us to experience the core Jewish value of Chessed, kindness, with our children and always giving back."*

## One Family Fund

Provides direct financial, legal and emotional support to the thousands of victims of terror in Israel on a daily basis. It is at the forefront in providing long-term support for physical and emotional health, education, housing, income maintenance and other needs. www.onefamilyfund.ca

**JULIE SCHWARTZ**

*"Israeli victims of terror taught me how to 'cry with one eye and smile with the other'; and I have learned how valuable it is to be able to pay it forward."*

## ORT Toronto

Our mission is to work for the advancement of people through training and education; providing the skills and knowledge necessary to cope with their environment; foster economic self sufficiency; an "Education for Life." www.ort-toronto.org

**JANIS FINKELSTEIN**

*"Learning and teaching has been key in my life. ORT gives the opportunity to see disadvantaged children receive access to learning through advanced technology. I realized we can make a difference in a child's life."*

## Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School*

Committed to academic excellence in a dynamic, supportive environment with a distinctive program that integrates Judaic and General studies while encouraging artistic expression and social action as tools for learning. www.djds.ca

**ELIZABETH MIZIOLEK**

*"The family ambiance of warmth and cooperation inspired me to get involved six years ago. I don't have words to describe the feeling of satisfaction I get feeding the children of my PPDJDS friends and families."*

## Prosserman JCC*

The Prosserman JCC fosters and enriches Jewish identity and builds community through Health and Wellness, recreation, education and culture, social experiences, and a strong connection to Israel. We welcome everyone and share the richness and traditions of Jewish culture with the community-at-large. www.prossermanjcc.com

**LIL GOLDMAN z"l & ED YUDITSKY z"l**

*For over 30 years as a volunteer, Lil z"l brought the joy of art to her devoted students. Ed z"l was not only a committed volunteer for over 30 years at the Bathurst JCC and then the Prosserman JCC, but also an ambassador for both centres. They will be dearly missed, but never forgotten.*

## REENA*

Enables people with developmental handicaps to realize their full potential by forming life-long partnerships with individuals and their families within a framework of Jewish culture and values. www.reena.org

**LEA KRONENBERG**

*"I have admired the staff and volunteers of REENA for many years, and I'm pleased to be one of them. It is true that there is no greater feeling than the one of helping others."*

## Schwartz/Reisman Centre*

Committed to developing a vibrant community in York Region, characterized by diversity, unity, compassion, generosity and commitment to Israel and Jewish values. It enriches lives, provides opportunities for social, cultural, spiritual, educational and physical activities. Open to people of all ages and backgrounds, it is a place that is welcoming, accessible and inclusive www.srcentre.ca

**SARA DOBNER**

*"Volunteering for SRC to strengthen Israeli/Jewish identity and the mutual understanding between Israelis and Canadian Jews has been rewarding. I believe Israelis should play a central role in bringing different perspectives of Israel to Jews/gentiles."*

## Shaar Shalom Synagogue

A multi-generational and welcoming conservative traditional congregation with youthful energy and a strong sense of community. Members and non-members alike both enjoy a true family atmosphere while attending Shaar Shalom for either religious or communal events. www.shaarshalom.ca

**JANICE SHACHTER**

*"Shaar Shalom is my family, my home away from home. I'll continue to promote our fabulous services and programming for all ages as my way of saying thanks to our wonderful clergy, staff and volunteers."*

## Shaarei Shomayim Congregation

A modern orthodox centre of Jewish life which provides the means for the fulfillment of religious, educational and social needs and which seeks to inspire the community to greater commitments to Torah, the Jewish people and the State of Israel. www.shomayim.org

**BEV LYONS**

*"Thank you Bev for your whole hearted commitment and support to Shaarei Shomayim. You spearheaded the fundraising, led the flood emergency and restoration efforts and assumed endless responsibilities. You epitomize the volunteerism that makes our Synagogue so special."*

**"...the greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more."**

- Dr. Jonas Salk

* Denotes 2011-2012 partner agencies of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

## TanenbaumCHAT*

Striving for excellence in all aspects of education, TanenbaumCHAT provides each student with a Judaic and General Studies education in a co-educational pluralistic community setting.
www.tanenbaumchat.org

**LEANNE MATLOW**

*"As a mother, I have experienced the excellence of TanenbaumCHAT. I am proud to volunteer in my current roles of vice president and chair of the Together Campaign – which will modernize the Wallenberg Campus."*

## Temple Emanu-El

A Reform congregation committed to perpetuating Judaism within the home and the synagogue through worship and study. We emphasize the celebration of Shabbat, Jewish Holy Days, and life-cycle events through innovative and diverse programming within a caring and supportive community.
www.templeemanuel.ca

**MARILYN NEFSKY**

*"It is gratifying to participate in the development of the excellent adult education programming at Temple Emanu-El, and to organize the Spring and Fall Lecture Series that have become so popular in the community."*

## Temple Har Zion

An intimate, caring, inclusive and vibrant community for Reform Jewish worship, learning and personal growth. Dynamic religious and hebrew education programs offer a wide range of spiritual and educational experiences that meet the needs of each and every student. We offer a wide variety of programs to engage and enrich the knowledge of our adult members as well. www.templeharzion.com

**DEBBY KAPLAN**

*"Growing up in a small Jewish community, my parents taught me the importance of being an active participant. With pleasure, along with my husband, children and grandchildren, we carry on this family value."*

**" One glorious chain of life, of giving and receiving, unites all creatures."**

- Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch

## The Association for the Soldiers of Israel – Canada

The only non-profit organization in Canada that supports Israeli soldiers on active duty, partnered with the Aguda Lemaan Hachayal. Funds social, education and recreational programs to ease the burdens faced by young soldiers on duty, their loved ones and, when the unfortunate need arises, their survivors.
www.asicanada.org

**NELLY ZAGDANSKI, SARA ZAGDANSKI BETH SINGER & KATY KORMAN**

*"By supporting these brave young men and women as they defend Israel's borders, keeping its citizens and our homeland safe, we send them the vital and heart-warming message that they never stand alone."*

## The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation

The Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem is known as the "Hospital with a Heart" for its century-long reputation for treating patients rather than just their illnesses. The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation allows supporters to connect to a meaningful cause in Israel and the good work that is being done in the Hospital on a larger scale, to the ideologies it represents: compassion for all human life, no matter the race, religion or political views.
www.hospitalwithaheart.ca

**PHILIP BLACK**

*"Our premature daughter received wonderful care at the hospital, so I decided to give back. Being a volunteer for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem has made a positive impact on my life. Time is your most precious commodity – so give a gift that makes a difference."*

## The House

Reaches out to young Jewish adults and inspires them to lead enriched Jewish lives by engaging them socially, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually. Ultimately, to lay the foundation for their life time commitment to Jewish values, ethics, traditions, mitzvot and community.
www.thehousetoronto.com

**ARON LEIBTAG**

*"Seeing 20 to 30 year olds taking time out of their very busy schedule and engage in programming that provides a Jewish lens to help think through this monumental phase in their life gives me tremendous reassurance and hope on the future strength of our community."*

## The Jerusalem Foundation of Canada

A non-profit organization devoted to raising the quality of life for all citizens of Jerusalem regardless of various backgrounds. The Foundation supports education, culture, community services and preservation of the city's historic heritage and religious sites.
www.jerusalemfoundation.org

**MELANIE SIEGEL**

*"I welcome the opportunity to bring together artists and patrons and to assist in raising funds for the advancement of young adults at the Canada House community centre in Jerusalem."*

## The Leo Baeck Day School *

A reform Jewish day school where families, professionals and Board members strive together to create a child-centred learning environment in which each student experiences a multi-faceted educational program. Our students are prepared to be practicing liberal Jews and to participate effectively in a complex, ever-changing Canadian society. www.leobaeck.ca

**JORDAN ROBINS**

*"I volunteer because my parents instilled in me the importance of giving back to your community. I want to impart that lesson to my children. The 90,000 square foot campus is adjacent to Cedarvale Park, and will be a world-class institution and a model for Jewish education."*

## Tiferes Bais Yaakov*

Instills the joy and excitement of Yiddishkeit and a deep understanding of, and commitment to, Torah, Mitzvos, Middos Tovos, and Ahavas Yisroel in all students so that they are fully equipped to function successfully in today's society and become contributing members of their community and Klal Yisroel. www.tiferesbaisyaakow.com

**DAVID KLEIN**

*"Volunteering is my way of showing Hakaras Hatov to Tiferes Bais Yaakov for imparting the joy of learning in a positive atmosphere to my daughters."*

**"Do not separate yourself from the Community."**

- Pirke Avot

## Torah High – Jewish Literacy Foundation*

Torah High provides meaningful and engaging Jewish learning experiences for teens, encouraging connections to the Jewish community, incorporating Jewish knowledge and values in student's daily lives, strengthening a positive Jewish identity. All of Torah High's courses are fully accredited by the Ontario Ministry of Education.
www.torahhigh.org

**HESHI KUHNREICH**

*"I volunteer at Torah High because it allows me to make the greatest impact possible on Jewish teenagers. I have been fortunate to witness the impact as they learn what it really means to be Jewish. I am honoured and privileged to be a part of Torah High."*

## Torah in Motion (TiM)

Dedicated to exploring the intellectual richness and spiritual depths of Judaism, we create a framework for dialogue among Jews of all ages and backgrounds. Together with some of our Jewish world's best leadership, program participants examine today's challenging issues.
www.torahinmotion.org

**JACK SAMUEL**

*"TiM has created a nexus between Torah study and the understanding of traditional Jewish law with contemporary modern, often controversial issues."*

## Jewish Free Loan Toronto*

Provides interest-free loans to members of the Jewish community for personal, educational and economic opportunity Start-Up Business needs.
www.jewishfreeloan.ca

**BARBARA BARAK**

*"As someone who received support from our community growing up, I am now able to help others through volunteering. Free Loan's commitment to helping with dignity inspires me to contribute my skills to this organization."*

## United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Our kehillot create the conditions for a vibrant Jewish life, empowering Jews in North America to seek the presence of God, to seek meaning in Torah and mitzvot, to engage with Israel, and to improve the world and the Jewish people. www.uscj.org

**ANDY PASCOE**

*"I believe it's very important that Jewish teens have opportunities to meet, attend fun social programs and conventions, do great community service work, take advantage of amazing summer travel experiences, and celebrate their Judaism together."*

* Denotes 2011-2012 partner agencies of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

# UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

*Committed to preserving and strengthening the quality of Jewish life in Greater Toronto, Canada, Israel and around the world through philanthropic, volunteer and professional leadership. www.jewishtoronto.com*

## Ve'ahavta : The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee

Ve'ahavta is a Canadian humanitarian and relief organization motivated by the Jewish value of tzedakah. We assist the needy at home and abroad through volunteerism, education, health and healing and acts of kindness while building bridges between Jews and other people. www.veahavta.org

**MIRANDA CHUNG**

*"Ve'ahavta has allowed volunteers like me to recognize the importance of tikkun olam, repairing the world, through local and international activities. They value tzedakah, justice, by acts of volunteerism – something that is passionate to me and supports communities."*

## Yaldeinu

An international charitable organization dedicated to preserving the traditions and ideals of Judaism by providing formal and informal education to a myriad of Jewish children in developing countries and Israel. Headquartered in Toronto, Yaldeinu's activities are divided into two categories: Jewish day school education and Jewish camping. With a strong sense of Zionism fuelling Yaldeinu's mandate, the organization raises funds for distribution in the form of scholarships and camperships. www.yaldeinu.org

**ROMY PILARSKI**

*"I volunteer for Yaldeinu because I believe that every Jewish child around the world deserves a Jewish education and an opportunity to be an integral part of continuing the legacy of the Jewish people."*

## Zareinu Educational Centre of Metropolitan Toronto*

A dynamic day school and treatment centre for children facing physical and developmental challenges, and their families. Zareinu is unique. It is the only centre that provides both therapeutic and special educational supports all under one roof. Zareinu's team of special educators and therapists work cooperatively, in a safe, comfortable and enthusiastic learning environment, rich in Jewish tradition and teachings. www.zareinu.org

**ELI MARDER & BEN STERN**

*"When considering how we could give back to our community we realized that it would be most fulfilling for us to do something for children that are not always able to do things for themselves. That's why we volunteer for Zareinu."*

## United Jewish Appeal of Greater Toronto Annual Campaign

**CAROLE GRUSON & CHARLES GOLDBERG**

*"We are dedicated to giving back to our community and by volunteering for UJA along with their incredible staff, we know we are helping those in need where it counts, both locally and in Israel."*

## Community Connect

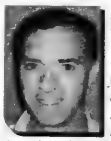
A network of dynamic twenty and thirty year olds who are passionate about building a Jewish community that is meaningful and relevant. www.cocotoronto.com

**EHREN GLUCKSTEIN**

*"The MIT-Israel program is about connecting young Jewish Adults with the Jewish Community. Although our grandparents created this community because they had to; we're creating the desire for young people to sustain it – something that my Birthright Israel experience did for me!"*

## Israeli Outreach Team

Developing the future of the Israeli-Toronto community.



**RAN MESTERMAN**

*"I volunteer to give back to my community. I feel proud to be part of a vibrant community. Israelis have great value in strengthening ties with Israel and the local community. Together we make a difference."*

## Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto

Reaches out to individuals and community organizations and serves as a link and point of access to Jewish community life in the Greater Toronto Area. *PJ Library in York Region* is part of an international, award-winning initiative focusing on increasing levels of affiliation in young Jewish families with children 6 months to 5 ½ years old. www.jewishtoronto.com

**ELISA MORTON PALTER**

*"PJ Library combines the things I love most: Jewish community, kids/family and books, doing it in a way that materially changes lives. How often do you get a chance to be involved in something like that?"*

## Makom Shinshinim

The UJA Makom Young Emissary Program brings young Israeli emissaries to Toronto to present a personal and relevant Israel to our community. In the 2011-2012 year, there are 13 young emissaries in over 20 schools, synagogues, youth movements, and camps. They reach about Israel informally through stimulating programs, lessons, discussions, and activities, all bringing an authentic experience of Israel to a large range of members in our community.

*"We volunteer in Toronto because the Israel-Diaspora relationship is important to us. We are the face of Israel to many members of the community, and we love to share about our experiences growing up in Israel. In Toronto we have found another family; even though we are far from home, Toronto for us has become a second home."*

## Ontario Jewish Archives

Established in 1973, the OJA is responsible for acquiring, preserving and making available documentary sources related to the Ontario Jewish community. www.ontariojewisharchives.org

**LES SINGER, DR. SYD WISE, BUNNY BERGSTEIN, HARRY LEWIN, NANCY DRAPER & JUDI GHERT**

*These 6 volunteers, 3 of whom are WWII veterans, have devoted a combined total of 73 years to the OJA's goal of preserving the history of our Jewish Community, an extraordinary example to all.*

## Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre

Through education and remembrance, the Centre safeguards the lessons of the Holocaust in order to nurture an inclusive society. As custodians of memory, the Centre is dedicated to preserving the past, honouring the legacies of those who survived, and educating future generations. www.holocaustcentre.com

**ANNETTE METZ-PIVNICK**

*"I volunteer because it is a rewarding and life enriching experience. It is a privilege to support Holocaust survivors in our community and to honour their legacy. I have established wonderful relationships with many like-minded community members and with a group of focused and passionate professionals. It is an obligation to ensure that the dangers of intolerance are never forgotten. I am most grateful for this opportunity."*

## Women's Philanthropy – Fashion Conscience

Inspired by the Jewish traditions of tzedakah and *tikkun olam* – social justice and repairing the world. It provides opportunities for every woman to take a stand on issues that affect her community, and to inspire other Jewish women by example. When you educate a woman, you educate her entire family.

**JENNIFER GROSSMAN & JENNIFER BRODLIEB**

*"It has been an amazing experience working with the families participating in this UJA/JIAS program. It is a mitzvah for everyone involved to be able to open their hearts and homes to help provide a welcoming place for newcomers who have joined our growing vibrant Jewish community."*

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

* Denotes 2011-2012 partner agencies of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

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## This Week

National

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**Seminar links** antisemitism with anti-Zionism. *Page 12*

Arts

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Heebonics

**Amanda Day,** comedian by night. *Page 42*

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# Festival to celebrate Jewish life in Morocco

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

An unprecedented Canadian Jewish cultural event under the patronage of the King of Morocco will celebrate 2,000 years of Jewish life in Morocco, as well as 50 years of Canadian-Moroccan diplomatic relations.

The president of the newly established Communaute Juive Marocaine de Toronto (CJMT), Simon Keslassy, said he is thrilled to be joining with Toronto's Sephardi synagogues to present the weeklong festival which opens June 4.

Keslassy, who is part of the 16,000-strong Moroccan-Jewish community in Toronto, said Jews have maintained good relations with the largely Muslim country decades after emigrating.

"Morocco is the only country in the Arab world that recognizes Jews as Moroccan citizens," he said, adding that there are still Toronto Jews from Morocco who collect pensions from their homeland.

"That's why we have such good relations, and it is the only Arab country that does that... It was also the first country in the Arab world that recognized the Shoah."

He said King Mohammed VI met with the president of the Jewish community in Morocco last year and pledged to finance the restoration of the old cemeteries when many *tzaddikim* are buried.

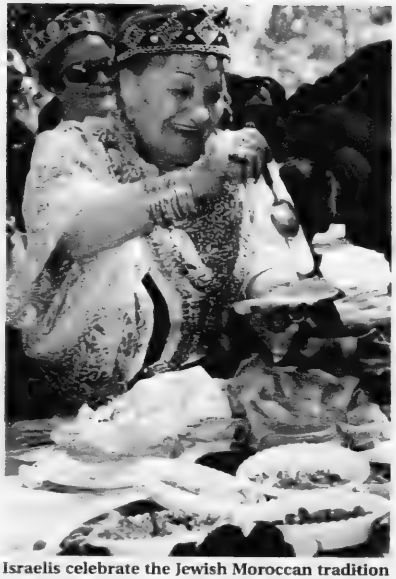
"That's another reason we're so grateful," Keslassy said.

When he was approached by the Moroccan Embassy in Ottawa about organizing an event to celebrate the thriving relationship, Keslassy was eager to do his part.

Throughout the months-long process of organizing and programming the festival, he said he developed a rapport with the Moroccan ambassador in Ottawa, Nouzha Chekrouni.

"She's a tremendous woman," he said.

**Continued on page 5**



**Israelis celebrate the Jewish Moroccan tradition of Mimouna in Sacher Park in Jerusalem. As part of the festival celebrating Moroccan-Jewish culture in Toronto, an exhibit will present a traditional Mimouna.** [*Flash90 photo*]

# *Victory paddle*

**Dragon Boat Israel held its first ever race and festival May 18 on the Sea of Galilee. Thirty-nine teams with more than 900 paddlers took part. Twenty teams were Israeli and 19 were from abroad, hailing from Canada, the United States, the Netherlands, Italy, Australia and Taiwan. The winning team was Tailgaters from Canada, followed by Ohalo College (Israel), L'Chaim on the Mayim (Canada), Degania Bet (Israel) and Kinneret College (Israel).** *Please see related story on 39.* [*Dror Miler photo*]

**Naso**
**Candlelighting: 8:34**
**Havdalah: 9:38**
*Greater Toronto Area*

**This issue of The CJN went to press on Friday, May 25.**

## CANADA

### Jews Honoured

**OTTAWA** — Three Jews were named to the Order of Canada on May 25, while two others were promoted within the order. Philanthropist and businessman Lawrence Bloomberg of Toronto, along with Ronald Caplan, publisher of *Cape Breton's Magazine* in Sydney, N.S., and diabetes researcher and clinician Dr. Bernard Zinman of Toronto are now members of the order. Philanthropist and businessman Jeff Skoll and Toronto pediatrician Alvin Zipursky were promoted to officers of the order.

### Funding Opposed

**TORONTO** — City council's $123,000 grant to Pride Toronto was approved by the city's economic development committee last week, but councillors are expecting heated debate about the grant at June's city council meeting because the group Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA) wants to take part in the annual Pride Parade. Mayor Rob Ford has said council shouldn't give Pride money if QuAIA marches in the parade, and centrist councillor Josh Colle said last week he agrees. Coun. James Pasternak said he expects a motion to come before council that withholds funding until after the festival, subject to conditions. QuAIA sat out last year's parade in response to controversy over its plans to march, after having marched in previous years.

## WORLD

### Landa Honoured

**HAIFA** — Benny Landa, who grew up in Edmonton but in 1977 started a pioneering laser printing company in Israel that he later sold to Hewlett-Packard, will be awarded an honorary doctorate June 3 by the University of Haifa. Landa was born to Holocaust survivors in 1946 and the family came to Canada a short time later. After moving to Israel at age 30, he founded Indigo, which he later sold to HP. He then set up the Landa Corporation and has contributed money to the university to set up scholarships for underprivileged students.

### Yemenite Jew Killed

**SANAA** — A leader of Yemen's Jewish community was stabbed to death at a market in the capital Sanaa. The victim, identified in news reports as Harun Yusuf Zindani, 50, reportedly was stabbed in the neck and stomach. He died May 22. His Muslim assailant reportedly accused him of casting a spell on him and ruining him. Some 200 to 300 Jews still live in Yemen, down from a high of 60,000. Most live in Sanaa in government housing after being evacuated from other areas of Yemen over fear for their safety. Jewish Agency for Israel chairman Natan Sharansky said Zindani was murdered for being Jewish. A Yemenite Jew was killed in Yemen in December 2008 by a Muslim man who ordered Jews to convert or be killed. The killer was sentenced to death.

## Azrieli Foundation Gives YU $10 Million

David Azrieli

**NEW YORK** — The Azrieli Foundation made a $10-million donation to Yeshiva University in honour of foundation founder David Azrieli's 90th birthday.

The donation, the largest in the foundation's history, will go to the university's Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. Azrieli, a Montrealer, said May 3.

The $10 million will be used mainly to offer scholarships to the school and help attract more men and women to the field of Jewish education.

"Seeing young people graduate from this school and move on to teach Judaism to the next generation has been one of my father's greatest joys," said his daughter, Naomi Azrieli, who chairs the foundation.

Azrieli, who escaped the Nazis and landed in pre-state Israel in 1942, has been a YU trustee since 1987. He studied at YU for a year.

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# Jamaican Jews fight to save historic shul

The Shaare Shalom United Congregation of Israelites in Jamaica

**David Grossman**
Special to The CJN

Wilfred "Willy" Lindo remembers growing up Jewish in Jamaica.

Things have changed since Lindo, the oldest of eight brothers, each a year apart, decided at the age of 19 to leave home and move to Toronto to live with his uncle in 1966.

"Had my bar mitzvah in Jamaica – that was something special, and when I went back for a family function a few months ago, there was this overwhelming feeling that hit me after walking in to the synagogue – I was home again," recalled Lindo, a retired accountant who now spends some of his time playing piano in various senior citizen homes.

Known for its sandy white beaches and as a haven for many Canadians in the winter months, Jamaica is also home to a Jewish population that at one time was believed to be greater than 5,000, but has since dwindled to about 200 people.

Lindo said there is also great concern about what lies ahead, since there's an aging population, growing intermarriage and younger families moving to the mainland. Caring for the cemeteries, some in urgent need of repair, is another issue.

And there are more worries among Jamaican-born Jews now in Canada and the United States about the future of the one remaining synagogue on the island – one that is Reform in outlook, but a mixture of Conservative and Orthodox in tradition.

With the influx of Jews to Jamaica in the 17th century, several synagogues were constructed in Montego Bay, Spanish Town and Kingston. It's believed that in 1692, Port Royal housed the first of seven Jamaican synagogues. All but one, were destroyed by earthquakes and hurricanes.

**Continued on page 15**

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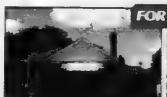
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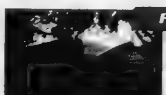
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# Getting to know Jerusalem

*From the editor's desk...*

It's late May in Jerusalem. The weather is hot during the day and distinctly cooler in the evening. The sun warms and brightens. And the light at any moment during the sun's pleasant shine from the sky is brighter, clearer and somehow more illuminating to a degree that we seldom see in Montreal or Toronto.

The quality of the light in Jerusalem is one of the first things that a visitor notices about this remarkable city. The diversity of the many people who walk its streets is another.

Israelis themselves are a vastly diverse people, the blended beauty over generations of men and women who arrived here long ago or recently from almost every land on Earth.

And then there are the tourists. Tourists throng through the streets in highly visible formations like a reverse flow of lava seeking the highest, holiest spots for their ardour to cool.

They, too, come from all over the world, from every continent, speaking every language, seeking secrets, truths, fun, famous backdrops to lifelong souvenir photographs, or simply, the fulfilment of a curiosity.

Jerusalem is indeed one of the most widely imagined, obsessively sought, unique places and inspiring destinations in the world.

Thus, it is important to know Jerusalem. It is both an idea and a place.

The western literary canon, which has helped form our moral sensibilities and cultural guideposts, is quite familiar with Jerusalem as an idea.

Founded upon the Hebrew prophets' vision of an ideal society, whose hallmarks are mutual caring, mutual respect and mutual aid, the word "Jerusalem" was always an ideal for human striving. Even the late Belgian singer and songwriter, Jacques Brel, affirmed this notion of the place as an ideal when he wrote, "If we only have love, then Jerusalem stands."

But Jerusalem is also, we must remember, where some 750,000 people make their day-to-day lives in widely varying degrees of difficulty or ease, raise families, work, play and call home. It is thus in this sense, a city like every other city, where human beings reside, get along, clash, help one another, dine in, dine out, clean the streets, dirty them, collect the garbage, make more garbage, curse the traffic, curse the tax collector and curse the government.

But even more so.

For it is, after all, Jerusalem!

It is no exaggeration to write that Jerusalem is a highly kinetic place. One cannot avoid being caught up in movement in all paces, by large or small groups, by individuals silently steeped in private thought or loudly berating a friend or colleague who is not there.

The most kinetic place within this already highly kinetic city may be the Western Wall.

People visit the Wall at all hours of the day and night. Some come to the hoary, old stones out of religious need. Some come out of curiosity. Some come with expectations already formed. Some come as blank slates. Some come with a smile; others with a tear. But all who come do so with an abiding respect for the sanctity of the place

Some come to pray at the Western Wall when the very first light of day appears in the eastern sky far beyond the high stones of the ancient Wall.

Apparently, the custom of praying at the first light of dawn is a very old one, even recorded long ago in the pages of the Gemara.

Ashkenazi Jews refer to the practice as *vatikin*. It most likely takes its name from the fact that it was probably the older men, the seniors in the community (the *vatikim*) who left their homes still in the dark of predawn night to attend prayers with the first sparkle of light.

In the Sephardi world, the practice of assembling to pray immediately before the sun rises is called praying with the *netz*, the shard-like sharp filament of first sunlight.

Sometimes so many people, mostly men, gather for the *vatikin* service at the Western Wall that more than one minyan is davening simultaneously. There is no discernible order to the arrangement of people praying or leading the various discrete services.

It soon becomes a cacophony of disparate voices, accents, styles of prayer and pronunciations. Yet somehow, miraculously, out of the clamour of sounds and tumult of emotions all the minyanim arrive at the central *Amidah* prayer at the same time, and a stark, deep, profound silence envelopes the entirety of the Western Wall plaza, lifting the individual worshipper through soft light and cool air into a hushed, noiseless space of "no one but self," the Wall and perhaps, too, a sense of God.

• • •

*The CJN* was in Jerusalem last week to observe, take notes and report on life in the city and in particular on some of the countless individuals who, with the support of the Jerusalem Foundation, strive each day to make the city and the lives of its inhabitants better. Those reports will begin next week.

***– MBD***

(Written in Jerusalem)

**SeeJN**

**CANADIAN GOLD HONOURED**

**Bar-Ilan University gave an honorary doctorate to Marc Gold, centre, president of Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA, at a ceremony at the university earlier this month. The honour was in recognition of his "outstanding accomplishments as a businessman, educator, and community leader dedicated to the advancement of Jewish institutions, cultural institutions and humanitarian causes," according to the university. Pictured with Gold, from left, are Bar-Ilan president Moshe Kaveh, Bar-Ilan Israel Prize laureate Prof. Pnina Klein, Gabi Weisfeld, national president of the Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan, and Canada's ambassador to Israel, Paul Hunt.**

***[Yoni Reif photo]***

# Festival under patronage of King of Morocco

**Continued from page 1**

"She told me that she was very excited about the program, and she said she would ask the Royal Palace to put this event under the patronage of the King of Morocco. This is the first time in Moroccan history that in Canada we have a festivity under the patronage of the King of Morocco."

Keslassy said similar festivals have been held in other cities around the world, including one in New York that was also endorsed by the king.

"This kind of thing has been done in the U.S., in Paris, in Brussels, in London, England, and I was approached by the American Sephardic Federation to see if we would do the same in Canada," he said.

Keslassy said the aim of the event – which runs from June 4 to 12 and is sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the Canadian Sephardic Federation, Friends of the Simon Weisenthal Center and other private donors – is to educate the younger generations as well as the Ashkenazi Jewish community, about Judeo-Moroccan heritage.

Keslassy said the first event, to be held at the Sephardic Kehila Community Centre on June 4, is an exhibit that will present a traditional Mimouna, a celebration held the day after Passover that marks the return to eating chametz, as well as a lecture by Université du Québec professor David Bensoussan.

"The general community doesn't know what [Mimouna] is, so we're inviting the whole community to teach the Ashkenazis and the young generations about our traditions," Keslassy said.

The following evening marks the opening of an exhibit at York University's Glendon College featuring Judeo-Moroccan art and artifacts. The exhibit runs until June 28.

Other festival programming includes an exhibit of a traditional Judeo-Moroccan wedding, a youth conference, an interfaith conference, film screenings and a gala dinner to pay tribute to King Mohammed VI, during which the king's adviser, Andre Azoulay (who is Jewish), will address the gathering.

A student, Elmehdi Boudra, will lead the youth conference and the interfaith conference.

"That young fellow is promoting the Hebrew language in the universities in Morocco. For me, that was a big surprise," Keslassy said.

"He put together a forum in the university in Ifrane [in the Middle Atlas mountains of Morocco] about the Holocaust, and he brought in survivors from Poland and Germany and this forum was under the patronage of the King of Morocco. We were very happy that the King gave the OK to do this kind of thing in Morocco."

Keslassy said apart from the gala dinner that closes the weeklong event, all the events, which include cocktail and dessert receptions, are free.

"We did that on purpose so more people will come, will learn about our traditions and give them an opportunity to taste our food," he said.

"We're doing this for the young generations, because we have come to the time when the young generation will take over for us and we want them to remember."

For more information about the festival, visit www.cjmt.org.

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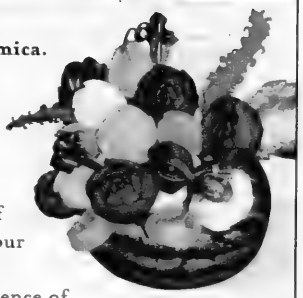

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# Torontonians take to streets to Walk with Israel

More than 15,000 people took to the streets of downtown Toronto on Victoria Day to show their support for the Jewish state at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's annual Walk With Israel. The sunny skies made for great walking conditions along a path that started on Toronto's waterfront and ended with food and attractions at Ontario Place. Donations are estimated to total a record-breaking $600,000, which will benefit the needy in Israeli cities such as Sderot, Eilat, Eilot and Bat Yam.

*[Michelle Bitran photos]*

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# Canadian Friends of Meir Medical Center

## THE MEIR HOSPITAL, ISRAEL

# MEDAL OF MERIT

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Nurit Globus, Daliah Raif, National Director, Canadian Friends of Meir Hospital, Daphne Fenwick

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A few weeks ago, the annual Medal of Merit awards ceremony and gala dinner took place in Toronto in support of Israel's Meir Hospital. We're proud to report it was the most successful such event in the history of Canadian Friends of Meir Hospital. We wish to express our profound appreciation to all those who attended the evening and to all our wonderful donors and sponsors.

## See you next year on April 21, 2013 at our Gala Event

Arie Raif, Vice Chairman Canadian Friends of Meir Medical Center

Head table at gala dinner

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Arie Raif, Dr. Eytan Wirtheim, Dr. Dennis Daneman, Mary Jo Haddad (Medal of Merit recipient)

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Monique and Umberto Andreis (center)

Arie Raif , Bernie Farber (Medal of Merit recipient), Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister and Dr. Eytan Wirtheim

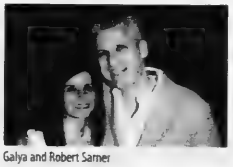
Hon. Chairs Toby and Saul Feldberg, with Amir Gissin, Consul General of Israel for Toronto and Western Canada

Daliah Raif, Toby Feldberg, Sonia and Louis Wachsberg

Our Volunteers: Riva Turner, Dana Florence, Margaux Janks, Adam Singer

Dr. David Mock and Dr. Karen Mock (right) with friend

Michael Tibollo, President of the National Congress of Italian Canadians and Mrs. Tibollo



Galya and Robert Sarner

John Carmichael, MP, reads message from Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper

Hon. Joe Volpe, 2012 Campaign Chair

Dr. Sol Baum and family

For information on next year's event, reserving space in the 2013 special tribute book and on how you can assist, please email: **meirfriends@rogers.com**

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# Racism rejected

The government of Israel is working methodically and quickly to build a fence on its mostly unfenced border with the Sinai. There are valid security reasons for doing so, especially in light of the hostile Hamas rulers in Gaza who employ a cadre of smugglers and other cutthroats near that vulnerable area for purposes inimical to the Jewish state.

But there is another very urgent reason for Israel's fence-building on the Sinai border. It was reported on Israeli television last week that hundreds of thousands of migrants from the Horn of Africa, mostly from Sudan, are said to be on their way to Israel, a long line of humanity looking to escape the utter poverty, destitution and disease of their homeland for the possibility of sanctuary, if not new beginning, in Israel. At considerable reward, Bedouins smuggle the human cargo into Israel. At all costs, they avoid the Egyptian security forces, for they know the Egyptians shoot the smugglers and the migrants.

It is estimated that some 1,000 illegal migrants cross the Sinai into Israel each month. More than 50,000 such migrants are already in Israel. Most live in the poor neighbourhoods of south Tel Aviv.

In the wake of a recent wave of violent crime in Tel Aviv, some of the city's residents have grown uncomfortable with the presence of so large a number of illegal immigrants in their midst and with the lack of any government policy for dealing with the migrant influx.

A demonstration last week in south Tel Aviv against the illegal migrants became violent. Some protesters attacked migrants. Some smashed the windshield of a car carrying three migrants. Some set trash bins on fire. Some threw firecrackers at police and shouted ugly nasty epithets at the Africans and at the government. Some of the nastiest epithets, alas, came from two Knesset members. One referred to the illegal migrants as a plague. The second called them a cancer.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responded quickly and condemned the violence. "There is no place for the expressions or the actions that we witnessed last night."

But he also acknowledged that the status quo cannot continue. "The migrant problem must be resolved, and we will resolve it. We will complete construction on the fence [along the Egyptian-Israeli border] within a few months, and soon we will begin returning the migrants to their countries of origin."

Israel is in a quandary. It faces a social and security problem of immense proportion. To its credit, however, it has resolved to find a solution that is based upon pragmatic recourse, humanitarian considerations, regard for the legitimate fears of its citizens, the application of the rule of law and a complete and utter rejection of racism, prejudice and bigotry.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Leaders of 23 national U.S. Jewish groups strongly protested to Israeli leaders and key MKs against any political deal that would give Israel's Chief Rabbinate sole authority to judge the validity of conversions performed in the Diaspora. They were responding to reports prime minister Yitzhak Shamir had promised such a legal amendment to the haredi Shas party.

*Editorial Advisory Board:* **Maurice Benzacar, Michael Brown, Donald Carr, Rabbi Michael Dolgin, Jake Goldstein, Jeffrey Kopstein, Keith Landy, Lou Ronson, Alan Sandler, Rabbi Philip Scheim, Mike Shriqui, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, Ehud Telem, Nelson Wiseman.**

## The Yavneh student movement

It was with great interest that I read Martin Lockshin's review of Benny Kraut's new book on the Yavneh student movement of the 1960s, *The Greening of American Orthodox Judaism: Yavneh in the 1960s* ("History of Orthodox student group captures the vibrancy of the 1960s," May 17). It brought back vividly those days I spent on the Barnard-Columbia campus when Rabbi Yitz Greenberg collected a group of students to found the Yavneh organization. At the time, a program to ease the life of religiously observant Jews on campus was a major breakthrough, both spiritually and logistically.

However, there is one historical point that was missing. The students who gravitated to Yavneh came from New York homes that were often Orthodox but also what I choose to call old time Conservative, that is, shomer Shabbat and observant of kashrut. When it came time to choose the official name for the newborn organization, especially when letterheads had to be printed, there were some heated arguments. A group of us maintained that the term "Orthodox" would be too exclusive and we requested that a term like "religiously observant Jews" should replace it. Many of us were studying at the Jewish Theological Seminary and so described ourselves. A compromise was reached by naming Yavneh a "Jewish Religious Students Association." I no longer have in my possession any of the early Yavneh mailings or publications, but I do know that the term Orthodox was not part of the official name of that wonderful student organization.

At the same time, I am well aware that times have changed and understand, for better or worse, why "Orthodox" is now the accepted designation.

**Gita Segal Rotenberg**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Anti-Israel boycotters

I was astonished to read "*Les combats pro-Israël d'Éric Duhaime*" (April 26, http://bit.ly/KCmL1x). I find Duhaime's commitment to Israel praiseworthy, but with respect to the anti-Israel boycotters on St. Denis in Montreal, he appears to be misinformed. The article quotes him as saying that the boycotters had suffered a resounding defeat, yet nothing could be further from the truth.

I am the owner of the Naot shoe store on St. Denis. My store has been the target of the anti-Israel boycotters for more than a year and a half. Every Saturday, many passersby avoid the area in front of the store when they see the large black banners and Palestinian flags. My business and those of my neighbours have been severely affected by this ongoing harassment, resulting in the loss of jobs.

One would do well to ask why Duhaime and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, whose members he quotes, appear to celebrate such a situation. In reality, it was precisely at the moment in June 2011, when the boycotters began to focus on my shop, that CIJA began claiming that "victory" had been achieved. To proclaim victory at the very moment when the boycotters began to unrelentingly harass a boutique that carries almost exclusively Israeli products seems to be a rather strange way to support Israel.

Fortunately, a large group of Quebecers, many of them non-Jews, provide my shop and the other affected businesses with strong and loyal support every week. These Amis Québécois d'Israël, as they call themselves, help by reducing the potential harm caused by the boycotters and they appeal to the public to buy in my shop and those of my neighbours. Their active presence prevents the boycotters from monopolizing the space in front of our stores.

**Corinne Lissoos**
**Concord, Ont.**

### *LET THEM GO...*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

* * *

## The motorcycle rider

I am looking for a man whose last name may have been Greenberg and who would have been about 16 to 25 years old in 1930-32. He rode an Indian Chief Motorcycle, which was not too common around 1932, and may have been interested in the theatre or worked in the theatre, especially vaudeville shows. He likely lived in downtown Montreal. I am hoping that someone will read this and recall a grandparent who may fit this description. Maybe they knew someone who was Jewish and in the 1930s owned a motorcycle. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has any information.

**Sue Diamond**
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# The techinah and the Titanic

**Gloria Lidsky Fuerstenberg**
Special to The CJN

On April 14, the last day of Passover 2012, like many Jews the world over I attended synagogue services. The *Yizkor* prayer of remembrance for the dead is a hallmark of this occasion. Included in the siddur are prayers for the souls of our departed parents and other family members, for those individuals who were murdered in the Holocaust, for people who perished in defence of the State of Israel and for the victims of terror.

What made this day different from all other days was the fact that it coincided exactly with the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. In my hands, along with a siddur, I held a small, unique Yiddish prayerbook called a techinah (or tkhine, in Yiddish). In it were many prayers, including one to be recited for the memory of people who had drowned in rivers or at sea and, most dramatically for me on that specific date, for those who had died in the Titanic disaster.

I was stunned by a paragraph extolling the humanitarian virtues of Ida and Isidor Straus, a prominent German Jewish American couple in their 60s who went down with the ship. It read: "They had done much good in their life, going hand in hand to help the poor and downtrodden, to aid the elderly, the sick and the weak, and who were united in their death. 'Where you go, I will go,' said the noble woman to her husband, and she refused to save herself knowing that her husband would be drowned." (My translation.)

Straus, the founder and co-owner of Macy's department store in New York City, had also served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and was a noted philanthropist. According to surviving eyewitnesses whose names and statements are on record, including that of Ida Straus's personal maid, a Miss Ellen Bird who boarded the lifeboat at their insistence, the couple chose to stay on the ship, he refusing to enter the lifeboat because there were still women and children who had not yet been evacuated, and she declaring her intention to stay with her husband to the end.

Last seen by passengers and crew who were already on Lifeboat 8, they sat calmly on deck chairs, holding hands. Ida Straus's body was never found. Isidor's remains were retrieved days later by the ship C.S. Mackay-Bennet from Halifax and were buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, N.Y.

The Titanic had set sail during one of the largest waves of Jewish immigration to the United States from eastern Europe, between 1881 and 1924. The majority of Jewish passengers, in third class, were refugees fleeing the dangers of European life such as pogroms and the three-year conscription into the Russian army, described by some as an ongoing pogrom "only much longer and much more painful" for Jewish soldiers because of rampant antisemitism.

Uniquely, the Titanic was the first great ocean liner to do away with steerage class and, as a result, many third-class passengers were treated to service and food they had never experienced. Apparently the White Star Line made a larger profit per head from third-class tickets and hoped that word of good treatment would spread and business would increase. Passengers in first class included those who, like the Strauses, were returning to America from vacations and business trips abroad or were immigrating with their families and household staff.

White Star, Cunard and German lines had separate kosher kitchen facilities by 1912, with meat and milk dishes and silverware identified as such in English and Hebrew, and kosher food available in all classes for those requesting it. These meals were instituted as the result of "a request from a number of Jewish organizations" and the fact that, according to an article in the *Washington Post* of Nov. 2, 1909, a young Jewish woman of 18 had died of starvation on arrival in Ellis Island by ship because she refused to eat non-kosher food.

**The techinah (tkhine, a women's prayer book) and a photo from the 1936 wedding of the writer's parents, Fanny and Nathan Lidsky, along with her grandmother, Gittel Gorodetsky, and uncle, Reuben Gorodetsky.**

The name of the special "Hebrew cook" of the Titanic was Charles Kennell, listed as 30 years of age. Of the 2,225 passengers, he was one of the 1,512 who did not survive. Religious supervision of the provisions on the Titanic was provided by the rabbi of Southampton, who also trained Kennell as a kosher supervisor.

My tkhine was printed in New York in 1916 by the Hebrew Publishing Company, just four years after the sinking of the ship, and this heroic episode was still fresh in peoples' minds. Its particular prayer of remembrance for the Strauses is the only one out of the 176 to mention any contemporary, i.e non-biblical, individuals by name.

The 314-page volume had been purchased by my widowed maternal grandmother, Gittel Gorodetsky, soon after her arrival in Montreal by ship in 1926, from Beltz, Bessarabia, with her two youngest children, my mother, then a girl of 14, and my Uncle Reuben, 6. It was used for prayer daily by her and subsequently by my mother, Fanny Lidsky, of blessed memory. When my mother passed away in 1999, I started to explore this small volume as comfort, connection and consolation. My own day school (yeshiva) education had been in Hebrew, but I was able to read the Yiddish (luckily it had punctuation) and understand most of it.

What I discovered was a treasure of Jewish women's thought and piety that truly reflected the innermost concerns of the women who composed and wrote them down. The word techinah, from Hebrew, means entreaty, supplication for favour, a request for the Almighty to be gracious. It also refers to the collections of such requests that had been compiled originally into small printed pamphlets and later into volumes used by Ashkenazi women in central and eastern Europe for private devotion from the 17th century on. The rise of printing in that era also saw women involved in production as printers, translators and even typesetters.

Structurally, each individual prayer begins with a heading directing when and sometimes how it should be recited (e.g. "Upon arising" or "With great devotion"). The first few words of every prayer in the techinah are in Hebrew in the somewhat impersonal language of the siddur, followed by a supplication in Yiddish in a woman's voice addressed directly to God as one would speak to a loving father. This form is used for every occasion in a woman's life, both domestic and in the synagogue – lighting the Sabbath candles, baking challah for Shabbat, blessing the new month (Rosh Chodesh) and hearing the shofar. Every day of the week has its own distinct private devotions.

What I found meaningful are the specific requests for heavenly protection for children or relatives in a war (remember this edition was printed during World War I), upon hearing bad news from the "*Alter Velt*" (Old World, or Europe), and for the souls of victims of fire and pogroms. There are also supplications to be read by an agunah (one whose husband refuses to give her a Jewish divorce and who therefore cannot remarry), by a woman who is being supported by her children – this is before social security when many elderly women had no personal resources and had to live with married children – and for a woman to meditate on before going out to collect charity on behalf of the needy. It expresses her fervent wish that she not, "Heaven forbid," shame someone who cannot afford to give money nor somehow inadvertently embarrass the recipients of the charity.

This edition of the tkhine is unique because, having been published in 20th-century America, it reflects some of the guilt associated with breaking the commandment to honour the Sabbath. Employed in garment industry sweatshops to support their families, immigrants to America almost always had to work on Saturdays, even though it was against their religious beliefs. After begging for divine forgiveness on behalf of her husband and herself for this unwilling transgression, the reader prays for a better future in which economic security would allow them to once again honour the Sabbath completely.

The beauty of the language and the directness of expression in the tkhines are a testament to the literacy, intelligence and piety of Jewish women through the ages.

# No, McGill is not antisemitic

An e-mail sent to me and copied to McGill's principal Heather Munroe-Blum grabbed my attention. It contained a forwarded article headlined "McGill University's Rampant, Historic, and Current Anti-Semitism," which concluded that "Antisemitism is clearly engrained into the culture at McGill University, and any proud Jew wouldn't go anywhere near the university."

*Gil Troy*

*in Montreal*

As a proud Jew associated with the university for more than 20 years, knowing that it is led by another proud Jew whose first public letter to the McGill community eloquently denounced antisemitism, I thought the issue required investigation.

The article's author certainly had grounds for being furious. The trigger was an outrageous smear in the *McGill Daily* that ran this past March calling Israel "The Land of Milk and Heroin." This latest anti-Israel libel accused the Jewish state of encouraging heroin addiction among Palestinians, especially in Jerusalem. This article belongs to a genre we can call "Israel as bogeyman," which seeks to blame the Jewish state for any problem even vaguely associated with the Middle East or Israel's existence. Such delegitimization and hatred reeks of antisemitism, with its extremism and essentialism.

The version of the article I read online was already sanitized, shorn of its most offensive statements, thanks to the effective response of Michelle Whiteman, Quebec regional director of HonestReporting Canada. As she explained in a Times of Israel blog entry, HonestReporting confronted the *Daily*, and even though the paper only ran a heavily edited letter from HonestReporting six weeks later, it cleaned up the article online, partially.

Gone were such absurd, unfounded libels, based on "Palestine TV's arguments," that "Israeli authorities are actually responsible for encouraging and facilitating heroin use among Arabs for political reasons." Still, pathetic, inaccurate faux anthropological insights abounded, such as the claim that "drug abuse is often found burgeoning in regions facing political conflict, with rates of addiction rising during times of both physical and structural conflict – it is seen as being a defence strategy to cope with insecurity and violence." How this "insight" explains the spike in heroin addiction during the prosperous 1960s in the West or the fact that Israeli Jews and Arabs have similar rates of heroin addiction – except among Arab women, where it plummets – is beyond me.

Still, while the article was heavily biased against Israel, and while I understand the historic resonance of antisemitism fuelling such smears, and while I recoil from the blatant antisemitism in the Arab world that is now, to my horror, shaping the conversation on too many college campuses, that does not make McGill an antisemitic institution.

For starters, the *McGill Daily* is known on campus for frequently running shoddy, provocative, extreme, "politically correct" articles. Despite being a professor who rarely turns away from a good ideological battle, I won't lower myself to responding to *Daily* articles. I was thrilled that HonestReporting did – although I wish McGill students themselves had done it, as some did in the online comments. Second, the *Daily* is a student-run publication that does not represent McGill University in any way. Finally, McGill has a thriving Jewish student life, many Jewish students, professsors and administrators, a first-rate Judaic studies department, an impressive Hillel, and an exciting, student-run Ghetto shul – attributes that make it one of the most welcoming campuses for Jews.

The bigger issue here is the shrillness of debate about Israel. Again and again, so many of Israel's opponents seem utterly incapable of making a nuanced argument when it comes to the Middle East. Israel is demonized in multiple ways worldwide. In response, I regret to say, some of Israel's defenders also overreact. When our allies in the fight for Israel unfairly call an institution such as McGill "antisemitic," we all suffer. It undermines our credibility. When I have seen antisemitism, I have fought it, passionately, and have the professional scars to show for it. But when I see false and extreme accusations, even when I understand the pain underlying it, I also have to respond.

And let me be clear: my response is not only tactical, made because we might look bad. We need to set the highest standards for the pro-Israel community, demanding truth, consistency, nuance and accuracy. Hysteria hurts us, distracting us from the real issues and the bigger problems. It also alienates us from our environment unnecessarily, blinding us to potential allies and even to true friends.

# *Why a shul?*

Two people having a conversation on a Saturday morning at home: "Get out of bed and go to shul!" "But I don't want to go to shul. I'm tired. I don't like the cantor's singing. And I don't have any friends in the congregation. Give me one good reason why I have to go to shul." "Because you're the rabbi."

I was moved by Avrum Rosensweig's column in last month's *CJN* about community. He hit the nail squarely on the head when he wrote, "If you don't belong, consider it. It can be exasperating, but highly soothing in a life where our existential anguish can throb like a sore ligament."

I don't know if I would choose the word soothing for synagogue life. Ever been to a soothing shul board meeting? I don't think shul should be an elixir for all that ails us. In fact, shul should challenge us and vex our otherwise cozy existence. (As my old homiletics teacher once said, "Our job is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.") But Rosensweig is certainly right that belonging plays a huge part in shrinking the existential disconnect that so many of us feel so much of the time.

As I reported in February, I've returned to the congregational rabbinate after 20 years. But I never explained why. Why shul? (Notice I didn't say, "Why *my* shul?" Too many of us are territorial about memberships. Oh, for the good old days in the shtetl, when you paid one set of dues into the community coffers and got the rabbi of your choice, a burial plot in the community Jewish cemetery, and the ability to go to all of the shuls that benefited from those coffers. Sigh.)

So, why shul?

• Eric Yoffie, past president of the Union for Reform Judaism, writes, "The synagogue is the only place in the Jewish world that can be counted on to care about the individual Jew." We're all searching for a sense of community that takes us offline. The synagogue may be one of the only places where each of us is expected to move beyond "I." Shuls speak in "we" more than "I". In a society that values individual productivity, and where "team" is mostly a metaphor for well-paid individuals trying to work together to stay well-paid, many of us choose to stay away from a place that pretty well requires us to sacrifice for the collective good. Those who don't belong are missing a rare chance to be in a "we" with others who have also chosen to speak in "we."

• The synagogue may be the only place an adult is expected to continue learning things that aren't connected to their work and don't help them "get ahead": Torah for Torah's sake, new tunes, how to lift a Torah scroll, the history of the Jews of Spain, Hebrew, mysticism, the Maccabees. There are no professional credits, no incentives other than knowledge. Those who don't belong often get stuck in a 13-year old's level of Jewish knowledge and understanding. They may never meet the sophisticated adult system of Judaism and can't even answer the simple questions of their friends and neighbours.

*Rabbi Elyse Goldstein*

*in Toronto*

• Other than your therapist, your rabbi is the only professional paid to care about you, pay attention to you, ask about your life and listen carefully to the answer, visit you when you're sick, hold your hand when you lose a loved one, inquire about your kids, or notice when you've lost your way. Those who don't belong get a rabbi parachuted into their life for a few precious moments on a fee-per-service basis, no different than a florist or a caterer.

• The synagogue is the place you can be spiritual and not be embarrassed by it, or be non-spiritual and enjoy others being spiritual. It's a place where meaning really matters, where big questions are asked, where depth is the norm, where large ideas are debated in a friendly way, where your voice and your vote really can change the way things work. It's a place you can be "touchy-feely" or intellectual, philosophical or political, passionate about things that others may think are wimpy.

If you don't belong, there isn't much space in society for your soul, except maybe at your yoga class. But does your yoga class give you everything else I've mentioned, and will they be there when you want a minyan to say *Kaddish*?

# The Holocaust in North Africa

The Holocaust was not strictly "a European story." Robert Satloff correctly states in his important book, *Among the Righteous: Lost Stories From the Holocaust's Long Reach Into Arab Lands*, published by Public Affairs.

With the fall of France in 1940, the consolidation of Vichy rule in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya, and Germany's invasion of North Africa, the lives of some 500,000 Jews were suddenly imperilled.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

"Virtually no Jew in North Africa was left untouched," writes Satloff.

As the Holocaust rolled over Jews in Europe, North African Jews were deprived of citizenship, property, education and livelihood, sent to forced labour camps and subjected to confiscations, deportations and executions.

"Still many more (Jews) lived in a state of perpetual fear and daily privation," he adds.

By his estimate, 4,000 to 5,000 North African Jews perished, while 1,200 North African Jews trapped in France were deported to Nazi death camps in Poland.

"If Allied troops had not driven the Germans from the African continent in 1943, two years before the fall of Berlin, then the 2,000-year-old Jewish communities of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, and perhaps Egypt and Palestine, too, would almost certainly have met the fate of their brethren in Europe."

The fate of Jews in North Africa was sealed with Germany's conquest of France in 1940. In Algeria, a French overseas colonial possession, the Vichy regime annulled the Cremieux decree, which had given Jews the opportunity to become citizens of France. In one fell stroke, 105,000 Algerian Jews lost their French citizenship.

According to Satloff, the cancellation of the Cremieux decree was not made in response to German pressure.

At almost the exact moment, Moroccan and Tunisian Jews lost most of their civil, legal and personal rights under the *statut des juifs*, which, like Germany's Nuremberg laws, defined Jewishness.

The *statut des juifs*, which was also applied in France, were all-encompassing, prohibiting Jews from holding governmental or military positions and jobs in the professions.

Vichy France issued a more severe version in 1941 that limited Jewish enrolment at schools and universities and forced Jews to sell businesses and property.

During this period, Algerian Jews suffered the most. The situation in Morocco and Tunisia was marginally less onerous. In Morocco, however, Jews bore the brunt of a special edict that compelled them to move back to the *mellah*, the congested ghetto.

The Moroccan king, Muhammed V, did not share the pro-German sympathies of the Arab elite of the day, and was particularly appalled that Vichy's anti-Jewish laws were based on race, he writes.

According to Satloff, the German occupation of Tunisia, which lasted from November 1942 to May 1943, was "a Hobbesian experience, nasty, brutish and short."

Although Germany's occupation force was constantly under attack by Allied armies, the Nazis managed to torment the Jewish population, taking hostages, stealing property, extorting ransoms, dispatching thousands to labour camps and killing prisoners.

King Muhammed V of Morocco

As in Europe, Tunisian Jews were required to wear the demeaning yellow Star of David and Jewish councils were compelled to implement Nazi policies.

In Tunis, German soldiers broke into the Great Synagogue, brutalizing men and women. On the island of Djerba, home to one of the oldest Jewish communities in the Diaspora, the Germans demanded a huge ransom.

Throughout Tunisia, 5,000 Jews were sent to 40 labour camps, some controlled by the Italian occupation army.

Conditions were appalling, yet Jews who found themselves in the Italian zone usually received better treatment. "In general," Satloff writes, "Italian soldiers lacked the antisemitic zeal of their German allies ..."

By his reckoning, 2,575 Tunisian Jews died during the German occupation, the majority in Allied bombing raids.

Arabs played a "supporting role" in the persecution of Jews, he says. Some notables, for example, tried to improve their personal finances and political fortunes at the expense of Jews.

Arab mobs, especially in Tunisia, went on rampages. Upward of 13,000 Arab men volunteered for the German army. In only one instance was an Arab arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to prison for having collaborated with foreign forces in the persecution of Jews.

"There may have been others," he notes, "but their stories are either locked away in the archives of French military tribunals, which remain closed for 100 years, or have been lost with the passage of time."

Amid instances of Arab collaboration, Satloff stumbled upon "gestures of sympathy" by Arabs.

As he puts it, "At every stage of the Nazi, Vichy and fascist persecutions of Jews in Arab lands, and in every place that it occurred, Arabs helped Jews. Some Arabs spoke out against the persecution of Jews and took public stands of unity with them. Some Arabs denied the support and assistance that would have made the wheels of the anti-Jewish campaign spin more efficiently. Some Arabs shared the fate of Jews... And there were occasions when certain Arabs chose to do more than just offer moral support to Jews. They bravely saved Jewish lives, at times risking their own in the process. Those Arabs were true heroes."

Citing such cases, Satloff tells of the "fair and exemplary" attitude of Arabs in the Tunisian city of Sfax and in the hinterland and of imams in Algiers who urged local Muslims not to take advantage of Jews for financial gain.

Satloff also praises Si Kaddour Benghabrit, the imam of the Great Mosque of Paris. He saved the life of Salim (Simon) Halali, an Algerian-born Jew who became France's most celebrated "Oriental" singer.

When Halali was in real danger of being deported, he turned to Benghabrit, one of his fans. Benghabrit supplied him with a certificate of Muslim identity, which enabled Halali to survive the war.

Despite instances of Arab generosity, the vast majority of Arabs displayed "glacial indifference" to Jewish suffering, Satloff concludes.

Satloff also examines Arab attitudes on the Holocaust, contending that "Holocaust minimization" is widespread in the Arab media and in Arab scholarship today.

In addition, he delves into several other topics – the strange phenomenon in which Moroccan and Tunisian Jews play down or ignore the wartime era in their respective countries, the reason why Yad Vashem has yet to honour a single Arab who helped Jews during the Holocaust, and Germany's decision, in May 2005, to pay compensation to North African Holocaust survivors.

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# Academics dissect modern antisemitism

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Traditional forms of Jew-hatred are fuelling the rhetoric of contemporary anti-Zionists, two scholars of modern antisemitism contend.

Presenting their theories at a May 15 seminar at Beth Tzedec Congregation titled "Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism: The Blurry Red Line?" professors Catherine Chatterley, director of the Canadian Institute for the Study of Antisemitism in Winnipeg, and David Hirsh, a lecturer in sociology at the University of London's Goldsmiths' College, discussed antisemitism's origins and argued that the boycott movement against Israel and the emergence of "Israeli apartheid week" on North American campuses, for example, are new forms of classic antisemitism.

The event, attended by about 250 people, was organized by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Father Raymond de Sousa, a *National Post* columnist and CIJA board member, moderated.

Chatterley talked about the historic evolution of antisemitism, noting how from medieval times to the 20th century, the caricature of "the Jew" – the payes-wearing, hook-nosed, money-laundering, conniving, in-league-with-the-Devil manipulator and controller of power – was a prominent image in European Christendom stemming from the "rancorous divorce between Judaism and Christianity."

The image embedded itself in the Christian psyche.

"Jews were systematically excluded by Christians and then marginalized," she said. "It was the theology of the Church during the high Middle Ages that helped develop antisemitism."

**Catherine Chatterley**
[*Sarina Rehal photo*]

Chatterley, who was raised a Lutheran, told *The CJN* she became interested in Jewish issues after hearing about the Holocaust as a child. "It was a shattering experience and became a lifelong passion to try to understand" antisemitism, she said.

She said older forms of antisemitism have been co-opted by anti-Zionists, but that it was the Nazis who exported this vision of Jews to the Arab world, and it was followed by Soviet anti-Zionist rhetoric during the Cold War.

Since then, most Arabs' views of Jews and Israel have been laced with antisemitism, whereas before, Arab attitudes grew out of land disputes.

Chatterley said that classic European antisemitism "has been Islamicized and is now part of the culture on the ground" in the Arab world.

"For the first time in history, antisemitism has spread outside of Christian circles," she said. "In 2012, no one wants to be an antisemite, but progressives… are blurring the lines. One wonders if the definition of antisemitism should be expanded to include new forms. 'The Jew' has unfortunately found a place in the Arab world.

"All antisemites see themselves as the victims of 'the Jew.' It is a concept we must fight against."

In his talk, Hirsh spoke of his struggle and that of English Jewry to prevent England's University and College Union (UCU), Britain's largest trade union for academics and lecturers, from adopting an academic boycott of Israel.

He said UCU leaders refuse to listen to him and like-minded peers when they object to antisemitic guests the union invites to speak to its members.

Hirsh added that while many people think UCU is the de facto voice of mainstream intellectuals, it's really the voice of a small number of activists that the intellectuals "couldn't be bothered" to stop.

"You can take over a union with 100 activists. Once you do, it's quite difficult to stop, unless you have 100 people willing to devote their lives to it, and we don't," he said, referring to pro-Israel academics in Britain.

Hirsh said that on the whole, his country is a good place for Jews to live, but in academic circles, there is "a problem in the chattering classes on the left.

"This is not insignificant, as we teach children and become journalists," he said.

The antisemitic venom he's heard from fellow professors and instructors at British universities in casual conversation has shocked him, he said.

Similarly, the widespread adoption of anti-Zionist positions by British academics – Chatterley said this is also happening in Canada – is worrisome, Hirsh said.

"Antisemites have always understood Jews to be the centre of evil in the world," Hirsh said. "Anti-Zionists feel the same about Israel."

The hardest part of fighting modern antisemitism is that it comes from people who say they oppose antisemitism, Hirsh said. "They don't understand what they're doing."

Chatterley added: "There is a definite perspective in progressive circles, academic or not, that antisemitism is simply a form of racism, and because Jews are not largely excluded socially, economically or politically, the way they had been… that antisemitism really isn't a problem."

That's why the world focuses on other injustices, such as native issues in Canada or people of colour or the Palestinians, she said.

The world feels it needs to deal with people who are "actually suffering," and the perception is that Jews are not, Chatterley said.

"I think this is a widely accepted perspective, which is why there's an enormous resentment when one mentions antisemitism. It's seen as a red herring, because it's not perceived as a problem today," she said.

Asked whether the world might be seeing the start of a new cycle of antisemitism that could lead to the persecution of Jews the West, Chatterley said she believes it's possible.

With antisemitism and anti-Zionism rising, it's causing fear and consternation among Jews, and particularly among Jewish educators and academics, she said.

"They may not talk about this publicly, but I've had discussions with friends who study antisemitism, and the talk of the fear of a second Holocaust is very real, whether well founded or not," she said.

"Jews have every right to be fearful as far as I'm concerned. Given the genocidal rhetoric coming out of Iran and its dismissal in academic circles, the fear is well founded."

Hirsh said he's wary of using the Holocaust to measure antisemitism, as he believes it was a unique occurrence.

"If we only ever look for the Holocaust, we'll miss what's happening [with antisemitism] right now," he said.

Chatterley said her institute is trying to establish a degree in antisemitism studies, which would be the first of its kind in the world.

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# 'Hungarian' day centre welcomes all seniors

**Cynthia Gasner**
Special to The CJN

A group of men and women, many of whom come from Hungarian backgrounds, get together three times a week to socialize, play cards and enjoy special events.

They meet Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the New Horizon Day Centre for Seniors, at 3565 Bathurst St. in Toronto, across from Baycrest.

More than 15,000 people from Hungary and the surrounding countries live in the Toronto area.

Erika Soptei, who is a volunteer manager of the day centre with George Kulcsar, says, "We have a kosher lunch prepared on the premises and refreshments, and we have special holiday celebrations with live music and outings. Many of our outings are subsidized."

Kulcsar says, "We have the best matzah ball soup every Sunday for lunch. Although we are mostly of Hungarian backgrounds, everyone is welcome.

"You could say we are of mixed backgrounds, for some of us are married to Canadians."

Originally, explains Soptei, all the members of the day centre were Jewish. "When we asked for funds from the Ontario government, we are now open to everyone. The only requirement is that you must be 65 years old or more.

"As volunteers, we devote a great deal of time planning and organizing the club," she adds.

**George Stern, left, a spokesperson for the New Horizon Day Centre for Seniors, and George Kulcsar, a volunteer manager of the centre.**

She says that non-members can drop in for $3 a day, and food is extra. There is free parking and a bus stop close to the door, notes George Stern, a spokesperson for the day centre.

"It is wonderful for seniors to remain active and to have social friends," Soptei says. "This is what we provide at the club. Friendship is very important."

For more information about the day centre, drop in or call 416-256-1892 during the centre's hours.

**MODEL FUNDRAISERS**

**Sonya Budd, left, director of development for Torah High, and guest Lisa Berman model eye-catching vintage necklaces at the May 16 exhibit and sale of Carole Tanenbaum Vintage Costume Jewelry in support of Torah High, an afternoon, for-credit secondary school program that serves 500 Jewish teens in Toronto and across Canada.**

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A Major in the IDF Artillery Division, Ron Prosor went into the diplomatic service and served as Deputy Director of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Strategic Affairs, Counter-Terrorism, and Nuclear Disarmament in 2003. He was Chief of Policy Staff to Foreign Minister from 2003-4, Political Director of the Ministry in 2004, and Director-General of the Foreign Ministry from 2004-07.

From 2007-11 Amb. Prosor was Israel's representative to the Court of St. James. In June 2011, he became Israel's Permanent Representative to the UN, in time to lead the campaign against Mahmoud Abbas' planned unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state.

Melanie Phillips

The internationally famous British author and journalist Melanie Phillips, awarded the Orwell Prize for Journalism in 1996, is best known for her controversial Daily Mail column on political and social issues.

Melanie Phillips has been an immensely influential, and controversial, social and political critic in Great Britain's culture wars. Her study, All Must Have Prizes, was a critique of Britain's educational and moral crisis, followed in 2006 by the acclaimed Londonistan, a biting analysis of the growing cultural and political influence of Islam and Islamists in Britain.

Her latest book is The World Turned Upside Down: The Global Battle Over God, Truth and Power (Encounter, 2010).

Baruch Cohen – Lion of Judah Award Recipient

Baruch, 92 years old is our outstanding Research Chairman. A Romanian Holocaust survivor, Baruch has been a courageous, creative defender-advocate of the democratic Jewish State of Israel, and a stubborn critic of antisemitism in all its ongoing forms.

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# Shaviv leaves CHAT for New York school

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

Paul Shaviv is leaving the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto after 14 years as its director of education.

He will become head of school at the Ramaz School in Manhattan, a modern Orthodox day school that runs from nursery to Grade 12.

Paul Shaviv

Although he said he would have been happy to continue at TanenbaumCHAT in a role he describes as "a dream job for any Jewish educator," Shaviv said he believes the school "will benefit from fresh blood and fresh ideas."

On a personal level, Shaviv has strong incentive to move, given his marriage in January 2011. His wife, Michelle, is an American who lives in Florida and New York, and they've had "a commuting existence."

Shaviv's first wife, Judy, died of cancer in 2008.

The job opening at Ramaz, where the current head of school is retiring, was "a big opportunity," Shaviv told *The CJN*. "Ramaz is regarded as sort of the flagship Jewish high school" in New York and in the United States as well, he said.

"I'm very much looking forward to it."

Shaviv believes he's accomplished "most of what I'm going to do" at TanenbaumCHAT, referring to achievements such as opening the school's second campus in 2000, doubling the size of its student population to almost 1,400, and developing the Wallenberg (south) campus, which recently broke ground for a new $7.5-million science wing.

The growth of the school, in addition to being a career highlight for Shaviv, also brought management-related challenges.

"It's a testament to the strength of the school that we got through that period without real crisis," he said.

Shaviv credited his team of lay and professional leaders for working together when challenges arose.

He said he regrets that the demands of managing the school's growth took him out of the classroom five years ago. Until that time, he taught Jewish history and Jewish philosophy.

"I probably became a fairly distant figure to students and even to some teachers. Running the school was a huge job."

A second regret is that he was "never able to implement my vision of having a vocational training stream in the school, which would have made the Jewish high school experience accessible to a much larger number of students who are presently disenfranchised by our community – kids who would be heading to the workplace on graduating high school."

At 63, he said he is "absolutely not ready to retire."

A native of London, England, Shaviv is an alumnus of both Cambridge and Oxford universities. A recipient of the prestigious Max M. Fisher Prize for Jewish Education in the Diaspora in 2009, he is the author of *The Jewish High School: a Complete Management Guide* and has been a Jewish school administrator on three continents, including a four-year stint in Montreal before he moved to Toronto.

Rhona Birenbaum, TanenbaumCHAT's CFO/executive director, will be the school's interim director of education for the coming year.


Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto

**NOMINATION NOTICE**

The Nominating Committee of Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto has prepared a list of ten (10) candidates for election to the Board of Directors for the ensuing term.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sheldon Carr | Heather Ringel | Gabi Weisfeld |
| Dr. Cathy Giordano | Elaine Ross-Ruskin | Mitch Vininsky |
| Shawn Goldberg | Barry Sacks | Mark Zigler |
| Ronit Holtzman | | |

Additional nominees will be accepted if properly received no later than 5:00 p.m. June 11, 2012. For further information please contact Elliott Brodkin, Executive Director/CFO, at (416) 494-7666, Ext. 200.

DATED May 18, 2012
TORONTO, Ontario

Sheldon Carr, Chair
Nominating Committee



Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto

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# Pride service to be inclusive

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Congregation Shir Libeynu will be gearing up for Toronto's annual Pride Week with a special Shabbat service on June 2 that honours "queer Jews, our allies, and the people we love," the shul's website said.

Aviva Goldberg, the spiritual leader of Shir Libeynu, a Toronto liberal, inclusive, egalitarian and unaffiliated shul, said this will be the sixth annual LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning) Pride service the congregation has held, but isn't totally comfortable calling it a "pride-themed" service.

"We've always had a problem with calling it a pride-themed service because right from our inception, we've been inclusive. I don't like the term gay-friendly. It's nice to be friendly to everybody and everybody is, but we are more than just that," Goldberg said.

"We've always been inclusive. Our members are from all denominations of Judaism, as well as all sexual orientations."

Aviva Goldberg

Shir Libeynu, which will be celebrating its 16th year on Rosh Hashanah, holds Shabbat services on the first Saturday morning of each month in the Michael Bernstein Chapel in Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre.

She explained that for the past six years, the Shabbat service that runs in advance of Pride Week (June 22 to July 1) focuses on the diverse Jewish LBGTQ population.

The service is based on an Eit Ratzon siddur, a transliterated text that focuses on the meaning of the prayers and incorporates readings from other texts.

"There is a great deal of participation. Different people recite the readings, and the dvar Torah that will be read at this service will specifically focus on inclusivity, and the fact that Judaism is open, we believe, to everybody," Goldberg said.

"Many of our readings are adapted from a variety of siddurim – for example one called Sha'ar Zahav – which the gay-lesbian synagogue in San Francisco put together."

Goldberg said the service is different each year. "I happen to be a professor at York University and my work has to do with religious studies, so that allows me to do a lot of research that is both for my work at the university and for the synagogue."

She said she just read a book called *Keep Your Wives Away from Them: Orthodox Women, Unorthodox Desires* from which she'll pull excerpts to be read during the service.

In addition to the readings, the service will also incorporate music, which will be led by singer-songwriter Daniela Gesundheit, who doubles as Shir Libeynu's cantor.

Goldberg, who has been the spiritual leader since the shul's inception, said that while Shir Libeynu may not be affiliated with the mainstream Jewish denominations, the fact that the congregation has multiplied over the years is evidence that it fills a need in the Jewish community.

"We started out with about 75 people who came to our services... There are now about 300 who come to our High Holiday services," she said. "We're a congregation of people who want to be at shul, and we feel comfortable in all aspects of our lives. I mean that from a sense of pride, but I also mean that they can be all of who they are when they come to the synagogue."

# Trying to preserve Jamaica's Jewish heritage

**Continued from page 3**

The one that lives on, the historic Shaare Shalom United Congregation of Israelites, also known as the Duke Street Synagogue, remains in downtown Kingston. It may not be the oldest in the Caribbean, however. Historians claim that two synagogues are believed to be older than the one in Jamaica – the Mikvé Israel-Emanuel in Curaçao and Nidhe Israel in Barbados.

Turnouts for Sabbath services at Duke Street are now not a concern. But Lindo and his younger cousin, Charles Hendricks, who also left for Canada, know all too well about the dwindling Jewish community in the land of their birth.

"Sure, it's a concern and the cost to keep a rabbi is one thing, but the cost of not having one can be a bigger problem," said Lindo, who is a board member of Toronto's Pride of Israel Synagogue.

Lindo has organized a brunch and dance on June 17 at Pride of Israel hoping to raise donations to send to Jamaica. Cost is $36. The event, with close to 200 people already attending, is open to the public. Those interested can contact Pride of Israel at 416-226-0111 for more information or call Lindo at 416-347-9297.

Constructed in 1912 and replacing an earlier building destroyed by a devastating storm, the Jamaican synagogue has a beautiful Dutch and Portuguese architecture with a white exterior. A powdery white sandy floor and classic mahogany woodwork encompass the interior of the building.

Ashkenazi and Sephardi communities united over time, and two lights burn on either side of the synagogue's Ark symbolizing the merge. There are also 16 scrolls, some of them more than 200 years old and from former Jamaican and Caribbean synagogues.

Some Jamaican Jews share stories about the Spanish Inquisition, and the tradition of a sand floor dates back to when Jews were forced to convert to Christianity, but secretly practised Judaism in the basement of their homes.

Lindo said he read about Jamaicans asking ruling British officials in the 17th century to expel the Jewish community. Special taxes were imposed on Jews – considered second-class citizens because of their religion. Jews, at one time, were also forbidden to hold public office

Despite all of these restrictions, the Jewish community continued to grow and prosper for many years.

"There were some tough times, but the challenge is now to save what we have," said the 65-year-old Lindo, father of three boys and four grandchildren, who says he shares some wonderful stories with his family about the younger years in Jamaica.

Memories are so comforting that Hendricks, who came to Canada at age 10, said his family decided to have the bar mitzvah of one of their sons at the synagogue in 2005.

"It was something special – we will never forget it," said Hendricks. "When I step in to that synagogue, it's my home."

There is a small fence in front of the synagogue, but no cameras or uniformed security to protect the building, despite its being located a few blocks from one of the tough areas of the city.

"Jamaican Jews don't have to worry about antisemitism or racial problems," Lindo said. "Everyone gets along."

Adjacent to the synagogue, on the same property, is a small cemetery and a hall that serves as a multi-purpose room and houses a collection of artifacts tracing ancestry.

"It's a marvellous building that needs to be preserved along with the Jewish heritage or it could all very easily disappear," said Lindo, who developed an urge to raise some money once he returned from the Jamaican simchah involving his extended family.

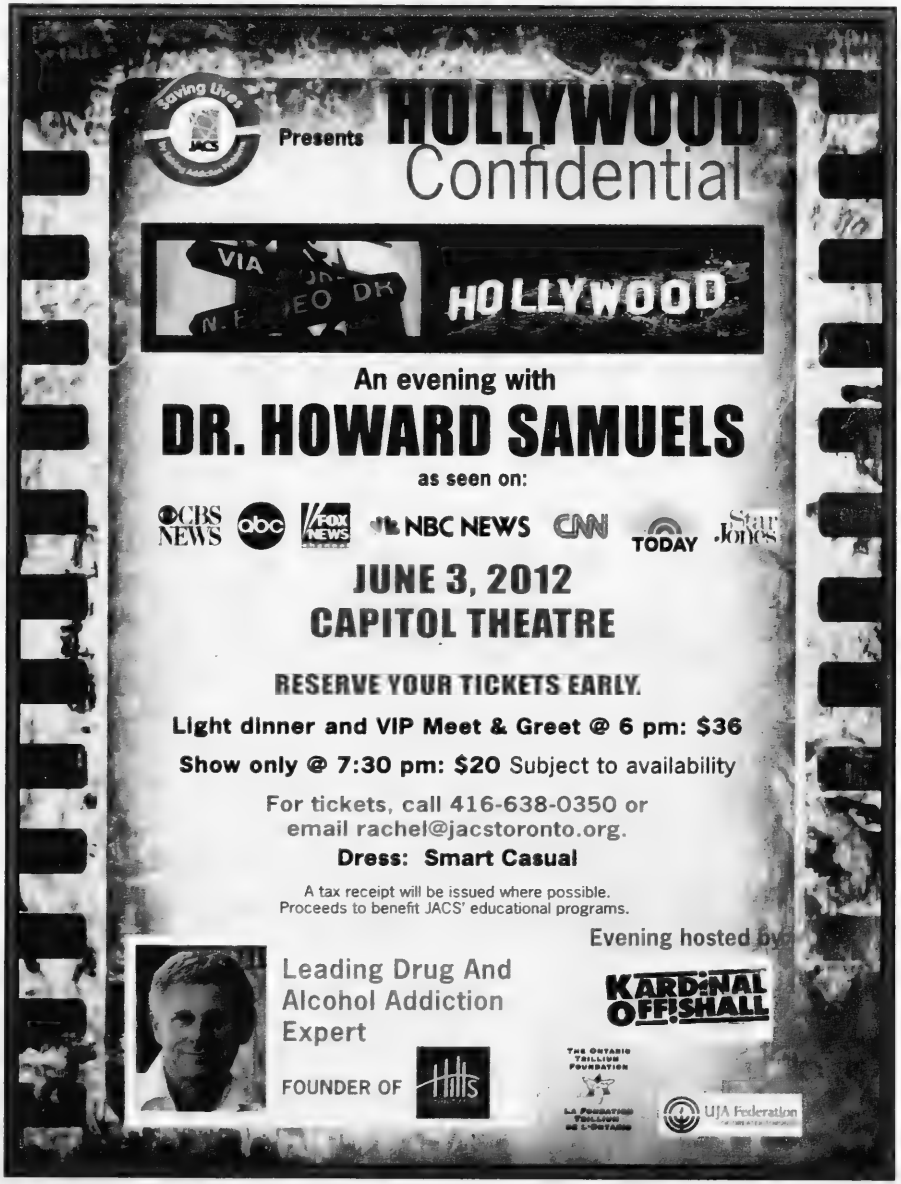
"My parents were never wealthy when I lived there, but they always found ways to make sure I was in synagogue on Shabbat – first for classes and then services. I know how important it was to them and to me to preserve cultural programs, archives and maintain the synagogue and cemeteries.

"Growing up Jewish in Jamaica, I mention it all the time – the people, the community and the flashbacks of memories that remain so precious to me," said Lindo. "I just knew that I had to give something back, just help out."

**2012 UJA Volunteer Recognition**

**It's a privilege to volunteer for Na'amat. I believe that our work in Israel whether saving women from abuse, teaching at-risk teens or lobbying the Israeli government for the rights of women and families is vital.**

*Gerry Anklewicz*



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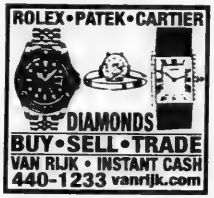

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# *Trial by peace*

***Midrashic Moments***

***Rachael Turkienicz***

In the upcoming Torah passages, we read of the ritual of the *sotah*, the suspected adulteress. Anyone who has studied these passages immediately understands the controversial nature of the material.

It involves a husband who suspects his wife of adultery but doesn't have the required proof to bring her to justice. There's no way to resolve the issue, so he brings her before the high priest and the whole community. There she is publicly accused of being a suspected adulteress and is shamed and made to drink "bitter waters," which consists of water, earth from the Temple grounds and a curse written and dissolved into the water. If she survives the ordeal, she's innocent and will be rewarded with children. If she's guilty, her innards will shrivel and drop.

The *sotah* ceremony is one of the few trials by ordeal that Judaism records. Essentially, the concept of a trial by ordeal is that when disputes can't be resolved by the usual methods, they still need resolution. In such a case, God is invoked as Final Judge, assuming that God wouldn't allow an innocent person to be punished and exonerates the innocent while condemning the guilty. The *sotah* ceremony stopped in the early Rabbinic Period. Aside from logistical difficulties, the sages usually preferred that we handle things ourselves through a judicial process.

The usual controversy that surrounds the *sotah* ceremony today is that there isn't an equivalent ceremony for men. Certainly there are parallel suspicions that can be lobbied against a male suspected of being intimate with a married woman. Where is the trial by ordeal for the man?

I suspect we can ask that question because we're sitting in a modern world. It's not that no one would dare give a man a trial by ordeal. On the contrary: the fact is that men lived with it almost constantly. In the ancient world, warfare was seen as the ultimate trial by ordeal. If God favoured you, you would win, and if you had sinned, God would let you lose. Any war arena became the ultimate trial of your relationship with God based on your daily choices.

The ancient world didn't honour the men so as to exempt them from trial by ordeal, but rather created the male world entirely around these trials. It's in the face of this overwhelming worldview that the sages proclaimed the power of peace. It's not a test of your faith to engage in warfare, but rather a test of your commitment to God to solicit peace.

When the sages were discussing entering the Land of Israel, they stated that if the land gives us food and drink, we still have nothing unless we have peace. "If there is no peace, there is nothing at all." The text goes on to say: "Peace equals all else. Indeed we say, when God made peace, God created everything."

*Rachael Turkienicz is director of Rachaelscentre.org.*

# Inspiration from Israel and Hollywood

***Past Forward***

***Alex Gropper***

Archeology has fascinated me since I was a young boy living in Israel many years ago, not long after the founding of the state in 1948.

At that time, archeology was a national pastime in the young state. It was small wonder, since a number of prominent Israelis were involved in the discipline. Among them was Yigael Yadin, chief of operations for the Haganah during the War of Independence, and his more famous contemporary, Moshe Dayan, who would go on to become chief of staff of the Haganah and defence minister of the fledgling nation.

Both men had a passion for archeology, but Yadin's was scholarly in nature. In addition to his work on the Dead Sea Scrolls, Yadin went on to excavate a number of prominent sites that grabbed the popular imagination. The best known was Masada, which Yadin excavated in the early 1960s. Masada's heroic resistance during the first Jewish Revolt against Rome has raised it to iconic status, not only in Israel, but throughout the Jewish world.

However, Yadin also excavated other sites that were not as well known publicly, but just as important historically. Chief among these was the site of Hazor, in the upper Galilee, which Yadin excavated in the late 1950s. In addition to serving as a training ground for the next generation of Israel's leading archeologists, it also shed light on one of the most important problems in Israel's early history – the conquest of Canaan, (or the lack thereof, as some scholars now believe).

As all of us know, that conquest was preceded by the Exodus from Egypt and the theophany at Mount Sinai, two of the most pivotal events in our history as a people. For many of us of a certain age, these events were immortalized by Cecil B. DeMille in his epic film, *The Ten Commandments*.

Films such as DeMille's *The Ten Commandments* added to my fascination with our past and led me to spend my life studying it. DeMille was a master of the biblical epic and had also made *Samson and Delilah* in 1949. (Interestingly DeMille's mother was Jewish). This film dealt with the formative period of the Judges, which is one of most fascinating eras in Israel's early history from both an archeological and historical point of view.

When I was growing up in the 1950s Hollywood was producing a whole slew of "sword and sandal" epics, as they came to be called. These films, corny as they may have been, were a source of both fascination and inspiration for a generation. They were an introduction to our phenomenal history and helped to instil in some of us a sense of pride in our inspirational past.

After the horrors of the Holocaust, Hollywood and the new State of Israel showed the world that Jews were capable of heroic acts in both the past and the present.

# Struggling with God

By Rabbi Michael Skobac

David Hazony's recent book *The Ten Commandments* reveals that while most people feel strongly about the commandments, few are actually able to enumerate them. Even for those who have pondered these foundational spiritual directives, the very first one is often perplexing.

Indeed, some thinkers have questioned whether the introductory statement that "I am the Lord your God who took you out of the land of Egypt from the house of slavery" (Exodus 20:2) should even be considered a commandment, but rather simply as a declaration of fact.

Nonetheless, belief in God as expressed in the famous credo, "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One!" (Deuteronomy 6:4) has always been the essential focus of Judaism.

Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto, and virtually every classical Jewish thinker, maintained that the ultimate goal of all the Torah's commandments is to connect us to God. Judaism seeks not just assent to the idea that God exists, but the development of an intimate personal attachment and relationship.

Of course, in a world where the winds of cynicism, secularism and materialism blow strongly, growing numbers of Jews find it difficult to fully embrace this ideal. Sadly, a recent Harris Poll revealed that 52 per cent of Jewish people surveyed claimed not to believe in God. Many would probably identify strongly with Woody Allen's quip, "If only God would give me a clear sign… like making a large deposit in my name in a Swiss bank!"

Many of our sages question how a commandment to believe in God even makes sense. If one already believes, there's no reason to be commanded. And if one doesn't believe, he or she can't simply turn on faith like opening a water faucet.

***Rabbinic Reflections***

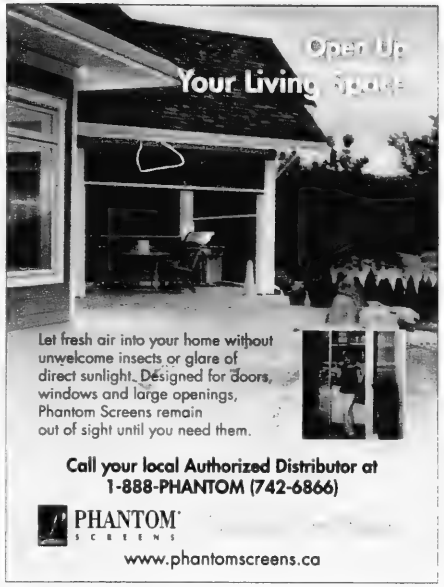
Rabbi Shalom Noach Berezovsky's groundbreaking work *Nesivos Shalom* suggests that the essence of the commandment to have faith is really a challenge to yearn, seek and strive for faith – to struggle with faith. This applies to both the believer and the one who does not yet believe.

According to the Babylonian Talmud, the first thing we will be asked in the afterlife when we leave this world will be whether we conducted our business affairs faithfully. The holy Rebbe of Sanz had a fascinating spin on this question. He understood it to be probing whether we dealt with our faith in the same manner that people engage in business.

People who have some money don't just want it to sit around. In order to grow their money, they do lots of research and seek all kinds of investment advice. Do we invest as much time and energy to grow and nurture our faith?

The etymology of our national name, Israel, reflects the idea of struggling with God (see Genesis 32:29). In many ways, this is also an inner struggle. Rav Tzadok HaKohen of Lublin teaches that not only are we supposed to believe in God, we also must believe in ourselves. By getting in touch with our own innate spirituality, we can find a path to connecting with the Almighty, who created us in His image.

*Rabbi Michael Skobac is director of education and counselling with Jews for Judaism in Toronto.*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# The Six Day War – the headlines

After six days, the war is ending. By mid-June 1967, Israel's lightning victory still dominates world headlines. But now questions are being asked about the war's aftermath – questions still not resolved as we mark the 45th anniversary of the Six Day war.

**June 11: Six-day Middle East war apparently comes to an end**

CAIRO (AP) – The six-day Middle East war apparently came to an end Saturday night with Israeli forces in control of all the land between the Suez Canal and the eastern shore of Galilee. **[http://bit.ly/6day30]**

**June 12: Revenge or peace: the choice**

From *The Guardian*: Now comes the bargaining, and it will be hard bargaining. So hard that a settlement may never be reached. The Arab governments, with strong Soviet backing, will refuse Israel's minimum demands. The Israelis, after total victory in the war, will not water down their requirements. Thus a deadlock is likely… we should be foolish to count on such a quick settlement. **[http://bit.ly/6day31]**

**June 13: Russians pushing to dislodge Israel**

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP) – The Soviet Union requested today an emergency special session of the General Assembly to press its demands that Israel withdraw from occupied territory in Egypt, Jordan and Syria… The Soviet Union has a resolution pending before the council that demands Israel "remove all its troops on the territory of those states and withdraw them behind the armistice line" fixed after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. **[http://bit.ly/6day32]**

**June 14: Wailing Wall opened for holiday**

From the *London Express*: Today is a great day for tens of thousands of Israelis. On the occasion of the Jewish feast of Shavuot (feast of weeks or of first fruits), a gate of Jerusalem's old walled city will be opened to the public for the first time in almost 20 years. They will pray at the Wailing Wall built of huge rock chunks, the last remnant of the biblical Second Temple. **[http://bit.ly/6day33]**

***Jewish & Digital***

***Mark Mietkiewicz***

**June 15: Israel annexing Jerusalem**

UPI – Israel took the first steps today to annex the Old City of Jerusalem without waiting for any formal peace settlement with the defeated Arab states. The move was expected to arouse the fury of the Arabs. **[http://bit.ly/6day34]**

**June 16: Israel can't 'dictate' lasting peace**

From the *St. Petersburg Independent*: The Israelis have unequivocally stated that they wish to negotiate directly with the Arab governments only and will not accept mediation from the outside. This is the traditional position of the victor, but it doesn't guarantee that the vanquished will remain quiescent… A dictated "peace" doesn't remove the threat of more war. It merely marks the beginning of a buildup to get revenge. **[http://bit.ly/6day35]**

**June 17: Israel vows to keep captured territories**

JERUSALEM (UPI) – Indications mounted today that Israel will not surrender one inch of occupied Arab territory unless permanent peace is assured in the Middle East. Three Israeli ministers served notice Friday night that this country has "no intention of squandering our military feats in any other way than by translating them into a permanent peace." … [Cabinet] minister Menachem Begin said, "Until we have peace, we shall not budge from an inch of territory come what may." **[http://bit.ly/6day36]**

For many more articles written during June 1967, go to **http://bit.ly/6day37.**

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# Gail Asper to chair Winnipeg CJA campaign

Myron Love
Prairies Correspondent

**WINNIPEG** — One of Canada's best-known and most successful fundraisers is taking charge of this year's Jewish Federation of Winnipeg's Combined Jewish Appeal (CJA) campaign.

Gail Asper was originally supposed to chair the annual campaign last year. She had expected to be able to give the federal government a $105-million cheque in April 2011 from the Friends of the Canadian Human Rights Museum, and the "rest would be up to the government," she said.

But it didn't quite turn out that way.

So while Asper now takes charge of the CJA campaign, she will also continue to fundraise for the $350-million museum, the last major project launched by her father, Israel, who died in October 2003.

"I have always been good at multi-tasking," she said.

Asper said that she has been feeling guilty over the years – while fundraising for the museum – about neglecting her home community. "Winnipeg has a wonderful Jewish community," she said. "My family and I have enjoyed the many benefits the community has to offer.

"I felt that chairing the CJA campaign would be a good way to reconnect with the community. Considering that the Asper Foundation is the largest donor and I am the foundation's president, as chair of the campaign, I can get to know better the personnel involved in the community's governance and fundraising as well as the beneficiary agencies."

Gail Asper

As campaign chair, Asper will be sitting on the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg board, as well as its budgets and allocations committee.

"We are excited that Gail accepted our invitation to chair the committee," said Elaine Goldstine, the federation's executive director. "When Gail takes on a job, she gives it 100 per cent."

Asper, in turn, has nothing but praise for the work of the federation. "I am very impressed by the level of transparency and scrutiny at every level," she says. "The CJA has a crack team and is an incredibly efficient operation. It is rare to find a fundraising operation where expenses are less 10 per cent of the funds raised."

The money raised from the campaign has been growing steadily for the pasts several years. Last year, the community contributed $5.4 million, Goldstine said.

"We are anticipating raising more this year, but haven't yet set a target," she said. "Super Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 9, while the Women's Philanthropy kickoff will be Sept. 10."

One of Gail Asper's priorities as CJA chair, Asper said, will be growing the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg Leave More Than Memories Endowment Fund, which her father helped initiate in 1989. The fund, administered by the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, currently has a capital base of $3 million.

"I am a huge believer in the importance of endowment funds," Asper said. "An endowment fund is a permanent source of funding that can serve as a buffer for regular donors who leave our community or pass away. The best time to build on an endowment fund is when the parent organization is financially stable. This is a perfect time in our community to work on increasing the size of our endowment fund."

Asper helped create an endowment fund for the Manitoba Theatre Centre. That fund now sits at $12 million – the original goal was $10 million – and last year produced $500,000 in interest for the use by Manitoba's leading theatre company.

The Women's Campaign chair for 2012-13 is Beth Goldberg, a veteran community fundraiser who co-chaired the Women's Campaign 10 years ago. She has been a campaign volunteer for 30 years and recently retired from teaching.

"Beth and Gail make a great team," Goldstine said.

# *GrowWinnipeg effort marks 10 years of success*

**WINNIPEG** — On June 3, Winnipeg's Jewish community will be celebrating a remarkable transformation.

Ten years ago, faced with a community whose numbers had declined from a peak of about 21,000 people in 1961 to just over 14,000 by 2002, Jewish leaders were looking for ways to reverse the trend.

In response, the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg established the GrowWinnipeg Initiative to stabilize and increase the city's Jewish population. But while it also focused on keeping young Jews in Winnipeg and persuading former Winnipeggers to return, the program has seen its greatest success in attracting new immigrants.

The effort has led to more than 1,600 Jewish families moving to this city from Israel, eastern Europe, the United States and South America, boosting Winnipeg's Jewish population to more than 16,500.

The celebration will be held at the Asper Jewish Community Campus, and organizers are hoping that up to 600 people – newcomers and host families alike – will attend. The evening will feature a kosher barbecue by leading Jewish chefs in the community, as well as a popular local DJ and door prizes.

"The idea grew out of a conversation that some of us had last summer about doing something to thank our new community for welcoming us as they have," said Sergio Levy, a member of the organizing committee who came to Winnipeg with his wife, Adriana, also a committee member, from Buenos Aires 10 years ago.

"We started working and meeting with other groups over the winter. We have had a lot of interest."

Organizers have promoted the event on Facebook and on the federation's website. There will also be a video with stories from the new Jewish Winnipeggers that will hopefully inspire others to move here.

"It was a shidduch made in heaven," said Evelyn Hecht, the federation official who was key in encouraging immigration and ensuring that newcomers were heartily welcomed.

"Our program was more successful than we dared imagine. The people who came were just the kind of people our community needed and wanted."

Initially largely from Argentina and more recently mainly from Russia and Israel, they were, for the most part, younger professional people with young families. As a result, the community's average age is lower than it was and the newcomers have eagerly embraced the community and its institutions.

Sergio and Adriana Levy, for example, were originally deciding between Toronto and Winnipeg. Sergio first came to Winnipeg as a result of a visit by Winnipeg community representatives, led by Hecht, to Buenos Aires. He said he was so impressed by the welcome he received here that he didn't bother with Toronto. Paulina Rozenman, also from Buenos Aires, chose Winnipeg over Toronto for the same reason. "There are opportunities for our children here that weren't available in Argentina," she said.

GrowWinnipeg co-ordinator Faye Rosenberg Cohen said the new arrivals from South America, Israel, Russia and elsewhere have changed the culture of the community.

"Newcomers and long-established members of the community have met in the middle," she said. "I have gotten more used to hugging and kissing [the South American way of greeting] rather than shaking hands. And the new members of our community help us appreciate better what we have here." —M.L.

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# USY holds spring convention

Compiled by CJN Staff

**HAMILTON, Ont.** — The Eastern Canada Region of United Synagogue Youth (ECRUSY) held its four-day spring convention earlier this month at Beth Jacob Synagogue here.

The youth group, affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, included chapter members from Toronto, Thornhill, Richmond Hill, Ottawa, Hamilton and London, who attended programs for Kadima members (grades 5 to 7) and USY members (grades 8 to 12).

Using the theme "Back to the Future," the students focused on learning, social action and fun and elected next year's regional executive board. They also raised close to $200 for tzedakah.

Participants explored what it means to be part of the Jewish People, held discussions about Jewish advice they wish they'd had when they were younger, and thought about questions they would ask their future selves if given the chance.

On Friday, the group enjoyed a Great and Amazing Scavenger Hunt around the Hamilton neighbourhood. On Saturday night, convention delegates were treated to a trip to Adventure Village, where they enjoyed miniature golf, batting cages, bumper cars, rock climbing and arcade games.

Convention co-chairs were Haley Szereszewski from Beit Rayim Synagogue in Thornhill, and Joshua Seed from Toronto.

Officers for the 2011-2012 ECRUSY regional executive board were elected. Noa Zaifman of Congregation Or Shalom, London, Ont., was elected president, succeeding Jonah Eisen of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation in Toronto.

Among the annual awards handed out were one for the most improved chapter, which went to Hamilton's Beth Jacob, and chapter of the year, which went to Or Shalom of London. The Sharon Cole Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Michaela Sadinsky of Agudath Israel Congregation in Ottawa for her service and commitment to ECRUSY.

**Seen from left is the 2012-2013 Eastern Canada Region of United Synagogue Youth regional executive board: Jake Pascoe, VP communications; Talia Jacob, VP membership/kadima; Shira Eisen, VP social action/tikkun olam; Ben Levine, VP religion/education; Sabrina Craig, VP Israel affairs, and Noa Zaifman, president.**

For more information on USY, please visit www.ecrusy.org or Facebook fan page ECRUSY: Canadians Do It Best.

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VOCAL MUSIC of TEREZIN
DEVELOPMENT of POPULAR SONG of ISRAEL
"A CANTOR'S TALE"
COMMUNITY MELAVEH MALKA
Sunday June 10
GERSHWIN with Jordan Klapman
JEWISH JAZZ with RON DAVIS
RUSSIAN YIDDISH SONGS
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The Children Sing
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# Mulcair, Rae mingle with CJPAC partygoers

Janice Arnold
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — While thousands of students were demonstrating in the streets of Montreal, more than 800 other young people were mingling with politicians over drinks against the backdrop of pulsating music spun by a DJ.

The scene the night of May 17 was the dimly lit l'Arsenal, a chic, contemporary art gallery in Griffintown, a onetime factory originally built in 1843.

This was the fourth annual Action Party hosted by the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC), an independent organization that seeks to get young Jews and others who are pro-Israel interested in politics.

CJPAC, founded seven years ago, is trying to get young adults actively involved in politics, not only reading the news and voting, but becoming a member of the party of their choice or working on election campaigns at any level.

"It's amazing to watch so many people who might otherwise avoid politics break through that barrier," said Kim Heilpern, an Action Party chair.

"Bringing the community and politicians together for a fabulous party with great food, music and drinks is a great way to show that becoming politically active can be both easy and fun."

This was by far the largest turnout yet, suggesting that the party has become a prized ticket despite the $60 ($70 at the door) price tag. Two busloads of attendees came in from Ottawa to join the Montrealers.

While the protest was not nearby, the student unrest did have a direct effect on the event. It coincided with the national assembly's sitting to draft emergency legislation to end the crisis, and no MNAs were present. Last year, Premier Jean Charest was a surprise guest.

Nevertheless, CJPAC recorded 30 federal and municipal politicians in the capacity crowd, which made its way around two life-size black horse mannequins with lampshades on their heads.

The partygoers had an opportunity to meet two national party leaders: the official Opposition Leader, New Democrat Thomas Mulcair, who attended with his wife, Catherine Pinhas, and interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae, who was joined by his wife, Arlene Perly Rae.

There were also two federal cabinet ministers, Diane Ablonczy, minister of state for foreign affairs (Americas and consular affairs), and Jason Kenney, minister of citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism, as well as Deepak Obhrai, parliamentary secretary to the minister of foreign affairs.

New Democrats were conspicuous by their large turnout. Several of the now year-old NDP MPs from Quebec joined in the informal get-together, including Tyrone Benskin and Isabelle Morin of the Montreal ridings, respectively, of Jeanne-Le Ber and Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine; Jonathan Genest-Jourdain of Manicouagan in the Charlevoix-Saguenay region; Françoise Boivin of Gatineau and Mathieu Ravignat of nearby Pontiac; Mylène Freeman of Argenteuil-Papineau-Mirabel; Pierre Nantel of Longueuil-Pierre Boucher; and Jamie Nicholls of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, as well as veteran Winnipeg Centre MP Pat Martin.

**Official Opposition Leader Thomas Mulcair and wife Catherine Pinhas attend CJPAC's Action Party in Montreal.**

The ranking municipal politician was Michael Applebaum, chair of the Montreal executive committee and mayor of the Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough. Côte St. Luc Mayor Anthony Housefather was joined by almost all of his councillors.

Supporters of Israel and the Jewish community must be present in the political process, CJPAC's Toronto-based executive director Mark Waldman emphasized.

"If our community is going to be heard and have an impact, it will be because average Jewish and pro-Israel Canadians participate in the democratic process. Young people are especially open to this message."

The format seems to work: no speeches or introductions. Politicians wear name tags, and attendees are on their own to meet them – or not.

CJPAC has an office in Montreal, led by regional director Steeve Azoulay, and other events are held here throughout the year. For more information, visit CJPAC.ca.

Please join us for the Toronto launch of
*Nazi Germany: Canadian Responses*

June 5, 2012 7:00pm
7th floor York Research Tower, York University
Dessert reception

Four contributors to the book will comment:
Professors Doris Bergen
Richard Menkis
Harold Troper
and Michael Brown

Free parking passes available for York Lanes parking garage.

The book is a project of the National Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research and is published by McGill-Queen's University Press with the support of the Government of Canada and the B'nai Brith Foundation.

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Baycrest

## Notice of Annual Meeting

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care
The Baycrest Day Care Centre
Baycrest Hospital
The Jewish Home for the Aged
(collectively, "Baycrest")
and The Baycrest Centre Foundation

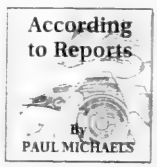
**Winter Garden, Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged**
**3560 Bathurst Street, Toronto**
**June 21, 2012** **RSVP:**
**3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** **416 785-2500, ext. 6303**

**By-law changes for Baycrest:**
By-law No. 6 - 2012 for each of the Baycrest corporations will be presented to Baycrest members for approval. Made in anticipation of the Not-For-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 coming into force later this year, By-law No. 6 reduces the corporate membership to one class: the elected directors. Currently, elected directors are the only members who may vote. The by-law ensures that this continues when the new legislation is in force.

**By-law changes for The Baycrest Centre Foundation:**
By-law No. 18 replaces the previous By-law No. 17 and includes the following changes. References to the Women's Auxiliary and the Vice-President of Finance are deleted. Inactive standing committees have been eliminated and the Finance and Audit committees have been merged. The Executive Committee membership has been revised accordingly. Minimum responsibilities are specified for Directors. The by-laws further provide that elected directors for 2012 will be elected for a one-year term in preparation for a governance review which may affect the board's structure.

# Predictions abound in Egypt's election

On the eve of the first round of Egypt's presidential elections slated for May 23, Canadian media reports reflected a range of views about the likely winner and the impact these elections could have on the future of Egypt and the wider Arab world.




Although the final result may not be known until a second run-off election (if necessary) is held in mid-June, the *National Post*'s Peter Goodspeed noted that the stakes are high: "The result, which is far from predictable, will shape the future of the Arab world's most populous state and could determine whether last year's Arab Spring can produce a new era in Middle East politics."

While Goodspeed declined to predict an outcome, he noted that the dozen candidates in the running pitted "Islamists against secularists and revolutionaries against members of the former regime." He reminded readers that Egypt's parliamentary elections held last fall saw the Islamists of the Muslim Brotherhood (with almost 50 per cent) and the more extreme Salafists (with 25 per cent of the seats) dominate.

Might this not indicate that in a country as religiously conservative as Egypt, an Islamist candidate for president is most likely to prevail? Not necessarily, according to Goodspeed. "But concerns that the Muslim Brotherhood might dominate Egypt's politics, could see the group's official candidate, Mohamed Mursi, do poorly. Still, the party's grassroots organizing ability has the potential to get out the vote."

Writing a May 20 analysis piece for CBC's website, Mideast correspondent Sasa Petricic noted the uncertainty in the race, but focused on Amr Moussa. A 75-year-old former head of the Arab League, Moussa is considered by many, Petricic noted, to be the leading contender for the presidency.

"[H]ow did a secular, former Mubarak official like Moussa end up as a front-runner?" Petricic asked.

"[H]e's been playing on two big fears that Egyptians have of their future... [W]hile the vast majority of Egyptians consider themselves devout Muslims, it's not so clear how many actually want to live in a state defined by religion. Moussa has raised the spectre of an overbearing and risky 'Islamist experiment' if his rivals win. Just as important, he's been promising a return to stability and prosperity."

Petricic pointed out that with the economy "in tatters" and many without jobs, no candidate will likely be able to turn things around. As a result, there is a strong chance of fresh protests emerging in what optimists consider to be a budding democracy.

Filing for the *Globe and Mail* from the upper Egyptian district of Komboha on May 22, Patrick Martin had a different prediction: "The outcome of the vote here, and across the country, is likely going to be the election of an Islamist president – either Mr. Mursi or Dr. Aboul Fotouh."

Fotouh, formerly with the Brotherhood, broke ranks by running for the presidency before the party decided to enter the race. Often called a "moderate" Islamist in western media circles, he is oddly supported by both liberal reformers and the Salafists of the al-Nour party, whose own candidate was disqualified.

According to Martin, the prospect of an Islamist president, however, "scares the devil" out of the Christian Copts who live in Komboha in an often tenuous relationship with their far more numerous Muslim neighbours. (Copts make up about 10 per cent of the Egyptian population of 80 million, and the same proportion among Egypt's 50 million eligible voters.)

Given these figures, Martin concluded: "With three major candidates vying for the secular 30 per cent, and two major candidates fighting for the Islamist 70 per cent, the numbers seem clear: It could well be an all Islamist runoff election."

If so, who indeed will there be to protect minority rights? And if minority (and individual) rights cannot be protected, what does "democracy" really mean?

As this column goes to press, votes have yet to be cast, although preliminary results will be available at the time of publication. Readers will thus have the benefit of deciding who among the media experts perhaps best captured what's happening in this vital area of the Arab world.

*Paul Michaels is director of research and media relations for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

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May 21, 2012

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# UJA Walk with Israel

## More than 15,000 of us celebrated Victoria Day in style!

Thank you to the thousands of community members, our generous sponsors, the Walk with Israel Chairs and Committee, and our remarkable cadre of more than 400 volunteers, all of whom came together to make UJA's Walk with Israel 2012 a tremendous success! The streets of downtown Toronto were awash in blue, white and red on Victoria Day, while you displayed your solidarity with, and love for Israel as proud Canadians.

**Let's do it again next year!**

Photos by Evie Abbott, Jeremy Ono & Calen Tavitz

# Special thanks to the following for making UJA's 2012 Walk with Israel an unforgettable event:

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*We apologize for the omittance of any names*

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# Photo exhibit promotes SACH

**Abigail Cukier**
Special to The CJN

**HAMIILTON** — One out of every 100 babies throughout the world is born with a congenital heart defect, often a problem that can be repaired, but in many countries, there are no physicians to perform the surgery.

Save a Child's Heart (SACH), an Israeli-based, non-profit organization, provides urgent cardiac surgery for infants and children from underprivileged areas, at no cost.

Since 1995, SACH has performed more than 2,800 surgeries on children from 42 countries. It also trains medical personnel in developing countries to do proper followup with the children. The goal is to train physicians and thus establish centres of competence within these countries.

For example, Ethiopia, with a population of 83 million, has three pediatric cardiologists, two of whom were trained by SACH. Not one pediatric cardiac surgeon lives in Ethiopia, however, and SACH is now training a pediatric cardiac surgeon.

The cost for each child's operation is $10,000, which includes hospitalization, local transportation and room and board at the SACH home for recuperation.

When Dr. Lorne Finkelstein, chair of the Hamilton Jewish Federation's public relations committee, learned about SACH, he wanted to find a way the community could help. The committee decided to bring the SACH international photography exhibition, *From Art to Heart*, to Hamilton to foster awareness of the program and raise funds for SACH Canada.

The exhibition, which was on display for one night at Beth Jacob Synagogue May 16, provides a glimpse of the children, families, doctors and nurses as they go through these life-changing journeys.

*To read full story, go to cjnews.com*

**Shaar Shalom Synagogue**

**Thoughts about Israel from Inside Turkey**

The Adult Education Committee presents
Turkey Ex-pats Ovadiah Gulerson & Haldun Karabulut who will share their first-hand experiences of Turkey's understanding and attitude towards Israel.

**Sunday, June 3rd @ 7:30 p.m.**

2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill (nw corner of Don Mills and Steeles).
*Refreshments served. Everyone welcome. Call 905-889-4975 for further information*

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# דער יידיש ווינקל

## דזשערי קעין

### שענער זענען דינד פון אָרעמע, חי מעשים טובים פון די רײַכע

די וועלטער זענען געווען פון אַ פּאָעמע, "גאָטס טערען", געשריבען אין יידיש פון אברהם יהושע העשל—געבוירן אין וואַרשע אין 1907 און געשטאָרבן אין ניו- יאָרק אין 1967. העשל איז געווען אַן עילוי (אַ וווּנדערקינד אין ים פון תלמד), פּאָעט, פֿילאָזאָף און רב.

זײַן פּאָעטער, אַ חסידישער רבי, האָט אים, צו פֿערצן יאָר, געשיקט אין דער ווילנער רעאַל גימנאַזיע אַ באַרימט הײַלטלעכע שולע. משה קובאַק און מאָקס עריק זײַנען געווען צוישן זײַנע לערערס. אין ווילנע איז ער געוואָרן נאָענט צו דער יונג -יידישע גרופּע פּאָעטן און האָט אַנגעהויבן שרײַבן זײַן אירגענע פּאָעזיע. זײַנע ערשטע לידער זײַנען געדרוקט געוואָרן אין אַ וואַרשעווער צײַטונג אין 1929 און זײַן ערשטע זאַמלונג, אַרץ געדרוקט אין וואַרשע אין 1933. העשל האָט די זאַמלונג געוויזן; דער שם הכּפורס: מענטש. העשל איז געווען אַ פֿאַרטיידיקער פון יידיש זײַן נאָענט לעבן. פֿאַר אים איז יידיש געווען אַ כּלי מענטשלעכע מוזיק וואָס האָט קלאָר געמאַכט דעם אמת פון גאָטס וערטער און דעם נאַרונג פון כּענטש צו גאָט.

מיר דערמאָנען העשלען אַרף אין אונדזער וויכל יאָר אָט געמאכט אַ גרויסע השפּעה. נישט נאָר אַרף דעם אַמעריקאַנער יידישן קיבורן, נאָר אַרף איבער דער גאַרער וועלט וווּ יידן האָבן דרך געגנטאָפּן אין אַרף אין דער אַלעמײַנער וועלט וווּ די סטימע פון רבנים האָבן אָפט דיך ניטש גענהערט אויפֿן בעבּיט פון אַפּליטיק און ציוויליזער רעכט. העשל האָט געהאָלטן אַז מען קען ניט דינען גאָט און אין דער וועלבער צײַט דיך אָהעקדרייען פון די אומרעכטיקײַטן וואָס אַנדערע מענטשן לײַדן, וויי לכּשל, די שוואַרצע באַפּעלקערונג פון אַפֿריקע.

הײַנט וועג מען קוקט צוריק אויף די בילדער פון די ציוויל- רעכט מאַרש אין אַמעריקע דעם מען אין דער ערשטער רייִ מאַרשירט, בײַ דער זײַט פון מאַרטין לוטער קינג, אַ וויכּס פּנים. ביט וויסע האָר און בּאָרד. דאָס איז העשל. און וועג מען קוקט צוריק אין די יאָרן פון וויעטנאַם פּראָטעסט אין אַמעריקע, דעמ מען אין דער ערשטער רייִ, זײַט בײַ זײַט מיט קריסטלעכע טעאָלאָגן, העשלען. און וועג מען קוקט אַרײַן וווּ די יידישע סטימע האָט דאָ געהערט בײַם צוזאַמען תאטיקאָן קאָנסול, דעם מען אז העשל איז דאָרט נעווען און האָט געהאָט אַ פּריוואָטע דיזונג מיט דעם פּרסּ: פּאָול דער זעקסטער.

פֿאַר העשלען איז אַן אַנטפּלעקונג, צענטראַל צו זײַן זוכן פֿאַר וועלט וווּ האָס וועלן מאַכן אונדז פֿאַרשטיין אז גאָט זוכט אונדז אַנצונעמען נערן-וווּליק מיט לעבנס וואָס רעפֿלעקטירן גאָטס געראכטיקייט און חסד.

*גאָטס טרערן לינן אויף די באַקן*
*פון פֿאַרשעמטע שוואַכע מענטשן.*
*לאָמיך גיין אָפּוויישן זײַן נעזיכטן.*

*אין וועמעס אַדערן עס זיכערט*
*א שחדער שטיל פֿאַר גאָט,*
*זאל קוישן אַן אָרעמע די נעגל.*

*צום צעטראָטענעם וואָרעם אונטער זיכלן*
*וויפֿט גאָט: —מײַן היליקער כּארטידער!*

*און שענער זענען דינד פון אָרעמע*
*חי מעשים טובים פון די רײַכע.*

העשל האָט אײַנגעלאַדן מאַרטין לוטער קינג צו גאָסט בײַ זײַן סדר אָבער מען האָט קינגן אומגעבראַכט אַ וואָך פֿאַר פּסח.

פון דער רעדאַקציע: אויב איר האָט נעדאַנקען וועגן אונדזער וועקל לאָמיר וויסן, דורך פּאָסט אדער בליצפּאָסט: *cjninfo@gmail.com*

**CANADIAN PRIDE:** Grade 3 students at Associated Hebrew Schools' Kamin campus in Thornhill Josh Serruya, right, and Nathan Levy built structures with the Canadian flag in honour of Victoria Day.

**PIZZA PARTY:** The children at Temple Sinai Nursery School thoroughly enjoyed making cheese pizza from scratch. They each took turns rolling the dough, spreading the tomato sauce and adding the grated cheese. They shared the dairy treat as part of their Shavuot celebration. From left are Jake Schneiderman, Farrah Ceresne, Shylee Eliav-Kotick, Charlie Gelman, Lucas Panzer, Elijah Lahmany, Samantha Goldstein, Logan Weiss, Eden Ambrose, Levi Smith and Nicki Miller.

**HERITAGE CELEBRATION:** MPP Mike Colle joined students at Bialik Hebrew Day School for a school-wide Kabbalat Shabbat ceremony in honour of the first Jewish Heritage month this May. Pictured with Colle is Bialik's student council, who led the ceremony.

# Mazel Tov
# מזל טוב

Welcome Abigail Maya Cole! Born March 20 to proud parents Leora & Avi, grandparents Michelle & Lawrie Apple, Josephine & Michael Cole. We love you.

Congratulations to Melodie Hebscher & Tom Markowitz on their 40th wedding anniversary!

Mazel tov to Sarah Zietlow on your 70th birthday, from your loving family.

Ida & Barry Levitt, Susan & Bijan Bakva are thrilled to announce the engagement of Dr. Mitchell Levitt & Michelle Bakva. A fall wedding is planned.

Happy 98th birthday June 5, Armin Schleichkorn, Czechoslovak Holocaust survivor, Allied World War II veteran and still going strong! With love, your sons, family and friends.

Happy 60th anniversary Bernice & Bernard Bratz. Love from your children Roanne, Ron, Arlene and Alan , and your grandchildren David, Jackie, Evan and Adam.

Email your digital photos to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click the "Family Moments"

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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

Social Networking @ The Canadian Jewish News
for the :-) generation
YT
BEEBOM/CS

**Deadline reminder: June 4 is the deadline for the issue of June 14. June 11 is the deadline for the issue of June 21. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail whatsnew-cjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, May 31

***ZAMIR***

Beth Emeth Synagogue screens *Zamir: Jewish Voices Return to Poland*, with an introduction by **Yitzhak Argaman**, 7:30 p.m. Tickets $15/ $8 (youth). 416-633-3838.

***AGE RAGE***

National Council of Jewish Women, Shalom branch, presents **David Cravit**, author of *Age Rage: The Coming War of the Generations* at 8 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. RSVP info@ncjwc-ts.org or 416-633-5100.

**JEWRY UNDER ATTACK**

**Frank Dimant** discusses "World Jewry Under Attack: New Sound Bites, New Strategies," 7:30 p.m., Beth David Synagogue.

## Friday, June 1

**BIKERS' BREAKFAST**

Join Yids on Wheels as they ride to raise money for Holocaust programs, 8:30 a.m., Shaar Shalom Synagogue. **Dave** 416-224-9494.

**SCHWARTZ REISMAN OPENS**

The Schwartz Reisman Centre holds its grand opening today. Visit www.srcentre.ca or call 905-303-1821.

## Saturday, June 2

**PRIDE SERVICE**

Shir Libeynu holds its annual Pride service, 10:30 a.m., Miles Nadal JCC. Child care and kiddush lunch. http://shirlibeynu.ca.

## Sunday, June 3

**JEWISH FOLK CHOIR**

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir holds its 86th annual spring concert, 3 p.m., Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave. For tickets, 905-669-5906 or folkchoir@hotmail.com.

**ISRAEL DAY FESTIVAL**

Na'amat Canada and Canadian Zionist Federation hold an Israel Day Festival, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at York Hill Park, Thornhill (Clark and Atkinson avenues.) 416-636-5425.

**ISRAEL AND THE MEDIA**

Oraynu Congregation presents Prof. **Derek Penslar** discussing "Israel: A State of Exception?" 6:45 p.m., Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St. $20. 416-385-3910 or roby@oraynu.org.

**ESTATE PLANNING**

**Howard S. Dyment, Kevin Peires, Gary Peires** discuss "Estate Planning for Women," Shaarei Tefillah Congregation, 3600 Bathurst St. Breakfast, 10 a.m., lecture 10:30 a.m. $5/$7. RSVP 416-787-1631.

**Continued on page 27**

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE
**Musical Heritage Concert Series**
**National Yiddish Theatre's Soul to Soul:**
**Yiddish and African-American Musical Celebration**
**Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at 8 p.m.**
ZALMEN MLOTEK
Yiddish expert, producer & accompanist
HAZZAN MAGDA FISHMAN
Cabaret singer and stage singer extraordinaire
ELMORE JAMES & TONY PERRY
From the power of song to overcome persecution to the celebration of life through spiritual music, the African-American and Jewish peoples share the musical traditions that are the soul and message of this extraordinary performance.
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For more Information
416 636 5425
Free Admission
israeldayfestival.com

Continued from page 26

*SHLEMIEL*

The film *Shlemiel*, about **Menachem Feuer** who mixes religious life with music and family, will be shown 8 p.m., at the Gladstone Hotel.1214 Queen St. W.

**THE CHORALAIRS**

The Choralairs perform 1:30 p.m. Earl Bales Park Community Centre. www.thechoralairs.com.

**ISRAEL FROM INSIDE TURKEY**

**Ovadia Gulersen** and **Haldun Karabulut** discuss "Thoughts About Israel From Inside Turkey," 7:30 p.m., Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd, Thornhill.

## Tuesday, June 5

*SOUL TO SOUL*

As part of Jewish Music Week, Holy Blossom Temple presents National Yiddish Theatre's *Soul to Soul: Yiddish and African-American Musical Celebration* featuring **Zalmen Mlotek**, **Hazzan Magda Fishman**, **Elmore James** and **Tony Perry**, 8 p.m. $30. For tickets, www.holyblossom.org or 416-789-3291, ext. 224.

*THE FREE WORLD*

**Marilyn Herbert** reviews *The Free World* by **David Beznozgis**, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. $5, donations to the Kosher Food Bank appreciated.

**THE ETHICS OF SHCHITAH**

Shoresh Jewish Environmental Programs holds a study session on the ethics of kosher animal slaughter, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to sabrina@shoresh.ca for location.

**AUBREY DAN**

**Aubrey Dan** discusses "There's No Business Like Show Business," Beth Tikvah Synagogue, noon. By reservation only, 416-221-3433, ext. 352, or helen@bethtikvahtoronto.org.

**KOSHER POP MUSIC**

As part of Jewish Music Week, **Cantor Eyal Bitton** discusses "Kosher Pop Music in Shul," 10 a.m., Beth Emeth Synagogue.

*NAZI GERMANY: CANADIAN RESPONSES*

The Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies is holding a book launch for *Nazi Germany: Canadian Responses* at York Research Tower, Seventh floor, 7 p.m. Professors **Doris Bergen**, **Richard Menkis**, **Harold Troper** and **Michael Brown** will speak. 416-736-5823.

**JEWS FOR JUDAISM**

**Rabbi Michael Skobac** discusses "Deconstructing Missionary Prooftexts," 8 p.m., The Lodzer Congregation, 12 Heaton St. Contact 416-789-0020 or toronto@jewsforjudaism.

## Wednesday, June 6

**SEX AFTER 50**

**Dr. Stephen Holzapfel** discusses "Sex After 50: A Conversation for Men Among Men." Beth David Synagogue, 8 p.m., 55 Yeomans Dr. 416-633-5500.

**SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY**

**MP John Baird**, **Carlo Baldassarra** and **Mordechai Ronen** will be honoured at the Spirit of Community dinner hosted by Israeli Chabad, 6 p.m., Terrace Banquet Centre, Vaughan. For tickets, 905-709-7770 or www.chabadisraeli.net/spiritdinner.

## Thursday, June 7

*CELEBRATION OF LIFE*

Beit Halochem Canada, Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, presents *Celebration of Life*, concert, 7:30 p.m., Toronto Centre for the Arts. For tickets, 905-695-061 or www.beithalochem.ca.

**JERUSALEM DAY TREASURES**

The Jerusalem Foundation of Canada hosts an art exhibition and live auction, 6:30-9:30 p.m, PI Fine Art, 1180 Caledonia Rd. Tickets, $80. 416-635-5491.

**YIDDISH VINKL**

**Prof. Kalman Weiser** speaks about his latest book, *Jewish People, Yiddish Nation: Noah Prylucki and the Folkists in Poland*, noon at the Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. RSVP: yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca.

**JEWS IN THE MAURITIUS**

**Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses Jewish refugees who were exiled to the island of Mauritius, Temple Har Zion, 7:30 p.m. 905-889-2252.

**'WEEKEND OF TWINNING'**

The Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims discusses a "Weekend of Twinning" between synagogues and mosques, 7 p.m., Darchei Noam Congregation, 864 Sheppard Ave. W. For more information, contact **Barbara Landau**, blandau@rogers.com; **Shahid Akhtar**, shahidacktar1@rogers.com, 905-712-2872.

## Other News

**CURE FOR COURTNEY**

The Cure for Courtney holds a fundraiser for the young woman's cancer treatments, June 13, 7:30 p.m., The Avenue Banquets, 1600 Steeles Ave. W. For tickets: www.courtney.eventbrite.com or **Carey Rosenzweig**, 416-818-2600; **Jennie Dale**, 416-809-7976.

**YIDDISH CONCERT**

Friends of Yiddish hold their closing concert June 10, 2 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. RSVP by June 6. **Sandy** 416-736-8073; 416-458-1440 or yiddish18@yahoo.ca.

## JF&CS GROUPS

All programs require pre-registration and are open to all members of the community. To register, call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or www.jfandcs.com. All classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St., unless otherwise noted.

Raising Your Child/Teen in an Age of Overindulgence: A workshop for parents wanting to learn more about overindulgence and the consequences, June 13, 7:30 p.m.

Dating in Midlife: A workshop for men and women over 40 who have been single for 2 or more years, June 14, 7 p.m.

When You're About to Separate, What to Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents in the early stages of separation, June 14, 6:30 p.m., Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

**BEREAVED PARENTS**

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. On June 10, the group is attending a fundraising performance of *Lost in Yonkers*, St. Lawrence Theatre for the Arts. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. Dance with live music, June 3, 7 p.m. $5. Casino Rama, June 13. Kosher dairy lunch, June 14. $5.Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, social bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts.Call **Morty**, 416-783-6478.

**The Bridge Club** at Forest Hill Library is seeking new members. Call **Lea** (evenings), 416-487-7630.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Bernard Betel Centre** 416-225-2112. June 5, **Myriam Shechter** discusses "Great Russian Music," 10 a.m.; June 7, **Riva Waldman** discusses "Camouflage Makeup Techniques," 1:30 p.m.

**Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. June 7, Opera educator **Iain Scott** presents "*Nabucco*: Verdi's Jewish Opera," 1:30 p.m. $5.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526, **Colin Blayney.**

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

**Hugh Innes** teaches a course on Democracy in Our Time, June 5-26, 10:30 a.m.

Register for bridge and mah-jong classes beginning in June.

Ongoing programs include current events, Thursdays at 12:45 p.m.; duplicate bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.; folk dance, Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

*When This War Ends* is a chamber jazz opera, May 31, 8 p.m., Al Green Theatre. For tickets, visit www.spectrummusic.ca.

Toronto Jewish Film Society screens *Daniel*, June 3 at 4 and 7:30 p.m. With guest speaker **Kevin Courrier.** Ext. 606.

**Adam Nayman** discusses the films *Clockwork Orange* and *Barry Lyndon*, June 4, 7 p.m.

Tickets on sale for MNJCC Community Choir in concert, June 6-7, 8 p.m. ext. 0.

Annex Festival is on June 10, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Bloor Street.

**Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** teaches a class on "Thinking Jewish," June 11-25, 8 p.m. Ext. 154.

Summer Institute for Creative Adults offers adult vocal/choir camp, July 16-20. Ext. 250.

Call for submissions to the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition. Deadline July 3, 2012. For submission guidelines, esthera@mnjcc.org or ext. 606.

Art by student winners of Jewish Music Week Art Contest is on display in the gallery, June 1-10.

*SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24*

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# Chef influenced by spices of native India

**Lauren Kramer**
Special to The CJN

Meet Linda Hertzman and you know right away you've met a strong, determined woman. The culinary whiz behind the Vancouver-based catering company Classic Impressions, Hertzman, 54, routinely wows Vancouver's Jewish community with exceptional food that goes far beyond ordinary Ashkenazi fare.

Her background in a country where spice plays such a prominent role may have something to do with that.

Hertzman grew up in Kochi (previously Cochin) in the south of India.

Part of a Jewish community of 200 at the time she lived there, she developed a fondness for the culinary world at a young age, but initially, the odds were stacked against her. For one thing, the family had a cook, so Hertzman had little opportunity to prepare meals herself. As well, her father had other plans for her.

"He wanted me to have a profession," she recalls.

So she went off to university, graduating with a master's degree in psychology by age 24. In between her university courses, though, she snuck off to Indian cooking schools to pursue her passion for savoury dishes.

While she was still a student, Hertzman met her future husband, Toronto-born Steve Hertzman, who was travelling in India on business. When she made aliyah in 1983, the two kept in touch, and a year later, they married.

The couple moved to Toronto where Hertzman looked for Canadian recognition of the degrees she'd worked so hard for. Instead, she was told they were not considered equivalent to those offered in Canada, and that she'd have to return to school if she wanted to become a psychologist.

The writing was on the wall, and Hertzman decided to ditch psychology and follow her first love – cooking. She enrolled at the George Brown College cooking school and at Seneca College, taking courses on food service and restaurant management, to learn the details of her chosen career.

Over the next 10 years, she helped out in the family business, a bulk food kosher store called Raisins, Almonds & More, on Bathurst Street south of Lawrence Avenue. Three children followed, and in 1994, the family relocated to Vancouver to purchase a restaurant called Leon's. They renamed it Aviv's Kosher Meats, and Hertzman headed the kosher kitchen, preparing meals for Jewish family services and doing some kosher catering on the side.

She found a culinary ally in Zari Layegh, an Iranian chef who had worked in Montreal's kosher restaurants and knew Jewish cooking. Together, the two put their own spin on kosher catering, with thematic offerings including Middle Eastern, Indian, Continental and Moroccan Sephardi dishes.

With extensive catering experience at companies including Motorola and Canadian Airlines, Hertzman is no stranger to cooking for large numbers. These days she lends her talents to food service for a local hospital group, preparing more than meals each day.

Her favourite kind of cooking, though, is for the private catering contracts she signs for weddings, bar mitzvahs and private functions.

"I put a lot of Indian fusion into my dishes, making items like kubegh, a dumpling with a meat filling, and pastels, similar to blintzes but more savoury," she says. "I love playing around with flavours, trying out different things and then having the satisfaction of seeing people enjoy my food."

At an event catered by Hertzman you might find yourself eating hameem, a traditional Cochini cholent, or meat kofta kabobs and fish dishes with a twist of Indian and Moroccan flavours.

Culinary themes are the latest trends, she notes, particularly themes with an Asian influence. "We'll still have salmon on the menu, but it's more likely to be miso salmon than lemon pepper."

Linda Hertzman

When you regularly prepare dinner for 100, cooking for a crowd of 10 begins to look easy. At home, Hertzman whips up amazing meals for her family and friends in no time at all, making the process look effortlessly easy. It helps that kosher ingredients are readily available through her spouse's business, the Kosher Food Warehouse in Vancouver.

But as any foodie will tell you, cooking is about so much more than mixing ingredients. It takes a pro to know just how much sauce will bring out the flavour, which spice will be most effective and how to revolutionize an ordinary dish. Hertzman has an innate knowledge of these things, and as a result, Classic Impressions has become a go-to catering company in Vancouver.

# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

### Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hajnal, Margaret | May 11/12 | 7440 Bathurst St |
| Waterman, Yonna | May 12/12 | Private |
| Wanglinsky, Allen | May 15/12 | |
| Cordovi, Regina | May 14/12 | Private |
| Letitchever, Ester | May 15/12 | 5340 Yonge St |
| Green, Cecil George | May 15/12 | Private |
| Nahmias, Jacob | May 15/12 | 6040 Bathurst St |
| Grossman, David | May 17/12 | 55 Ameer Ave |
| Goldberg, Gail | May 17/12 | 333 Clark Ave W |
| Verny, Gertrude | May 17/12 | 44 Gilgorm Rd |
| Redlick, Perry | May 17/12 | 191 Maxwell St |
| Rodova, Sofia | May 18/12 | 124 Chelmsford Ave |
| Fain, Raul | May 19/12 | 24 Bernick Rd |
| Botnick, Anne | May 19/12 | 3636 Bathurst St |
| Woznica, Willie | May 20/12 | 147 Shaftesbury St |
| Mayers, Sylvia | May 20/12 | 191 Overbrook Place |
| Rabinovich, Yosef | May 21/12 | 4300 Bathurst St |

### BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Allen Sager | May 12/12 | 609 - 110 Promenade Circle |
| Norman Burns | May 14/12 | 55 Skymark Dr. |
| Ethel Skolnick | May 14/12 | 5935 Bathurst St. |
| Lillian Walkin | May 15/12 | 170 Red Maple |
| Jean Borkowsky | May 16/12 | 62 Cocksfield Avenue |
| Rita Weisberg | May 18/12 | 1 Clark Ave. W. |

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**OBITUARY**

## Young leader mourned

**Myron Love**
Prairies Correspondent

**WINNIPEG** — There was a prominent absentee at this year's Jewish Federation of Winnipeg's annual Kavod Award evening on May 23.

Sadly, Richard Tapper, the scheduled recipient of the Harry Silverberg Young Leader of Distinction Award, was unable to keep the date, as a life full of promise was cut short in a losing battle with colon cancer. Tapper was just 35.

He was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer on New Year's Eve. Despite the grim diagnosis, Tapper tried to live his life as normally as possible almost to the end. Just two weeks before he died, he gave a lecture while fighting through the pain.

*To read the full story, go to cjnews.com.*

# Kids recover quicker from war trauma: psychologist

**Ron Csillag**
Special to The CJN

An Israeli psychologist specializing in trauma says children react to the horrors of war and terrorism in much the same way as adults do, but they tend to recover more quickly.

"The younger you are, the more at risk you are [to trauma]," according to Naomi Baum, director of the resilience unit at Herzog Hospital's Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma (ICTP) in Jerusalem.

"Cognitively, adults and children are quite different, but in terms of the way they feel and react to trauma, the emotions are the same," Baum told *The CJN* in a telephone interview. "Fear is the same, anxiety is the same. We would like to think that we are shielding our children, but in general, they are exposed to trauma and react to it."

But children "are more malleable [than adults] and heal more quickly in general."

Baum will address, via Skype, the third annual conference of Doctors Against Racism and Anti-Semitism (DARA) slated for June 3 at Sunnybrook Hospital's McLaughlin Auditorium. This year's theme is "War Trauma and Children."

The event will also hear from retired Canadian general Romeo Dallaire, who commanded UN forces in Rwanda; Dr. Homer Tien, a trauma surgeon who served in Afghanistan, and Dr. Frank Sommers, a Toronto psychiatrist and child Holocaust survivor who also served in Afghanistan.

The ICTP was formed in 1989 to contend with an alarming phenomenon: an estimated nine per cent of Israelis suffer from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), three times the levels in other western countries.

But as Baum pointed out, the ratio of Israelis suffering from general trauma-related distress can spike at 80 per cent in times of war or terrorist attack.

In those instances, "a lot of people are anxious, aren't sleeping, have trouble concentrating," she said. "They may not fit the entire standard definitions of trauma, but if people are suffering, we treat them. We don't have to have a complete PTSD diagnosis."

Her approach is "not to look at what's wrong with someone, but at what's right with them, what works for them as a coping mechanism, and then we try to strengthen what they already have. In a way, it's looking at the cup half full and not half empty," she told the news agency Israel 21c in 2009.

In addition to screening children for PTSD, Baum's program in Israel also trains mental health professionals in how to treat those who are identified.

She works with local schools, educating the staff about trauma and emotional resilience.

It's often "very difficult" to measure PTSD distress in children, especially infants, Baum said. "A lot of the information we do get about very young children is from parental reports, and those are obviously coloured by how the parents are doing."

The ICTP has developed and implemented programs both in the north of Israel, where children were affected by the Second Lebanon War in 2006, and in the south, where rocket bombardments continue to traumatize many residents.

Naomi Baum

Trauma, said Baum, has a cumulative effect.

"People tolerate a certain amount of trauma, and they get knocked down once or twice or three times, and they pop right back up. But on the fourth time, and it might even be a real small knock, that just floors them."

Baum has paid seven visits to Biloxi, Miss., to adapt pyschotrauma programs developed in the wake of terrorism in Israel for the treatment of survivors of Hurricane Katrina. She said the process can work the other way, too: survivors of human-made violence can help those who have lived through natural disaster.

She said there's "some evidence" to show that war and terrorism provoke deeper traumas than natural disasters, "but it's not entirely conclusive."

PTSD doesn't differentiate between the sources of trauma, which has to be life-threatening or perceived as such.

"It could be a car accident or a terrorist attack. Trauma is trauma."

To date, the most effective treatment has been cognitive behavioural therapy, or CBT, which uses both cognitive and behavioural therapies to help people cope.

"Some of it has to with processing the traumatic event itself, and some of it has to do with learning how to self-regulate, how to calm oneself down, how to breathe and relax," Baum said. "And some of it has to do with how to re-integrate [sufferers] back into regular life."

Asked whether a child can be beyond help, Baum said, flatly, "no."

For details on the conference, visit www.daradocs.org.

## *Stretching helps keep you young*

***Fitness Corner***

***Felyce Zomparelli***

Most people are unaware of how important stretching is to maintaining basic body function.

Stretching is the key to maintaining balance, flexibility, muscle control and even strength. It can also be an effective method of fighting the effects of aging, and aid in recovering from or preventing injury.

Body parts are not created equal. Each muscle is designed for specific tasks. This means there are different ways to stretch each muscle.

Stretching provides different benefits depending on which part of the body you're stretching. Your arms and chest are responsible for general things such as lifting or pushing, as well as delicate, dextrous tasks such as bringing a fork to your mouth or opening a coffee creamer. Stretching your arms regularly provides appropriate muscle flexibility, control, and tone to achieve all of these tasks.

The core is designed to stabilize the body and maintain posture. Strengthening the core muscles can also help relieve chronic back pain. The muscles located within the core keep you upright and straight. Stretching these muscles will stabilize your posture and provide more effective control of your balance while increasing mobility in your torso.

Your lower body (hips, thighs, calves and feet) are designed to give you power. These muscles are naturally much larger than those in the arms and chest, in order to create large movements. They also support the entire upper body and torso. The muscles in your legs supply your body with the power it needs to initiate motion, as well as to sit and stand. Stretching your lower body relaxes these muscles, allowing for better control, which they need to do their job well.

There are two types of stretches: static and dynamic.

Static stretching is a stretch done during a rest period, holding a position until gradually achieving full extension. Dynamic stretching is an active form of stretching that essentially propels the muscle into its fully extended form. Both have their benefits. Ask a physiotherapist or personal trainer if you're unsure of which kind is right for you.

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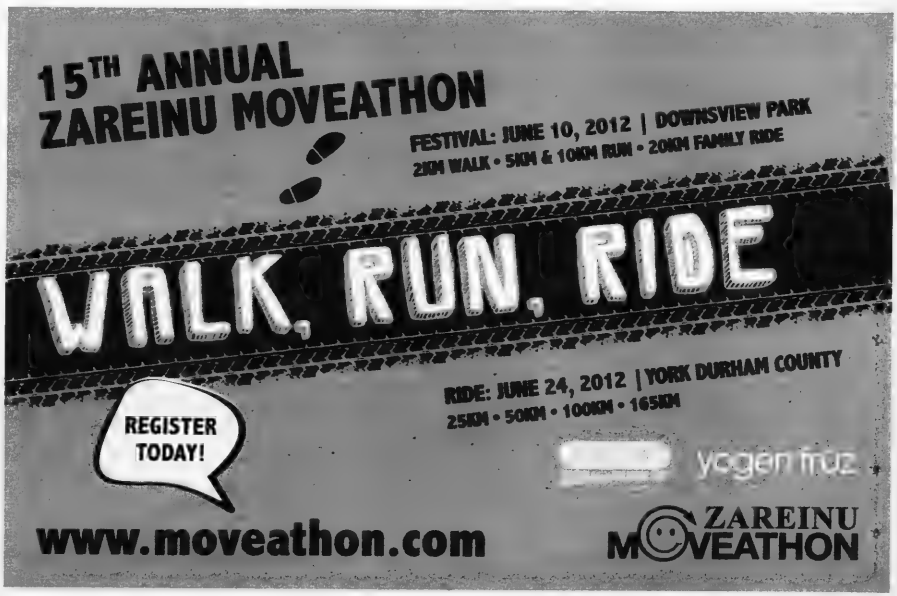
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# *Still a lot of misinformation about the Holocaust*

*Campus Life*

*Jessica Pollock*

"Did you all know that the last Holocaust survivor died this year?" a young woman asked the group of students she was leading through the U.S. Holocaust Memorial in Washington, D.C., when I was there one day. The woman, I later learned, was the students' Grade 8 teacher at an elementary school in North Carolina.

Startled by her naivety and inaccuracy, I informed her that scores of Holocaust survivors worldwide are in fact still alive and well. Following her initial look of incredulity, she expressed her gratitude for my correction and carried on guiding her students.

If a well-intentioned North Carolina schoolteacher was reciting such flawed information to her impressionable students, one can easily conclude that there must be a profusion of others who are just as misinformed.

This year highlights the 67th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust, which was arguably the most odious of genocides.

Most Holocaust survivors are living their final years, and many have passed away. Because of this, an immediate challenge has arisen, since their testimonies of resilience, suffering and survival are at risk of passing on with them.

Earlier this month, I volunteered at a Holocaust symposium for high school students, organized by the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Such an event works as a constructive mechanism to actively engage students – especially those who are not Jewish – about the Holocaust.

As a granddaughter of three Holocaust survivors, I have had a deeply ingrained passion for Holocaust education since I can remember.

That passion has gradually increased through my Jewish schooling and involvement in the Jewish community as a teenager.

That said, it seems rather unlikely to me that someone who lacks a personal connection to this genocide could be as passionate about Holocaust education as most Jewish people are.

To my pleasant surprise, at the Holocaust symposium, I found the participants to be very respectful and interested in the subject matter and speakers, one of whom was Kay Andrews, the national outreach co-ordinator of the Institute of Education's Holocaust Education Centre at the University of London.

It is vital that events such as the Holocaust symposium be organized to empower both Jewish and non-Jewish adolescents and young adults to preserve the legacy of the Holocaust. Learning about the genocide can only help youth to be historically and socially aware, and spark their interest in both global and local affairs.

Another method by which our community can instil the importance and education of the Holocaust into others is by providing aid and services to Jews and non-Jews alike. By constantly employing our Jewish commandment of tikkun olam (repairing the world), we can gradually help make non-Jewish communities more sensitive to the history of the Holocaust and its aftermath.

Numerous Jewish aid agencies are devoted to helping the community at large, not just the Jewish community, in offering services such as housing, children's aid and elderly care.

Nonetheless, due to the fact that Ontario's diversity is steadily growing in the wake of difficult economic times, social service practitioners are encountering challenges. Even amid Jewish social service agencies' struggles to administer proper care to all citizens in the community, it is comforting to know that they are working tirelessly to pinpoint optimal methods of aid distribution.

Insomuch as the Jewish community continues to maintain tikkun olam as a high priority and work to assist and have regard for others, I believe that over time, other communities will begin to mirror our efforts.

The North Carolina schoolteacher should act as a catalyst in the effort to continue the pursuit of educating others about the Holocaust. Educational tools such as the annual Holocaust symposium are powerful and beneficial. However, the very existence of scores of Jewish aid agencies and their all-embracing mandates should also encourage non-Jews to view the Holocaust not simply as a Jewish tragedy, but as a profound calamity for all of humankind.

**Orthodox Jewish Day School seeks to fill the following positions in administration:**

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Reporting to the Head of School, the Marketing Communications Manager is responsible for creating, implementing and overseeing a communications program that effectively describes and promotes Netivot HaTorah Day School and its mission to its current and prospective constituents and supporters. Responsible for managing the research and development of content for publication, including graphics, brochures, website, logos, newsletters, and other promotional products.

Required qualifications include: Bachelor's Degree in area of specialty and at least 5 years of experience in the field. A wide degree of creativity and latitude is expected.

***Information Technology Manager***

Reporting to the Head of School, the Information Technology Manager is responsible to provide, operate, and maintain computing and telecommunication facilities, equipment, and services that meet the needs of the administrative, educational, and research programs of the School. The Information Technology Manager is responsible for all aspects of information technology management and control, budget preparation and management, recommendations for technical acquisitions, and development of guidelines, standards and procedures.

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*Only applicants invited to an interview will be contacted.*

**RUSSIAN LIMMUD: More than 650 young Russian Jews from North America spent a weekend together at Princeton University earlier this month for the first-ever Limmud FSU (former Soviet Union) Conference in America. The three-day event, which focused on the accomplishments of Albert Einstein, who taught at Princeton, aimed to engage Russian-speaking Jews and strengthen their Jewish identity. Pictured, from left, are Vlad Zhitnikov, one of 10 participating Torontonians, Sima Weiss, Torontonian Nina Zaslavsky and Limmud FSU COO Roman Kogan.**

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# Anti-African violence in Tel Aviv condemned

ITA

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — U.S. Jewish groups called on Israel to protect African migrants in Israel after riots in Tel Aviv.

"We hope and expect that the authorities will take effective measures to protect this population from further violence and that legitimate requests by refugees to remain in Israel based on fear of persecution in their home countries will be considered humanely and with due process taking into account internationally accepted norms," Rabbi Steve Gutow, president of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the community's public policy umbrella, said in a statement May 24.

Violent riots in south Tel Aviv's Hatikvah neighbourhood on the night of May 23 ended with 17 arrests. The violence followed a rally against the presence of the migrants.

Africans who passed by the rally were attacked. Rioters smashed the windshield of a car carrying three migrants as well as other car windows. The rioters also set trash bins on fire and threw firecrackers at police, Ynet reported.

The rioters also broke into and looted shops associated with the African migrant community.

The Anti-Defamation League said it was "seriously concerned about the growing tensions in Israel over the issue of African migrants, and reports of lawlessness and violence committed by and directed against the migrants."

"While we recognize the complexity involved in properly addressing this issue, and sympathize with Israeli citizens whose personal security has been compromised by the lawlessness and violence of some migrants, we are disturbed by inflammatory public statements made by certain Israeli officials, some of which has veered into racism," the ADL said.

"It is imperative that reasonable solutions be found to confront these challenges, one that humanly treats the migrants while ensuring the security concerns of Israeli citizens are properly addressed."

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism condemned the violence.

"Such violence has no place in any civilized society, much less Israel, the nation state of the Jewish people who have throughout history known similar horrors rooted in ethnic and religious differences," the centre's director, Rabbi David Saperstein, said in a statement. "It is shameful that yesterday's rally instead devolved into chaos and brutality. It is also shameful that members of the Knesset made inflammatory statements that likely contributed to an atmosphere conducive to such violence."

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) said it was "saddened" by the violence.

"Jewish federations are saddened and concerned over growing tensions and violence directed at foreign workers in Israel," said Kathy Manning, chair of the JFNA board of trustees.

"While voicing concerns over the appropriate enforcement of immigration policy and rising violence may be legitimate, we deplore expressions of racism, the stereotyping of population groups and, of course, all violence."

All four groups welcomed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's condemnation of the violence. The prime minister also said that the surge of illegal African migrants into Israel "threatens national security and identity."

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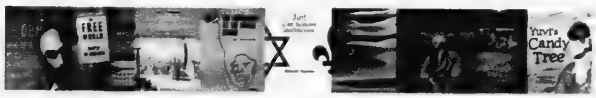


The 2012 winners are: **Fraidie Martz** and **Andrew Wilson**, **David Bezmozgis**, **Denis Vaugeois**, **Eli Pfefferkorn**, **Richard Marceau**, **S. Weilbach**, **Kalman Weiser**, **Rebecca Margolis**, and **Lesley Simpson**.

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# Haredi community unites against Internet use

Ben Sales
JTA

**NEW YORK** — To the outside observer, the haredi Orthodox anti-Internet rally at New York's Citi Field may have looked uniform: a single mass of black hats, white shirts and brown beards.

But the crowd of some 40,000 men at the May 20 event was far from homogeneous.

Yiddish speakers sat next to Anglophones. Chassidim from Brooklyn mixed with "yeshivish" haredim (non-chassidic) from Lakewood, N.J. Bobov Chassidim cheered along with Satmars. These groups, while similar in many ways, usually stay within their own communities.

But it's hardly the first time the haredi community has faced a threat from the outside world.

As speaker after speaker at the rally made clear, the Internet is the latest in a series of threats dating back to the Jewish Enlightenment, or Haskalah, which first opened up a path for Jews to leave tradition for the secular world.

"Just as they fought tooth and nail against the Haskalah, they're fighting again against this," said Samuel Heilman, a professor of sociology at the City University of New York who studies haredi communities. "They live in a singular world. They've tried to keep all the doorways locked from the inside, but you can only lock something from the inside if the people are willing to keep it locked."

Rabbi Ephraim Wachsman, a prominent haredi lecturer, and other speakers made clear at the rally that they view the Internet as a profound challenge to the haredi way of life.

"This issue is the test of the generation that threatens all of us," Rabbi Wachsman said. "Your strength at this gathering will determine what we look like a few years from now."

At the same time, the Internet has become a necessity for many, if not most, haredim. They use it to conduct business, communicate with each other and even to promote Jewish observance.

"In the sense that they have already used the Internet to spread their message far beyond the local community, the Internet has been good for them as well," Heilman said. "They're going to use it, going to say that the end justifies the means."

The late Lubavitcher rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson, famously embraced technology as a means of spreading the faith. The Chabad-Lubavitch movement, which did not officially participate in the rally, was an early adapter to the Internet age and has used online tools to spread its message.

"Everything God created in this world could be used for good or the opposite," said Rabbi Zalman Shmotkin, director of Chabad.org. "It's our responsibility to channel the enormous powers of technology in a positive manner."

But the Internet's dangers – not just pornography and the window it provides into the secular world, but even its potential for distraction – present the haredi lifestyle with the challenge of how to use it for good while keeping out the bad.

The haredi community is not alone in this struggle.

Jason Miller, a Conservative rabbi who maintains an active Web presence, said the Internet challenges anyone who cares about ethics.

"To some extent, we all need to have the Internet moderated for us," Rabbi Miller said. "Beyond modesty, there's content that I don't think is healthy or beneficial for individuals to see or read."

Adrianne Jeffries, a female blogger who snuck into the rally disguised as a man, wrote that although she's not haredi, she found herself agreeing with some of the speakers' points at the rally.

"There wasn't much I could quibble with in the speech," wrote Jeffries, who blogs for BetaBeat, a technology blog associated with the *New York Observer* weekly newspaper. "The Internet is about instant gratification? It's 'fleeting and empty?' It causes us to waste productive hours? It threatens the preservation of isolated communities with strong traditions, such as the ultra-Orthodox Jews? Well, yes, but…"

For a community whose survival depends in part on maintaining its isolation, the Internet can be particularly pernicious.

"Jews should separate themselves from the general community," Rabbi Yechiel Meir Katz, the Dzibo rebbe, said at the rally. "The great rabbis have done so in order to safeguard future generations."

Even as he delivered his speech – in Yiddish that ran with English subtitles on Citi Field's JumboTron – many in the crowd could be seen thumbing their BlackBerrys or iPhones.

"The battle against the Haskalah they lost," Heilman said. "It's clear that they've lost this one already."

Alan Mittleman, a professor of Jewish thought at the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary, said that on the contrary, the haredim are winning the battle against the Internet just as they survived the Haskalah.

"It's a problem that they've already solved," he said of the Internet. "It's more powerful and invasive, a new kind of threat, but it's the same kind of thing."

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Such other business as may properly come before the Meeting
*Marc Gold, President*

## Israel Briefs

***Leaders briefed on Iran***

The top U.S. negotiator in international talks with Iran arrived in Israel May 25 to brief Israeli leaders. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman was there to "reaffirm our unshakeable commitment to Israel's security," the department stated, Associated Press reported. The visit came after Iran and six world powers, including the United States, met in Baghdad last week to discuss halting Iran's nuclear program. Israel has consistently criticized Iran for stalling in the talks, which Jerusalem believes is buying time for Iran's clandestine nuclear weapons program. The next round of talks will be held in Moscow, June 17-19.

***Talmud translated***

A Talmud that took famed scholar Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz 45 years to translate from ancient Hebrew and Aramaic into modern Hebrew is being published in English. The first volume of Rabbi Steinsaltz's *Koren Talmud Bavli* was launched in conjunction with Shavuot, which marks the day the Torah was given to the Jewish People. The complete set will comprise 41 volumes. The *Koren Talmud Bavli* includes a translation and commentary by Rabbi Steinsaltz, as well as pictures and colour photos. An iPad app will be out in July, Koren Publishers Jerusalem said.

***Women detained***

Three women were detained after trying to pray at the Western Wall in tallits. The women, part of a group of about 40 from the Women of the Wall group, were praying on May 22 as part of their monthly Rosh Chodesh service, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. A policewoman approached one of them and asked her not to wear a tallit the way a man would and then adjusted it for her. Police took contact details for three of the women in tallits, who were told they would be called for questioning. Under a 2001 law, women may not wear tfillin or tallits, or read from a Torah scroll, at the Wall.

*With files from JTA*

# Turkey expands Holocaust education

## *Launches campaign for full membership in ITF*

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

**ANKARA, Turkey —** Turkey has launched a quiet but concerted campaign to qualify for full membership in the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research.

The ITF, as it's known, was founded in 1998 at the initiative of Sweden. It currently has 31 members, including Canada, Germany, Israel, Poland, Britain, France and the United States.

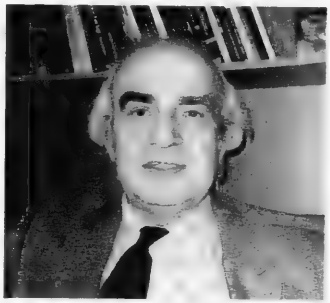
Three countries, Turkey, Portugal and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, have been granted observer status in the ITF, whose honorary chair is Israeli Holocaust historian Yehuda Bauer.

Turkey, the sole Muslim state in this intergovernmental body, has been an observer since 2008, when its bilateral relations with Israel were at a peak.

"We're preparing to upgrade our status," said Ertan Tezgor, a seasoned Turkish diplomat who represents Turkey in the ITF. He made his comment in a recent interview at the Turkish foreign ministry.

At the moment, Turkey is seeking to raise its status to "liaison country," one level below full membership, said Tezgor, Turkey's former ambassador to Georgia. "We have not yet decided when we will apply for full membership."

In its quest to attain this objective, Turkey – a secular republic and NATO member that remained neutral almost until the end of World War II – is taking concrete steps to fulfil ITF core principles.



**Ertan Tezgor**
*[Sheldon Kirshner photo]*

In Holocaust education, Turkey has created a working group to enlarge references to the Holocaust in Turkish history textbooks.

This effort is being spearheaded by the ministry of education in collaboration with the ministry of foreign affairs, said Tezgor, who, while acknowledging Ankara's solidarity with the Muslim world, takes pride in Turkey's "excellent relations with the Jewish people" and in its venerable Jewish community.

Turkey, in partnership with Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, also plans to host teachers' seminars on the Holocaust in Istanbul.

And next year, the first group of Turkish teachers is scheduled to go to Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.

A delegation of Turkish teachers was due to arrive in Yad Vashem in the spring of 2010, but abruptly cancelled the trip in the wake of the Mavi Marmara incident, during which Israeli commandos stormed a Turkish ship in a flotilla of vessels trying to break Israel's naval blockade of the Gaza Strip.

In the field of remembrance, the Turkish government marked the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by sending Tezgor to the former Nazi concentration camp in Poland in January 2010.

Two months ago, several Turkish universities staged an exhibition on Anne Frank, the young Jewish diarist who perished during the last days of the Holocaust.

Earlier this year, Turkish state TV broadcast Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah*, an epic documentary watched by about five million local viewers, Tezgor said.

Since 2011, Turkey's missions abroad have sponsored the screening of *Turkish Passport*, a documentary that amplifies Turkey's role in assisting Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe.

The film, shown to Jewish and Turkish audiences in Canada last year, has been broadcast on Turkish television and screened in movie theatres in Turkey.

With respect to research, Turkey is in the process of assembling a team of Turkish scholars to study Turkey's response to the Holocaust. According to Tezgor, Turkish archives from this period will be opened to researchers within five years.

And in the future, universities in Turkey will offer courses on the Holocaust.

"It's important to open up history," said Tezgor, who keeps lines of communication open with Yad Vashem, Anne Frank House and Project Aladdin, a cultural initiative launched in 2009 under the patronage of UNESCO to counter Holocaust denial, fight all forms of racism and intolerance and promote dialogue among Muslims and Jews in particular.

Tezgor, who described the Holocaust as a "very tragic matter," added, "We want to open all the files so that everyone can see things clearly. A country's past should not be hidden."

Suggesting that Turkey can play a special role in the ITF, Tezgor said, "We'll be a bridge between the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds and thereby add value to the ITF."

Turkish membership in the organization may well encourage more Muslim states, such as Morocco, Jordan and Azerbaijan, to join the ITF, he noted.

Claiming that Turkey had no ulterior motives in joining the ITF, Tezgor said its membership has no bearing on its desire to join the European Union.

Turkey's bid for full membership is ardently backed by Turkish Jews, said Sami Herman, the president of the Jewish community. "We have to support Holocaust education so as to prevent tragedies from occurring in the future," he said in an interview in Istanbul.

# Indictments prepared against four Israelis over flotilla incident

JTA

**ISTANBUL —** A special prosecutor in Istanbul has prepared indictments against the four top Israeli commanders who led the 2010 raid on the Gaza-bound Mavi Marmara ship.

The 144-page indictment seeks 10 aggravated life jail sentences for each commander, including former Israeli Defence Forces chief of staff Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, according to the English-language Turkish news service Today's Zaman, citing the *Sabah* daily.

The other Israeli commanders to be indicted reportedly are navy commander Vice-Adm. Eliezer Marom, military intelligence chief Maj.-Gen. Amos Yadlin and the head of Air Force intelligence, Brig.-Gen. Avishai Levi.

The indictment mentions 10 "slain Turks." Nine Turkish nationals, including a Turkish-American man, were killed in clashes during the raid. The 10th person is a man who remains in a vegetative state, according to Zaman. The indictment also reportedly refers to 490 victims and complainants, including 189 who were reported injured in the attacks.

**Gabi Ashkenazi**

*Sabah* said the indictment was submitted to Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor Turan Colakkadi, who is expected to approve the request to submit it to the appropriate court.

On May 31, 2010, Israeli Navy commandos boarded the Mavi Marmara, which claimed to be carrying humanitarian aid, after warning the ship not to sail into waters near the Gaza Strip in circumvention of Israel's naval blockade of the coastal strip.

Israel's government-appointed Turkel Commission found in its investigation that the government and the military behaved appropriately, and that the blockade of Gaza was legal.

The United Nations' Palmer Committee also found the blockade to be legal, but said Israel used excessive force while boarding the vessel.

Turkey's inquiry deemed the Gaza blockade and the Israeli raid to have been illegal. Ankara has called on Israel for an official apology and compensation for the raid, and to lift the Gaza blockade. The two countries have broken off diplomatic relations and military agreements since the incident.

# *Bulgarian Jews face tough times*

**Dianna Cahn**
JTA

**SOFIA, Bulgaria —** The stories – some months or years in the making – started trickling in last year. Young successful families were showing up desperate.

As Bulgaria's program director for the American Joint Distribution Committee, Julia Dandalova ran social services programs for the Jewish community's most needy: elderly pensioners and children of poorer families.

Now she was getting calls from people her own age, thirtysomethings with well-paying jobs, nice homes and cars – people she'd never imagined were struggling.

They told her they'd fallen behind on their mortgage payments and the bank was threatening to take back their homes and their leased cars. People who had everything were facing the abyss of poverty.

*To read full story, please go to cjnews.com.*

# New website helps find the right lawyer

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Two Jewish Canadian college buddies hope their new Internet site will make it easier for people to come up with an answer to the question, "Do you know a lawyer who does…?"

Shane Coblin, 36, a Vancouver-based commercial litigation lawyer, and Lawrence Tepperman, a Toronto-based entrepreneur who specializes in startup companies, are pushing forward with a new computer technology called Legal Linkup, a site that matches people with the right lawyers who fit their budget.

Shane Coblin

Coblin said he came up with the concept for Legal Linkup in 2010 after he spent years listening to his friends and clients complain about how difficult and time consuming it can be to find the right lawyer.

"I have clients and friends who have small businesses, who are always calling me up saying, 'I need someone to do a will, I need someone to do patents and IT stuff for my company, some cross-border immigration stuff' – stuff that I don't do and my firm doesn't do. And I didn't know where to find them," Coblin said.

"One of the complaints my friends had was: 'What? I'm going to go to Google and call 15 people, interview them, sit down with them – it's such a waste of time. Their time is just as valuable as my time.'"

Coblin added that they also expressed concerns about whether they could trust a new lawyer to do a good job and whether the lawyer they did find would fit in with their budget.

"The year before that, I'd seen these kinds of freelance marketplace sites like Guru.com… It seemed like really good lead generation software for people who don't know where to look."

"Lead generation" describes the process of generating consumer interest in a product or service.

Enter Tepperman, whom Coblin had maintained a friendship with since his University of Western Ontario days when the two were fraternity brothers in Sigma Alpha Mu, a Jewish fraternity.

"He's a business guy and he kind of fills in the parts that I can't do. I'm the technical guy that knows the law and technology and I know a good idea and concept and how to design it… Over the years, we've always talked about doing something together and this seemed like the perfect thing," Coblin said.

He explained that Legal Linkup gives the power to the clients.

Clients post their legal issues – anonymously and for free – onto the site, and the member lawyers are able to view the postings. If a lawyer is interested, he or she will send the poster a quote.

For a fee, the lawyers – all of whom must have a bar membership number and be in good standing with the law society – create profiles that advertise their areas of expertise. There is also an option of upgrading a subscription to be featured on the homepage of the site.

"This streamlines the approach completely. They can go to one spot, confidentially post what they're looking for. It will get sent to the lawyers that practise what they need and then those lawyers can review the listing, ask some questions and can send a proposal with their rate… The client would have four or five proposals they can choose from," Coblin said.

He said that once clients settle on a lawyer, their information is sent only to that lawyer and they are free to negotiate and make other arrangements off the site.

"It's almost like online dating sites. We try to match you with a lawyer that is going to fit your needs."

He said what makes the concept of this site so appealing is its efficiency.

"When you get a client calling you, if he or she is not relevant to you, it ends up taking you 15, 20, 30 minutes for you to figure out that they are not right for you and you've wasted all that time," Coblin said.

As a Legal Linkup subscriber, a lawyer will receive an e-mail each morning detailing the listings that were posted that are relevant to their practice.

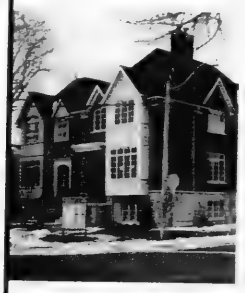
"That will take you five minutes. You get rid of the inefficient use of time."

Although Coblin said he has ambitions for Legal Linkup to grow into an international site, he said that so far the focus has been on attracting users in the Greater Toronto Area.

"We started pushing it in January in Toronto – just to make sure it works and fills the needs we want it to. We just wanted to see how well it would be received in one area and it's been received really well."

He said they get up to five new listings a day, and have about 50 lawyer subscriptions, but anticipates that once the word spreads, the interest will grow.

"This is the next step in lead generation for lawyers. This is where people will go to find a lawyer now." For more information, visit www.legallinkup.com.

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# Project features 3-D digital pregnancy guide

**Hanna Szekeres**
NoCamels

John Wilmot, the second Earl of Rochester, said in the 17th century, "Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children. Now I have six children and no theories."

Millions of new parents every year still have the same questions. But when does parenting start? Some couples say it's at the moment of conception. That's when they start asking questions, such as what constitutes a healthy diet during pregnancy and what's the best position for the woman to sleep in, and they wonder about different approaches to child rearing.

A new in-depth research-based project soon to be launched aims to help couples go through pregnancy. It's the first cross-media project for pregnancy and birth with 3-D animation.

The project, a high-quality digital video guide that is accessible on the Internet and as a mobile application, provides information that changes as the baby grows.

The project includes three products: 40weeks, a digital guide consisting of four-minute chapters for each week of pregnancy, a film called *9months* and a DVD for children named *Where Do Babies Come From.* All three products include 3-D animation that allows viewers to follow the development of the baby.

Niv Adi, founder of 40weeks, told NoCamels that the project gives solutions to two major needs: "First, every pregnant woman, and couple, is curious about the development of the child, and there is only so much an ultrasound can do. The 3-D animation shows you exactly how the fetus matures. Second, the project includes a mobile application where mothers can contact a doctor for assistance."

The 40weeks video series follows three local couples who share their experience of pregnancy. Every chapter includes the embryo, the mother, medical exams and special tips. The series' 3-D features represent progress in terms of combining cinema and science. The series' creators restored all the motions made by the fetus in all the stages of the pregnancy.

"It has been possible for years to watch the movements made by the fetus by means of an ultrasound and different films. But taking a glimpse into the womb was occasional and mainly brief. However, the 35-minutes-long animation demonstrates the reactions and the movements more precisely," the 40weeks team said.

# *Fred Herzog photographed Vancouver's Jewish streets*

In a recent *Globe and Mail* feature, arts columnist Marsha Lederman presented a lengthy consideration of the German-born Vancouver photographer Fred Herzog, which included a detailed self-portrait, largely related to Lederman's parents' experience as Holocaust survivors and her own inheritance connected with that experience. Shortly after the piece appeared, Herzog was due to be considered for the prestigious ScotiaBank Photography Award (which he did not win).

As Lederman points out, Herzog's career has undergone a steep rise in influence and success over the past decade, partly based on the increasing sense that his Kodachrome shots of Vancouver in the late 1950s and after are a basis for the important photographic tradition that has flourished in British Columbia.

The bulk of Herzog's work remained little seen into the 21st century until a well-received show at Vancouver's Presentation House Gallery in 2003 and a major retrospective at the Vancouver Art Gallery in 2007 turned the tide. More recently, the National Gallery in Ottawa presented a smaller showing of his work.

***Reviewed by***

***Norman Ravvin***

If you have not seen Herzog's oeuvre in galleries, a lavish and lovely recent collection, *Fred Herzog: Photographs* (Douglas & McIntyre) is the latest among a series of book projects aimed at presenting Herzog's photographic art to the average reader.

The occasion of Lederman's interview with Herzog at his Vancouver home led to what could only be called an eruption – Herzog's unsettling response to Lederman's queries regarding a boyhood under the shadow of Nazism and war, his seemingly failed efforts to read carefully in Holocaust-related history, and, ultimately, Herzog's apology for having stumbled into an area of consideration that he admitted he was ill-prepared to discuss with care or insight.

All of this, one might argue, provided a full-stop distraction from what is important about Herzog's images, what has drawn galleries and collectors to them, and what it is that they contain that relates to Vancouver's urban Jewish history. The latter issue, entirely uncommented upon, is enough to make a reader on Jewish Canadian daily life pick up *Fred Herzog*. But the pleasures associated with the book are many. The volume is outsized, allowing the publisher to present a substantial number of photographs from the 1950s and '60s in the largest format available in print (if you are an art collector, Herzog's Vancouver Equinox Gallery sells his images, printed in various sizes, from $1,800 and up).

Vancouver in the late 1950s and '60s, especially the side of town that drew Herzog's eye, is in many ways gone. The culture of colourful signs; the relative quietness of street traffic; the busy shopping culture on thoroughfares like Hastings and Main; the low-rise, small-scale business buildings of the east side of the old downtown have all largely been erased or gentrified following the city's post-Expo 1986 successes.

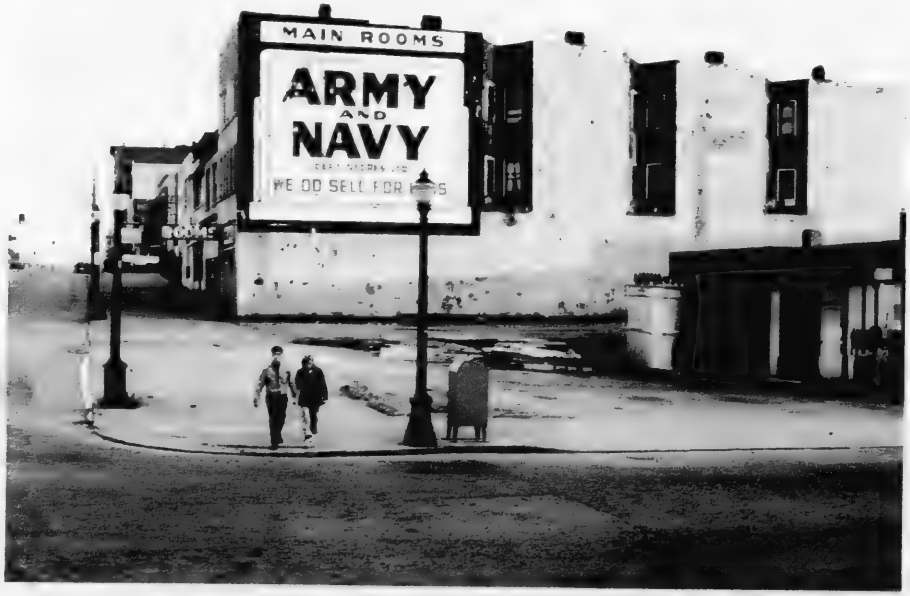
Not every viewer of Herzog's oeuvre will experience nostalgia at the sunset glow on Powell in "Crossing Powell," or muse with interest over the dead emptiness at the corner of Main and Alexander, with its backdrop billboard painted on a red-brick apartment block, reading: "ARMY and NAVY Dept. Stores Ltd. WE DO SELL FOR LESS." Army and Navy was the kingpin of east side Jewish businesses, run to lasting success by Samuel Cohen, who rose out of the pawn-shop culture of his compatriots and became a major landholder and retailer in the city – the Jewish counterpart to the anglo-elite Spencers and Woodwards, who sold many of the same things in buildings not so far from the big Army and Navy outlet on Cordova and Hastings.

The titles of Herzog's photographs say nothing about the downtown's specific ethnic history, and it may be that Herzog took no notice of it (though I doubt this). All you had to do was step into the smaller "Buy – Sell – Trade" outlets surrounding the Army and Navy to meet the middle-class, hardworking, often Polish- or Russian-born Jewish family man or woman, or son thereof, behind the till.

Although there is a fabulous array of subjects in *Fred Herzog: Photographs* – the front windows of Chinese cafés, the heartbreaking array of nighttime neon on Granville, the billboard culture of an earlier era, the disarray of pre-Granville Market False Creek (in one case on fire) – Herzog's work is the best source if you want to see what the Jewish pawn and loan businesses of the postwar era looked like. There is little left of the Jewish downtown storefront culture of Canada's western cities. Unless one has access to someone with the visual memory of a journalist and a penchant to tell stories about postwar street culture, this era is gone with the wind.

The introductory essays in *Fred Herzog: Photographs* make no mention of this aspect of the work they mean to present. They are by luminaries such as the novelist and pop culture pundit Douglas Coupland and the major Vancouver photographic artist Jeff Wall, among others. These writers have their eyes on other aspects of Herzog's work. In his informative essay, Jeff Wall begins this way: "Until about 1970 there was something called old Vancouver, that city still characterized by the wooden houses in which most of its inhabitants dwelt... Vancouver in 1950, 1960 or 1970 had a real beauty." That beauty, well captured in Herzog's photographs, included the hardscrabble businesses of European-born Jews on the streets of the city's east side.

*Norman Ravvin writes of Jewish western Canadian life and history in his volume of essays* Hidden Canada: An Intimate Travelogue. *He is at work on a novel set partly on Vancouver's once mean streets.*




***Fred Herzog: Photographs* presents Herzog's photographic art to the average reader.**

## 'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING

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The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

***The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.***

# World famous cellist visits Toronto

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Music is in Alisa Weilerstein's blood. The 30-year-old American cellist is the daughter of professional violinist Donald Weilerstein and pianist Vivian Hornik Weilerstein. Even her brother Joshua is a well-known violinist and conductor. In short, it is no surprise that she became the cellist extraordinaire that she is today – but she is quick to note that her parents never forced the instrument on her.

"They were the opposite of stage parents, they weren't pushy," Weilerstein told *The CJN* during her recent visit to Toronto, where she performed Brahms and Shostakovich as a part of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's Matinee Masterworks and Casual Concerts series at Roy Thomson Hall.

It was actually Weilerstein's grandmother who first introduced her to the possibility of playing the cello. Weilerstein was only 2-1/2 years old at the time. Her parents were away on tour and her grandmother was babysitting, trying to put a smile on the face of the young toddler who had just caught the chicken pox.

Her grandmother, whom Weilerstein described as a sort of Joan of all trades, fashioned an entire string quartet out of cereal boxes. The cello, Weilerstein remembers, was made from a Rice Krispies box, and she immediately fell in love with it.

"I would scrub away at this thing trying to make a sound," she said with a laugh, adding that when her parents practised music at home, she would sit alongside them with her cereal box cello.

Finally, at age four, Weilerstein's parents got her a child-sized cello and she began lessons. When she was 13, she debuted as a soloist at the Cleveland Orchestra, after moving with her family to Cleveland, Ohio, from Rochester, N.Y.

"I really got excited," Weilerstein said when asked about her debut performance at 13. She added that she didn't get stage fright even as a young teen.

Following her performance, Weilerstein went on to attend the Cleveland Institute of Music's preparatory program, where she went to regular high school classes in the mornings and studied music intensively in the afternoons. When she was 16, she got the cello that she still uses to this day – a rare 1790 Willian Forster cello. "You have to have a bond with the instrument, but it also grows with you," she said, explaining that playing over the years actually changes and develops the sound of an instrument.

In 2011, Weilerstein received the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship for her work. This great honour was another of her many important awards, including the Avery Fisher Career Grant and the Leonard Bernstein Prize at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival in Germany.

Despite her incredible talent and blossoming career as a musician, Weilerstein continued to pursue her education. In 2004, she graduated with a degree in Russian history from Columbia University in New York City.

Weilerstein's busy performance schedule, often including about 140 performances each year, has taken her to stages around the world, but when she finds time, she tries to perform with her parents as the Weilerstein Trio.

"There's a family bond, but there's also a musical bond," she said, explaining that there is no sugar-coating the truth in rehearsals with her parents, but the honesty and closeness create a heightened level of musical understanding among the three musicians.

Weilerstein's most recent major project has been recording Edward Elgar's Cello Concerto with famed pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim. The recording will be released in November on the record label Decca Classics, to which Weilerstein has recently been signed.

**Cellist Alisa Weilerstein**

Between her performances and her recording schedule, Weilerstein struggles to find time to get to her New York City home for some rest and relaxation, but she hardly seems to mind. "I feel very lucky – there's never a dull moment."

# Patinkin pays tribute to Yiddish music

**Kathryn Kates**
Special to The CJN

Mandy Patinkin is bringing his critically acclaimed ode to Yiddish music, *Mamaloshen*, to Toronto for two shows in June.

The shows, presented by the Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company, are the revised dates for the shows that were postponed last September due to labour strife.

*Mamaloshen* (*Mother Tongue*) is Patinkin's tribute to the rich and diverse Jewish musical traditions from Belz to Broadway and Yiddish theatre to Tin Pan Alley. In 1997, he recorded the *Mamaloshen* CD and then took it to the live stage in 1998, first Off-Broadway and then to Broadway later that year.

"The way it started was Joe Papp, producer of *A Chorus Line* and many other things, who is a father figure to me and a dear, dear friend, asked if I would participate in a benefit for YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York," says Patinkin, an actor and singer who has won Tony and Emmy awards and whose credits are vast, including *Evita* on Broadway, the television series *Chicago Hope* and the movie *The Princess Bride*.

Trouble was Patinkin didn't know any Yiddish songs, and Papp told him it was time he learned one. "So, Joe sent me over a song called *Yosel, Yosel*, ironically in English, this song means *Joseph, Joseph*. It was a wonderful, classic Yiddish song that I later recorded on one of my CDs."

**Mandy Patinkin**

With the help of friends, children of Holocaust survivors, Patinkin learned the Yiddish repertoire, including songs from eastern Europe, from the Holocaust era, Tin Pan Alley and the Yiddish theatre, but he felt something was missing.

"Yiddish songs, as I learned through this material, was a history of these gypsy people – stories about births, deaths, weddings, celebrations, difficulties, traumas and great joy," he says. "I realized the piece that was missing was the American Jewish composers who had assimilated, like Irving Berlin, Yip Harburg, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein, but had that Yiddish feeling, that storytelling nature."

Patinkin took the songs *God Bless America* and *White Christmas*, by Berlin; Sondheim's *Maria* and Paul Simon's *American Tune*, and translated them into Yiddish

"I always found when in performing, if I explain a song ahead of time, it ruins it... it's not for me. So, how do I make people understand a language that very few people speak anymore? I wanted it to be universal. At the end of the day, it is a story about an immigrant, who happens to be an American Jewish immigrant. People from many other cultures would see the show and come back and talk to me about how much it spoke to them. I was deeply moved by that," he says.

"Whatever your background, even if you have never heard the language in your life... take a walk in that world. Let the words wash over you... you don't need to understand it, it will affect you, I guarantee you"

Surprisingly, save for hearing one tune from his father, Patinkin didn't grow up listening to Yiddish music. It held no memories for him. So when he opened himself up to this art form, he heard echoes in way he doesn't understand, nor does he feel a need to understand.

"I am celebrating the cultural heritage. Yiddish is a folk language made up of ancient German, Russian, Polish, Hebrew and God knows what else – all a patchwork quilt because these people were on the move," he says. "This show is very dear to me. I am grateful that I get to do it several times a year. When I'm not performing it, I sing it to the trees!"

Patinkin was recently in Israel filming the second season of the Showtime hit *Homeland*. A supporter of the Israeli left Patinkin advocates an end to the settlement building in Israel and was one of the artists who signed a petition in 2009 calling for a boycott of a Jewish theatre in the West Bank.

*Patinkin performs at the Bluma Appel Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, on June 16 at 8 p.m. and June 17 at 2 p.m. For tickets, call 416-366-7723 or online at www.stlc.com. For more information, visit www.hgjewishtheatre.com.*

# *Daniel* takes on the Rosenberg spy case

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Sidney Lumet's 1983 film *Daniel*, adapted from E.L. Doctorow's novel *The Book of Daniel*, is a sobering and moving film.

Scheduled to be screened by the Toronto Jewish Film Society on June 3 at the Al Green Theatre at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., it's the thinly disguised story of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were charged with treason and executed in 1953.

Weaving back and forth between the present and the Cold War era of the past, *Daniel* explores a sensational espionage case that became a cause célèbre in left-wing circles.

Having been accused of violating the 1917 Espionage Act and stealing atomic secrets for the Soviet Union, America's arch enemy, the Rosenbergs paid dearly for their alleged crimes.

In *Daniel*, the protagonists are Paul Isaacson (Mandy Patinkin) and his wife, Rochelle (Lindsay Crouse), who were both Communists. They join demonstrations on behalf of the downtrodden, champion working-class causes and work for the rights of African-Americans.

On the question of his characters' guilt, Lumet is noncommittal, but he subtly suggests they may have been wrongfully convicted at a time when paranoia in American society ran rampant and "red-baiting" was virtually a national sport.

*Daniel*, in the main, focuses on the couple's arrest and the impact their execution had on their two vulnerable children, Daniel and Susan (played excellently by Timothy Hutton and Amanda Plummer).

Shunted from one home to the next after their parents' incarceration, they were finally adopted by kind and considerate foster parents.

The film opens as Daniel and Susan, now adults, engage in a heated discussion at their foster parents' dinner table. Susan, a radical who believes her parents were framed and murdered, wants to establish a foundation in their honour. Daniel, a postgraduate student, concurs that a miscarriage of justice occurred, but he prefers to keep a low profile and is none too enamoured of his sister's idea.

At this point, *Daniel* flashes back to the late 1930s, when communism was a cause embraced by a tiny minority of American Jews, including the Rosenbergs. Like the Rosenbergs, the Isaacsons are passionately committed to the Republican side in Spain's civil war, the working class and full equality for African Americans. With World War II raging, they sing the praises of the "gallant Soviet allies."

Lumet does not examine their personal connections with the Soviet Union, limiting himself to their general political beliefs and conviction as spies.

Mostly, he concentrates on exposing the effect their activities had on their children, not only when they were youngsters but when they are fully grown adults.

The cast is superb. Apart from Hutton and Plummer, first-rate performances are turned in by Patinkin and Crouse, Edward Asner (who portrays the lawyer defending the Rosenbergs) and the child actors who depict Daniel and Susan.

One of Lumet's finest films, *Daniel* remains timely and relevant.

# *Reading father's diary inspires writer*

**Diane Koven**
Ottawa Correspondent

**OTTAWA** – It's such a common refrain – "When I retire, I'm going to write a book." Many plan to do so, but few actually complete the task.

But former university professor Marvin Blauer has recently published an imposing, 556 page tome, turning his "retirement" into more of a second career.

Blauer's career has taken some very interesting twists and turns. The native Montrealer, educated at McGill University in commerce and arts, then completed his PhD in political science and began his teaching career at Brock University in St. Catharines.

During what was to be a one-year assignment in Winnipeg, both tragedy and opportunity resulted in Blauer's deciding not to return to St. Catharines. His first wife died, leaving two young children, and then-premier Ed Schreyer offered Blauer a job in his cabinet.

He accepted the job, eventually met and married Cathy and the family remained in Winnipeg until the government changed.

The cover of Marvin Blauer's book

Next stop was Regina where Blauer was once again recruited to a government position. Over the ensuing years, he served provincial and federal governments at the cabinet level and later formed his own consulting company to provide governments and NGOs with his expertise in such areas as social development programming, education, immigration and Aboriginal affairs.

As the much-younger sibling of three, Blauer was very close to his parents and always fascinated with knowing their history. He was forever asking them questions and more questions, wanting to hear their stories. Finding his father's diary opened up a whole new world to him and enabled him to see his parents in a totally different light.

They were not just "parents," but people with a fascinating background which Blauer longed to explore.

"I had always told stories about my parents and their history to my children; my children urged me to write the stories down," said Blauer. "It took me seven years. I decided to write the story as if it were a novel because I wanted to make the people come alive."

Blauer's book, *Struggle: A Quest for Life, Love and a New World*, contains a bit of everything: true-life romance and adventure, 20th century East European history and the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Jewish immigrant experience in North America, and a Yiddish-English glossary. There are maps and photographs to help the reader visually immerse oneself in the story.

The story begins with the teenagers Munya and Eva meeting, falling in love and then being separated by the vagaries of war. Interspersed with their enduring love story, Blauer weaves the history, geography, and social development of the times.

More than simply a retirement project, the book is beyond a family keepsake. It offers both entertainment and education and is, above all, a good read.

For further information, or to order the book, go to www.winnetkapress-publications.com.

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# EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

## *LOST IN YONKERS* REPLACES ACTOR TOUCHED BY SUDDEN TRAGEDY

We were in the audience on Thursday evening, May 17, for the opening of the Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company's impressive production of **Neil Simon**'s Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Lost in Yonkers*.

The play focuses on two brothers who are left in the care of their severe and intimidating grandmother in Yonkers, New York, in 1942 after their mother has died and their father, a travelling salesman, takes to the road. Adding plenty of colour are sweet but childishly excitable Aunt Bella, who lives with the grandmother, and Uncle Louie, a tough-talking gangster who comes to visit.

As written by Simons, the piece is a funny, nostalgia-tinged gem, and the HGJTC cast – consisting of **Marion Ross** (Grandmother), **Linda Kash** (Bella), **Ari Cohen** (Louie), **David Eisner** (father), **Sheila McCarthy** (Gert) and **Jesse Shimko** and **Alessandro Costantini** (the brothers) – brought out the sparkle in its many facets. Kudos to director **Jim Warren** for ensuring that even the set and the music were of an equal high quality.

Tragically, the day after the opening, Kash's husband, **Paul O'Sullivan**, was killed in a highway accident. Our deepest condolences to her and her family. But the show goes on. Forced to withdraw from the play, Kash was replaced by **Finnerty Steeves**, who played Bella off-Broadway in the recently acclaimed revival.

According to the *New York Post*, *Lost in Yonkers* is "the best play Simon ever wrote," and Simon, by most accounts, stands as one of the best Jewish playwrights of the latter half of the last century. Any talk that the play is unsuitable for a Jewish theatre company, as a *Toronto Star* critic suggested, is nonsense.

At the Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front St. E., until June 10. $24.50 to $79.50. 416-366-7723, www.stlc.com

* * *

**Friends of Yiddish:** "Friling, Springtime," the Friends of Yiddish closing concert, offers a musical afternoon with **Stella Walker**, **David Rosen** and **Waylen Miki**, as well as door prizes and refreshments. Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave. Members $5, guests $15. Sunday, June 10, 2 p.m. RSVP by June 6 to Sandy, 416-736-8073, yiddish18@yahoo.ca

* * *

**Film about the Rosenbergs**: Toronto Jewish Film Society pays tribute to **Sidney Lumet** with the screening of *Daniel*, a feature drama starring **Timothy Hutton**, **Mandy Patinkin** and **Amanda Plummer**. Directed by Lumet and scripted by **E.L. Doctorow** from his novel *The Book of Daniel*, the story is based on the lives of **Julius** and **Ethel Rosenberg**, Jewish spies executed for treason against the United States.

With speaker **Kevin Courrier**. $15, $10; no advance ticket sales. Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, Sunday, June 3 at 4 and 7:30 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 606.

* * *

**Casting Call: Merle Garbe**, artistic producer of Encore Entertainment, has announced the non-paying, non-Equity theatre company is auditioning for all major roles for a production of *Fiddler on the Roof* to run in the fall. Auditions require singing and take place June 11, 13 and 17. encoreshows@gmail.com, www.encoreshows.com

* * *

**Names in the News:** Quiptake Production's *Bleed*, created and directed by **Adam Lazarus**, is being offered in Toronto's 7th annual Festival of Clowns, May 31 to June 3. *Bleed* uses "clown" to tell a horror story that is "a visceral, grotesque and fun experience." (The piece will likely not help to diminish the rate of "coulrophobia," the irrational fear of clowns, among the general public.) An instructor at the National Theatre School of Canada and the University of Toronto, actor-director Lazarus co-founded the festival in 2006 and bills himself as the "bouffon king of Toronto." www.torontofestivalofclowns.com

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• Film critic **Adam Nayman** discusses **Stanley Kubrick**'s films *A Clockwork Orange* and *Barry Lyndon* in his continuing series of lectures with film clips. $12 drop-in, students $6. Miles Nadal JCC, Monday, June 4, 7 to 9 p.m.

• Opera educator **Iain Scott** presents *Nabucco*, **Verdi**'s Jewish opera. $5. Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC, Thursday, June 7, 1:30 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 155.

• Deadline for submissions to the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition is July 3, 2012. For details, e-mail esthera@mnjcc.org

• The Summer Institute for Creative Adults (SICA) offers "adult vocal, choir camp, jazz, cabaret, opera choruses, technique and more." For advanced beginners and above. $350. Miles Nadal JCC, July 16 to 20, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. esthera@mnjcc.org, 416-924-6211, ext. 606.

* * *

**At the Galleries:** Elementary- and secondary-school winners and honourable mentions of the Jewish Music Week Student Art Contest display their artistic interpretations of what music means to them. Miles Nadal JCC Art Gallery, June 1 to 10.

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# Dragon Boat paddler helps bring sport to Israel

**Joel Jacobson**
Atlantic Correspondent

**HALIFAX** — It took a little prodding, but breast cancer survivor and dragon boat competitor Nancy Bennett made a decision that led to what she calls "an incredible experience."

Bennett took part in the first-ever Israel Dragon Boat Festival, held recently on Lake Kinneret, also known as the Sea of Galilee. Her boat finished first in the breast cancer survivor division.

"We were the top survivor team in the first-ever Dragon Boat Israel Festival! You can imagine our joy!" Bennett said with passion shortly after her return.

Bennett has been a member of the breast cancer survivor paddling team Avalon Dragons, in St. John's, Nfld., since it was founded six years ago to give survivors a way get fit and make friends. She was diagnosed with the illness 20 years ago when living in the United States. Four years later, she and her late husband, Arnold, moved to Newfoundland.

The couple were planning Nancy's trip to Israel when Arnold died suddenly last October. Despondent, Nancy thought she'd pass on her first visit to Israel.

"I eventually looked into it a bit more, went to a training camp for the Canadian team, and Frances Halpern of Toronto, one of the organizers of Dragon Boat Israel, placed me on the [Montreal-based] Canadian team, Two Abreast (Côte à Côte)."

Bennett was joined by two other members of Avalon Dragons, Marie Hyslop and Shirley Thorne, plus two women from Texas, one of whom was living in Italy. The rest of the team came from Montreal. Only two were Jewish.

Thirty-nine teams, totalling more than 900 paddlers, took part in the festival. Nine of the teams consisted of breast cancer survivors. Twenty of the teams were Israeli and 19 came from abroad – from Canada, the United States, Holland, Italy, Australia and Taiwan.

**Dragon boat Two Abreast, which included Nancy Bennett, finished first in the breast cancer survivor division at the recent Israel Dragon Boat Festival.**
*[Dan Greenberg photo]*

Tailgators, a Canadian team, were overall winners, followed by Ohalo College (Israel), L'Chaim on the Mayim (Canada), Degania Bet (Israel) and Kinneret College (Israel).

Many of the overseas participants were visiting Israel for the first time. They spent 10 days on guided tours before competing in the festival.

The event was a joint Canada-Israel initiative, spearheaded by Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA and the Jewish community of Ottawa. Debbie Halton-Weiss, chair of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, conceived of the idea of holding a dragon boat festival on the Kinneret. In addition to introducing the sport to Israel and bringing people to the country, it raised more than NIS 200,000 (over $53,000 Cdn) for educational charities and youth programs.

Bennett picks up the story.

"Our first race was at 7:30 a.m. Lake Kinneret on the Sea of Galilee was calm and extreme heat was not yet evident. We were refreshed and strong, but pushed really hard to win the race [against a mixed field of men and women teams].

"It was nearly 40 degrees when we started our second race, paddling against eight other experienced breast cancer teams. We doused ourselves with water from the sea to cool off a little before the race started. We got a very good start, maintained a strong and steady pace and finished first in the race, taking first place overall in the breast cancer division."

During the closing ceremonies, they were treated like celebrities when they received their medals.

Bennett's impression of Israel was similar to those of many first-time visitors – "incredibly beautiful country. I'm not sure what I was expecting, but it was breathtaking, as though every square inch of land yields a story," said the 67-year-old public relations consultant. She is also the president of the Havura Congregation in St. John's.

In Israel, she said, there's an esthetic and beauty that's missing in North America.

She praised Vancouver doctor Don MacKenzie, who first recognized that paddling would help women overcome breast cancer surgery and become fit again. Prior to his initiative, women were told to lift nothing heavy and to avoid exertion.

"After he researched it, he found positive results, and now dragon boating is the fastest growing water sport in the world," Bennett said.

"I'm so glad I went [to Israel]," she said. "It showed me how important Israel is for non-Jews, too.

"The women on our team were so enthusiastic about the country, [and] now have a better understanding of antisemitism and the history of the Holocaust. They realize the need for a Jewish country. The depth of the feeling of non-Jews was quite beautiful to experience."

# Road hockey tournament to raise funds for kids

Compiled by CJN Staff

The Prosserman JCC and Chai Lifeline will host the first-ever "Game On" road hockey tournament June 17 to raise money for children dealing with pediatric disabilities and illness.

The event will take place at the Prosserman JCC at 4588 Bathurst St. From 300 to 400 people are expected to play, with another 1,000 spectators, supporters and volunteers in attendance.

The tournament will feature divisions for young people and adults spread over 20 teams or more, as well as a celebrity all-star game. The day will also feature entertainment and family activities.

"As a mother of a special needs child, I am so proud to support Game On and the important causes it represents. I urge everyone to come out on June 17," said tournament co-chair Michelle Goldstein Zaldin.

Funds raised will go to support these youngsters' participation in summer camps and sports programs. So far, organizers have raised close to $25,000 in sponsorships, and they hope to raise another $50,000 from participants.

Individual adult players can register at a cost of $180. Team registration is $1,000 and individual youth registration is $100. Teams are asked to collect pledges as well, with the top fundraisers eligible for prizes, including a chance to play in the celebrity all-star game.

Teams will play at least three games. Each team must have a minimum of five players and a maximum of eight. Four players per team will be on the road at once, including one goalie. Players must bring their own equipment.

A number of celebrities have participated in a video promoting the event, including ESPN's Dan Shulman, former NHL coaching great Mike Keenan, Cabral "Cabbie" Richards from TSN and Environment Minister Peter Kent.

For more information or to register, visit the Game On website at http://chai.akaraisin.com/GameOn, or contact Alex Voihanski at 416-665-1836 or via e-mail at cageneral@chailifeline.org.

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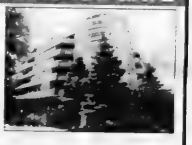

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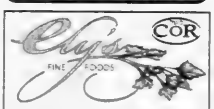

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# Comic faces some difficult career choices

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Amanda Day, 29, an up-and-coming standup comic on the Toronto comedy scene, is pretty confident you'll dig her style if you're open to a "smart, silly, and very, very dirty" kind of show.

Day, who called her style "loose but conversational," said she writes new material every week for her Thursday night gigs at Hotbox Café in Toronto's Kensington Market.

She said performing each week keeps her current because she's constantly writing new jokes.

"It's good because it makes you say yes to a lot of ideas. Normally, I'd be like, 'No, that's stupid,' and I'd talk myself out of it. If you had to come up with new material every week, you better just try it."

Day has been doing standup for the past five years, but supplements her income with a day job at a printing company.

"The thing that is so encouraging about standup is that when you look at your idols, like Patton Oswald, or Louis CK, you see what a long game it is, and they're like, 'Oh I've been doing this for 16, 20 years,'" Day said.

"There's this new comic named Kyle Kinane... and he was recently talking about having a day job forever, and being so afraid to give up that day job and health benefits... I want to take that leap, but I just want to make sure I won't be destitute a month later."

Although Day has been succeeding in lining up regular gigs – she hosts a monthly show called *Comedy Machine* at the Crown and Tiger bar every third Saturday night of the month in addition to her weekly spot at Hotbox – she knows she's going to have to make that leap if she ever wants a chance at becoming a household name.

"I have a real barrier right now. At some point within the next couple years, I'm really going to have to chose between becoming completely freelance with the comedy and acting and just go from there, or just stick with the day job and do this at night. It's a hard choice to make," she said.

But trying her hand in the comedy scene was a choice Day had made years ago, when she was still a teenager.

"I was always a performative kid growing up. I was always drawn to artistic things, whether it was acting, or drawing."

She said she completed a bachelor's degree at York University in visual arts before she enrolled at Humber College in its comedy writing and performance program.

"When I started doing standup and stopped being scared of doing standup, I was really taken by it," she said.

"I would say it becomes an addictive thing that you have to get up on stage. Luckily, there are a lot of places to do that around here."

She said while the Humber program helped her make connections with other aspiring comedians, few students ever make the sacrifices necessary to make a name for themselves.

"I have a nice little chunk of people from my year who are still doing standup and sketch comedy, but we're talking about 60 people who were in my course, and maybe 10 people who are still doing it."

Day spoke of her mother, a lawyer, who she called "semi-supportive" of her decision to pursue a career in comedy.

"It's kind of a weird dynamic where she wants to be supportive and accepting as much as possible, but then she'll say, 'If you should become a lawyer or doctor...' you know, like a typical Jewish mom," she said.

Day added that she also gets a lot of support from other members of the comedian community, as well as her audiences.

"There are a lot of all-female shows in the city, so when I'm playing for a female audience I definitely feel more support, but I think I play very well in front of men, just because of how dirty I can get. Everyone likes a good dick joke," she said with a laugh.

"It's not hard being an attractive lady up on stage talking about stuff like that."

Amanda Day

Although most of her on-stage experiences have been positive – "I'm pretty lucky that I've never been heckled," she said – Day recalls one gig that wouldn't necessarily make her highlight reel.

"One of my friends used to run an open mic night, and one day he was all excited because the manager of the bar told him they had booked a party and said he'd have a really good audience," she said.

"It turns out that the party the manager had booked was for a deaf group, and the weird thing about it was that they wanted music – I don't know if they wanted to feel the bass or whatever – so there was this deaf dance party going on while we were trying to do this show," she said, laughing.

But as a standup comic, Day's learned to roll with the punches, because it's the successes that keep her motivated to press on.

One of the highlights of her career came last year, when she opened for Maria Bamford, the first female comic to have two half-hour *Comedy Central Presents* specials.

She's also made her rounds on the late-night circuit, having appeared on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and *Jimmy Kimmel Live*.

"She is very much a comedy idol of mine," Day said.

"I was very excited when I got the opportunity to open for her... I had a really good set. There are people who still recognize me from that set."

More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca

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# My criteria for picking friends

I'm not the friendliest person you'd ever meet. I mean, I have a couple of nice friends. I invite them over – Meir cooks for them; the kids smile at them: Sara, the dog, bites them, and we all talk about Nina Shenhav. I have very strict criteria for picking my friends. It's not location, location, location! It's admiration, admiration, admiration!

But, alas, one dark evening Meir comes up with a hideous idea. "Let's invite over some of *my* friends," he says bravely. His friends? You mean a group of strangers who wouldn't know I'm an actor in Israel, who wouldn't know I had a successful play, that I wrote books, that I was a prom queen?

*New to Canada*

*Nina Shenhav*

"What would we talk about?" I ask pointedly.

"We'll find something," he says unconvincingly.

As we sit at the table, I gaze at the two couples. The blond woman, I instantly hate. She has this bizarre self-esteem! She talks about herself. Constantly.

The brunette, I hate even more. She's so thin and has this shiny hair! The guys are fine. I always get along with men.

Blondie: So, as a lawyer, I had this client and he was…

Me (bursting in): I once played a lawyer in a show. Everyone said I was the hottest lawyer on screen!

Blondie's husband: Wow!

Blondie: So, as I was saying, this client of mine wanted to find out if his wife was cheating on him, and…

Me (shouting): Yeah, in my second book, I wrote about this woman whose husband was cheating on her, and she killed him!

The silence is overwhelming. And then, the brunette says, "That's very interesting," and turns to Blondie again. "So, what happened with your client?" Blondie takes a deep breath, "Oh, it turned out he was cheating with his… work, after all."

Me: How unexciting!

Blondie: Excuse me?

Meir: She meant… how unexpected.

Brunette: A man who's married to his work (she looks at her husband)? Tell me about it.

Me: In my successful TV show, one of my characters was a workaholic, and once when I was prom queen, my boyfriend thought I was cheating on him, so he…

Meir (interrupts me): Nina! Enough, dear.

Me: I'm just saying, that when you are a well-known artist, a celeb, if you will, you have to understand, people are very intrigued by you. That's all.

Brunette's husband (looks warmly at me): Right!

Brunette: What's that got to do with anything?

Blondie (kindly, to the brunette): You're an accountant, aren't you?

I exit the dining room, rattled. Meir comes after me to the kitchen. We look at each other. He hugs me. "You're the most beautiful, talented, smart, interesting woman I've ever met," he says quietly.

"You're the only one who says so," I tell him, "and maybe a couple of my friends, and the kids."

"When will it be enough for you?" he asks, still holding me, looking into my eyes.

"When I start loving myself already!" pops out of my mouth unexpectedly, before I can think of a reply.

*Nina.shenhav@gmail.com*

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## On cjnews.com

*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

Singing star Nikki Yanofsky, left, who will be the featured performer at a June 6 benefit concert for Congrégation Or Shalom de Dollard-des-Ormeaux.

The Fédération Sépharade Canadienne, which announced a new $10,000 scholarship for a Canadian student to study for a year at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem at the recent Académie Yéchiva Yavné gala.

***Exclusive to cjnews.com***

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa writes about Egypt's revolution, which he says may change the strategic balance in the Middle East.

While a labour dispute at one Centre de la petite enfance (CPE) in the Jewish community has been resolved, tensions over stalled contract talks at another are increasing. CPEs are the government-subsidized $7-a-day day care centres throughout the province.

Sanibel means beaches, shelling and wildlife....and an aron hakodesh which sits unobtrusively in the corner of a church.

# Tell others about the residential schools

Shavuot is the holiday that commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

The Torah tells the story of the Jews coming out of Egypt. On Pesach, we're told to feel as if we were one of those Jews. So what does that mean? I think it refers to empathy. In other words, be empathetic and sense, feel and intellectually consider what it was like to be ruled by others.

How does one do that? Look out your window and see the native community. Walk over to them and ask them about the residential schools and listen closely. Watch their brows furrow and their eyes drop as they tell you about the brutal beatings and the children who went missing and were never heard from again.

*Urban Writer*

*Avrum Rosensweig*

You'll feel empathy. You'll feel *rachmanut* – tremendous sympathy.

I take you through this exercise because I'm aghast that so many sophisticated Canadians, individuals who consider themselves aware and compassionate, know nothing about the suffering of our Aboriginal Peoples in residential schools. I'm even more upset that many Jews have never heard of this blight on Canada's human rights record, this black mark on our national soul.

I would ask you to share this article and the following points with your children, siblings, parents, friends, colleagues, cousins, bowling partners, teachers, principals and nannies. Tell every Canadian about the residential schools.

Let them know they were erected in the 19th century to Christianize native children so the government would no longer be required to pay for its treaty obligations. Tell them that more than 150 residential schools existed and thousands of children died there, while thousands more were subjected to physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

Tell your loved ones that church leaders and security forces would often take native children from their parents' arms and transport them hundreds miles away for an "education." Frequently, students wouldn't see their family for an entire year. The children – Métis, status and non-status Indian, Inuit, Inuvialuit and non-Aboriginal – were forced to change their names and were forbidden from speaking their languages.

On Shavuot, when we remember the giving of the Torah, we should recall as well the thousands of native children who were mentally abused, and murdered (some say as many as 100,000) in our country, Canada.

Ask yourself, "How could I not know this? Never again?"

Tell those you know that on May 10, 2006, an "Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement" was signed by the government of Canada, effectively giving reparations to any former student still alive as of May 30, 2005. This was the largest class action settlement in Canadian history. A lump sum of $10,000 was paid per student for their first year in school, and $3,000 was paid for each additional year. Further claims could be made for serious physical and sexual abuse.

How could I not know this? Why do we expect others to know about the Holocaust?

When you share the information in this column, include that Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologized to our Native brothers and sisters. Say that a "truth and reconciliation" process set up in British Columbia called for every school in Canada to teach about residential schools. Fortunately, the Northwest Territories will start a pilot project this spring in its public schools to teach about residential schools, and it plans to expand the project to 40 schools next fall. Shouldn't private Jewish day schools include residential schools in their curricula?

Familiarize yourself with residential schools. Teach others. We said we would.

Chag Samayach. Happy Shavuot.

*Avrum@veahavta.org*

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Please join us at Revera – Terrace Gardens as we host the following events:

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## This Week

National

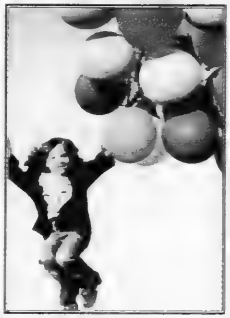
**Community organizations** aren't democratic, speaker says. *Page 5*

**American pundits** come to town. *Page 13*

Campus

**Students make** unexpected discoveries in Israel. *Page 22*

Party



**See inside** for our festive supplement. *Section B*

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# Israel funds Conservative, Reform rabbis

JTA

The Israeli government has decided to pay the salaries of non-Orthodox rabbis and recognize them as community leaders.

The attorney general's office advised the Supreme Court last week that Reform and Conservative rabbis in some parts of Israel will be recognized as "rabbis of non-Orthodox communities" and will receive wages equal to those of their Orthodox counterparts.

Only rabbis in farming communities and regional councils – not in cities – will be eligible for the funding. The vast majority of Israeli Reform and Conservative communities are in large population centres.

The attorney general's office has said that for now, up to 15 non-Orthodox rabbis may receive state support. Before this decision, only Orthodox rabbis received state funding.

Some 4,000 Orthodox rabbis serve as rabbis of their communities and draw a salary from the government. Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein said the rabbis to be recognized would be known as a "rabbi of a non-Orthodox community."

The non-Orthodox rabbis will receive their salary from the Culture and Sports Ministry, rather than the Religious Services Ministry, which funds Orthodox rabbis. In addition, funding will go only to the rabbis of communities that request it, according to the *Jerusalem Post*.

**Rabbi Miri Gold**

Non-Orthodox rabbis, unlike their Orthodox colleagues, will have no authority over Jewish law or ceremonies such as marriage or divorce.

Last week's announcement followed out-of-court negotiations over a 2005 petition by the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism and Rabbi Miri Gold, a Reform rabbi from Kibbutz Gezer in central Israel. Rabbi Gold had asked the government to fund the Gezer Reform community just as it funds Orthodox communities and their leaders.

A panel of judges presided over out-of-court negotiations, led by Supreme Court Justice Elyakim Rubinstein. Earlier this month, the panel asked the attorney general to intervene.

**Continued on page 30**

## Social protests resume

**Israelis took to the streets last weekend in several cities to protest rising living costs.** [*Flash90 photo*]

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*Greater Toronto Area*

**Israel orders deportation of 25,000 illegal immigrants – please see page 29**

## Canada

### Adler Joins CFTAU

**TORONTO** — Stephen Adler has been named executive director of Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University (CFTAU). He joins CFTAU with 10 years in fundraising for the Reena Foundation, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and most recently for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada.

## World

### Play Disrupted

**LONDON** — Pro-Palestinian activists protested against an Israeli theatre company's production of *The Merchant of Venice* at the Globe Theatre in London. The May 28 protests of the Habima company's production began outside the theatre, where dozens stood waving Palestinian flags and urging a boycott of Israeli products. Pro-Israeli activists mounted their own rally. Inside the theatre, protesters began waving Palestinian flags and flashing signs against Israel during the play. They were removed, and the show continued. The Habima production is part of the Globe to Globe festival, a six-week event at the theatre featuring Shakespeare's 37 plays performed in 37 languages. A Palestinian company is slated to perform *Richard II* in Arabic. In a letter published March 29 in the *Guardian*, 36 British directors, writers and actors expressed "dismay and regret" about Habima's production.

### Film Fest Cancels Film Screening

Dieudonné M'Bala M'Bala

**CANNES** — The Cannes Film Festival's screening of *The Anti-Semite*, a film by a French comic with a history of antisemitism, was cancelled.

The film by and starring Dieudonné M'Bala M'Bala was produced by the Iranian Documentary and Experimental Film Center.

It reportedly pokes fun at the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz, where an estimated 1.5 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust, and features Dieudonné as a violent and alcoholic character dressed as a Nazi officer for a fancy dress party. Robert Faurisson, a convicted Holocaust denier, makes a cameo appearance. The film reportedly will be sold over the Internet.

"Antisemitism has no place at Cannes, and we welcome the clear statement to that effect from the organizers of the film festival," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

Dieudonné has been found guilty of inciting hatred in France.

Quebec's largest concert promoter pulled the plug on four shows scheduled for last month by Dieudonné, whose routine has included Holocaust denial and joking praise for Hitler. Belgian authorities last month forced Dieudonné to cancel two performances in Brussels. The French news agency AFP reported that police stopped him mid-performance May 9 after determining his act contravened local laws.

### Genetic Link Found

**TEL AVIV** — Israeli geneticists have linked a Native American population in Colorado to Jews expelled from Spain during the Inquisition. Geneticists at the Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv discovered the genetic mutation marker BRCA1 in a group of Mexican Indians who had emigrated from Mexico to the United States over the past 200 years and settled in Colorado, *Ha'aretz* reported. BRCA1 is found in Jews of Ashkenazi origin and leads to a higher incidence of breast and ovarian cancer. Researchers say the mutation found in the Colorado Indians is identical to that in Ashkenazim, and dates to more than 600 years ago. Jews were expelled from Spain in the 15th century. Researchers say this offers genetic proof some of the Jews expelled from Spain who reached South America intermarried with the indigenous population, whose descendants later migrated to Mexico and then the United States. The Indians in Colorado don't have any traditions linking them to Jews, the researchers said.

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# Immigration bill's impact cause for concern

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

If the government's proposed new immigration law passes, it might turn away legitimate asylum-seekers fleeing persecution, including Jews, immigration experts and community activists say.

Bill C-31 – titled Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act – is being considered in the House of Commons, and its sponsor, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Jason Kenney, has said he wants the bill passed by June 29, before Parliament adjourns for the summer.

Jason Kenney

Detractors such as the Canadian Civil Liberties Union and the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers, among others, say that provisions in C-31, including the proposed creation of a list of designated "safe" countries of origin, give too much power to ministers and don't give refugees enough time to establish their cases before Canada's Immigration Refugee Board (IRB).

Janis Roth, executive director of Jewish Immigration Aid Services (JIAS) Toronto, said she has concerns with the proposed safe country designation and changes in the right to appeal process.

"We all know that a country that is deemed safe for some may not be safe for others. This bill also proposes to treat refugee claimants differently depending on how they arrive – by boat or plane or as a single or in group – and whether by way of a 'safe' country, and as such, we are concerned about the implications for the safety and protection of bona fide refugees," Roth told *The CJN*.

"There are also proposed longer waiting periods for permanent resident status and limits on travel documents for refugees that may prolong their settlement and separation from their family."

She said that although JIAS' annual caseload of refugees is relatively small, it's important that the Jewish community "act on behalf of all current and all potential immigrant clients and to ensure a service delivery system that is equitable, just, compassionate and ready to respond and assist immigrants at any time."

Immigration experts also fear that, based on comments made by Kenney, Hungary could be designated a safe country when two communities are being targeted there by the state: Jews and Roma.

In April, Kenney said he believes many claimants, specifically Roma (also known as Gypsies), from Hungary were making false refugee claims and abusing Canada's refugee system.

An April 22 report in the *National Post* cited IRB statistics showing a spike in Roma claims from 2010 to 2012. The story quoted Kenney as saying that Canada has been trying to educate the Roma about how to properly apply to immigrate here.

"We tried to circulate brochures explaining 'This is not the way you immigrate to Canada,' and it's had no impact," Kenney told *The Post*.

In March, Hungarian-Jewish author Akos Kertesz, 80, fled to Canada and sought asylum.

**Continued on page 26**

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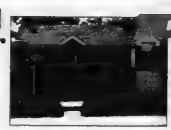
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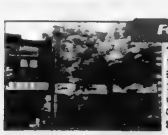
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# *Community building in Jerusalem*

*From the editor's desk...*

It's not a particularly religious proposition to state that God's work on Earth falls to human beings to perform. For who, if not we, can make the world better? When we pray, or implore, or beseech, or hope, or lift our eyes in supplication, we are often, in effect, also reminding ourselves of the task at hand, of the need to find the strength if not also the courage to fulfil our responsibilities to one another.

Thus, for example, when in our prayers we ask God three times a day each weekday "to return with a tender heart to His city Jerusalem... and build it soon in our time for all time," we are really focusing our own hearts and our own minds on the work that is required to make that special place flourish.

Last month in Jerusalem, *The CJN* met with a man whose everyday preoccupation is the building of Jerusalem. His task is more than the literal building of the city, although it does include that, too, with attention to the city's stones, bricks, mortar, greening, gardens and infrastructure.

Mark Sofer is the newly appointed president of the Jerusalem Foundation. After some 30 years in Israel's diplomatic corps, most recently as ambassador to India, he has now brought his considerable inter-personal skills, international experience, scholarly erudition, suave manner and lifelong commitment to a Middle East at peace to the role of heading the foundation.

This storied foundation, Sofer tells *The CJN*, has an ambitious but indispensable mission. It "builds" Jerusalem through three broad categories of activities specifically related to enhancing various communities within the city, providing and encouraging cultural activities for its residents and fostering coexistence among its diverse peoples.

The foundation was established by Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek just before the Six Day War. The visionary Kollek created the foundation as a vehicle outside the framework of Israel's national or the city's municipal government to conscript men and women from around the world to the vital task of "building" Jerusalem.

Over these past four decades, Kollek's vision has proven effective. There are nine volunteer boards of activists in nine different countries outside of Israel on behalf of the foundation, including in Canada. Many of the volunteers are not Jewish. This isn't surprising given the sanctity of the city to the three major monotheisms in the evolution of western civilization across some five millennia.

"Jerusalem is not just any other city," Sofer notes wryly.

"It would be difficult to find another city in the world with the same level of challenges and complications faced by Jerusalem. What happens in Jerusalem has ramifications well beyond the city itself. It may be a new archeological find or the opening of a door in the Old City."

During his conversation with *The CJN*, Sofer repeatedly emphasized a special affinity he and the foundation have toward Canadian Jewry.

The multicultural mosaic that is the Canadian formula for inter-ethnic tolerance, mutual respect and coexistence provides a form of blueprint for much of the approach of the work of the foundation toward the city's many different populations.

"Jerusalem will not become an ethnic melting pot," Sofer said. "The different groups that comprise Jerusalem must and can live in harmony as a society.

"This sense of community building... is what Canadian Jews are all about, what the foundation is all about," he reiterated, pointing to the philanthropic generosity and to the in-the-field involvement by Canadians in a handful of key, life-enhancing initiatives of the foundation in the city. He highlighted Canadian participation in the "revitalization of the centre of Jerusalem," as a flagship project creating a place of engagement and belonging especially for the city's underprivileged or disaffected or simply down-on-their-luck youth.

**Jerusalem Foundation president Mark Sofer**

Sofer said that the standing order of the foundation is that "the urgent takes precedence over the necessary. Always. Jerusalem has to be and has to remain a living pluralistic place for all its residents. We cannot fail."

Whether or not it is his habit to say the daily prayer regarding the building of Jerusalem, there is no disputing that Sofer actually daily fulfils it, a partner along with the myriad other dedicated people, Jerusalemites and Canadians, too, each forces for good, striving to help God do His work on Earth.

(First of a series)

*– MBD*

**SeeJN**

## A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

**Visitors to the new Schwartz/Reisman Centre on the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan take part in a family Zumba workout with the Magen Boys. Other activities at the June 3 celebration included performances by the Kachol Lavan and Jroots choir, arts and crafts, family swim, karate and yoga, storytelling by the PJ Library program, art and ceramics. The centre opened last Friday, and had 2,700 health and fitness members as of Sunday.**

***[Frances Kraft photo]***

Ben Feferman *[Michelle Bitran photo]*

# Community speaks out at town hall meeting

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

The average Jewish person in Toronto doesn't have much say in the priorities of the organized community, filmmaker Ben Feferman said at a town hall meeting he organized last month.

One of the repeated criticisms of organized community institutions made by the 40 people in attendance at the Barbara Frum Library May 24 was that large donations are being used to construct new buildings instead of going toward Jewish education and poverty relief.

Tuition costs for Jewish day schools are skyrocketing, leaving many families unable to afford Jewish education. "Maybe we [the Jewish community] have some issues with priorities," Feferman said.

Feferman, 28, added that while large Jewish organizations and charities such as UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, UIA Federations Canada and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs are well intentioned and do important work, they don't operate transparently and democratically, or allocate donations in a way that everyone in the greater Jewish community would agree with.

"To what degree are we able to cast a ballot to remove the leadership?" he asked the audience.

Wayne Levin, an engineer and day-school funding advocate who was one of three other speakers at the event, said it's not just the leaders of large organizations who can and should have an impact on community decision-making.

"We need to educate [people] and make people understand that they have a role to play," he said.

Feferman filmed the meeting as a part of his upcoming documentary that looks at the challenges facing Canada's Jewish community. He said he doesn't have concrete solutions, but hopes that the community can work together to find them.

The title of Feferman's documentary, *Sha Shtil*, to be released this summer, is a reference to the Yiddish phrase that means "be silent."

Feferman, whose last documentary, *The Wandering Jew*, explored the Jewish attraction to eastern religions, said the title refers to a prevalent attitude in Canada's Jewish community that encourages people not to speak up about issues.

He added that when he began filming, he was told several times by community members that he "can't talk about these things," and that he shouldn't outwardly challenge the way the community is run.

"The line that everyone gives me is that we shouldn't air our dirty laundry in public," he said.

However, as work on his film progressed, he found people more receptive and open to change.

"Change is not always going to come from the top," Feferman said. "It's not always going to be spoon-fed to you. It often has to come from the grassroots."

Feferman said he has never felt compelled to keep silent about problems he sees in the Jewish community.

"I'm not interested in making the Jewish community *look* good. I'm interested in making it *do* good."

In addition to Feferman and Levin, the meeting also heard from two other speakers, social worker and supporter of Toronto's homeless Lillian Freedman, and Israel advocate Esther Mendelsohn, who shared their experiences and offered opinions on where there's room for change in Toronto's Jewish community.

"There's lots of work to be done" to fight poverty in the Jewish community, particularly among seniors and Holocaust survivors, Freedman said, adding that "the good news is it's not hard and it's not expensive."

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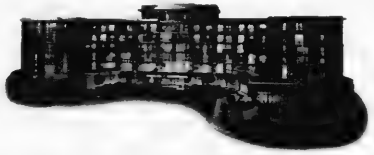

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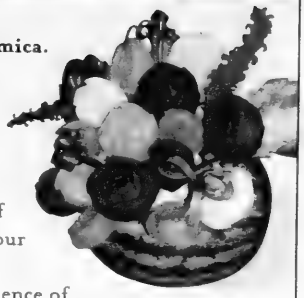

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# Rabbi's sabbatical leads to 'transition plan'

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

Rabbi John Moscowitz, bound by a confidentiality agreement, declined to comment on the recent brouhaha at Holy Blossom Temple – one of the world's best-known Reform congregations – and on what his role would be during his upcoming three-year sabbatical preceding his retirement as senior rabbi June 30, 2015.

In an April 24 letter to congregants, Holy Blossom president Mark Anshan – who is also under confidentiality restrictions – wrote that the rabbi and the temple's board had, "after many months of negotiations, reached an agreement" that Rabbi Moscowitz would serve as rabbi emeritus as of June 30.

**Holy Blossom Temple**

The 60-year-old rabbi – who has been with Holy Blossom for 25 years, the last 13 as senior rabbi – will be on sabbatical until his retirement, but will lead High Holiday Services at the synagogue in September, the letter said.

A followup letter from Anshan, dated May 8, said the rabbi's role and responsibilities would change during his sabbatical, but that he would "continue to keep his office, and officiate at weddings and funerals, if he is available."

Anshan wrote that "a comprehensive transition plan" was being prepared and that Holy Blossom would search for its next senior rabbi "in due time."

"We continue to be in good hands with Rabbi [Yael] Splansky, Rabbi [Karen] Thomashow, and Rabbi [Edward] Goldfarb," he wrote, naming Cantor Benjamin Maissner and cantorial soloist Lindi Rivers as well, among other non-clergy staff.

The letter began with comments that did little more than hint at divisions in the temple, which were highlighted in a May 25 article in the *Globe and Mail*. The newspaper article referred to "a bitter controversy [over] the de facto ouster" of the senior rabbi.

In his second letter, Anshan said the first one "did not properly reflect or recognize the dedication and contribution that Rabbi Moscowitz had provided to the congregation during his 25 years of service. I wish it had been otherwise. It was not my intention to upset any member of our congregation but merely to send out an announcement, the content of which was previously agreed to be a joint communiqué by the Temple's board of directors and Rabbi Moscowitz."

He credited Rabbi Moscowitz for building up the temple's adult education program, being with congregants at times of joy and sorrow, and "crafting a vision for the congregation's future."

Anshan noted in the letter that the temple board would be reaching out to members, and encouraged them to contact him. He wrote that he would respond to each e-mail and would be happy to meet members in person as well.

The *Globe and Mail* reported that the rabbi's sabbatical would be fully paid, and that his settlement was "said to be worth more than a million dollars... hammered out in protracted legal negotiations."

The article quoted temple member Senator Linda Frum accusing the board of mismanagement, and saying, "I am so upset about the way he has been treated. I feel so poisoned by the atmosphere created that it's not a place I could continue to feel comfortable. I know others who are leaving and others who are considering it."

The temple, which was founded in 1856, has seen a decline in membership in recent years to 1,950 family units. According to the second edition of the *Ontario Jewish Resource Directory*, published in 2001, it had 2,500 families at that time.

A congregant who declined to speak for attribution told *The CJN* that it's time now "for healing... It will take some time for that to happen."

*With files from JTA*

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# A big step but only the first

The government of Israel announced last week, for the very first time, it would pay the salary of a non-Orthodox rabbi on an equal footing with an Orthodox one. In so doing, it conferred official state recognition on non-Orthodox rabbis serving non-Orthodox communities in the Jewish state. *(Please see the related story in this edition of The CJN.)*

The application of the government's new policy, however, was quite circumscribed. Only non-Orthodox rabbis in rural or farming communities are eligible for the salary funding. Their non-Orthodox colleagues who serve congregations in larger urban communities are not. In addition, the funding for the non-Orthodox rabbi comes from the Ministry of Sports and Culture rather than the Ministry of Religious Services, as do the salaries of the Orthodox rabbis.

Nevertheless, despite the narrow sweep of the government's decision, it was so entirely a departure from past policy that Natan Sharansky, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, wholeheartedly praised it. "The government's decision to recognize Reform and Conservative leaders gives official recognition to these dynamic community leaders and rabbis who work tirelessly to build strong and vibrant Zionist and Jewish communities throughout Israel. I believe this decision has both practical and symbolic importance. It contributes significantly to the strengthening of the relationship between Diaspora Jews and Israel...and as another step towards bringing unity to the Jewish People."

With this small but weighty announcement, the government of Israel inched closer to more robustly honouring the promise to all its people, enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, to "guarantee freedom of religion."

And as Sharansky implied, the government has also very significantly strengthened the underpinnings of the bridges of peoplehood with the Jews of the Diaspora. For that very Declaration of Independence explicitly appeals to the Diaspora "to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel... in the realization of the age-old dream, the redemption of Israel."

There is in the government's announcement more than a faint echo of Neil Armstrong's dramatic statement 43 years ago when he became the first human being to set foot on the moon: "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." Rabbi Miri Gold, a Reform rabbi from Kibbutz Gezer, who as of last week is now also being paid *as a rabbi* in the State of Israel by the government of Israel, could also validly say, "That's one small step for a non-Orthodox rabbi, one giant leap for Jewish religious pluralism in Israel."

But it was only the first step on that long, arduous road to official inclusion of all religious streams in Israel.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

U.S. president Ronald Reagan named Alan Greenspan, a New York economist, chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve for a four-year term, succeeding Paul Volcker. Greenspan, 61, had chaired president Gerald Ford's council of economic advisors from 1974 to 1977.

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## Inflammatory comments

I take exception to the inflammatory and offensive comments made by some in the article "Madrassah barred from Toronto public schools" (May 24).

David Spiro, of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, refers to the "dubious activism" of the madrassah's religious leadership, yet offers no explanation of the basis of this allegation. The madrassah's religious leadership is Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat (ISIJ) in Thornhill, Ont. As members of the MOSAIC Interfaith Group for more than 20 years, we have hosted some 150 to 200 group visits per year by students from GTA high schools.

We were the first Islamic organization in the GTA to condemn the 9-11 attacks in a joint press conference with our neighbouring synagogue, Temple Har Zion. When a Montreal Jewish school and an Islamic centre in Pickering, Ont., were hit by arson attacks, we issued a joint condemnation and made a donation to the synagogue. We are a founding partner with a Zoroastrian temple, a synagogue and a Christian church of the Out of the Cold program. And we are joint recipients of the Harmony Award with Temple Har Zion, in recognition of our promotion of Canadian values. Is this what Spiro considers "dubious activism?"

The article also quotes Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, who accuses the madrassah of teaching "antisemitic hate." Our record of decades of partnership with our friends in the Jewish community and with other religious and secular organizations speaks far louder than any baseless and inflammatory remarks made by vocal critics.

**Muntazir Jaffer**
**Director of Operations**
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• • •

## Nakba Day at Tel Aviv U

Rena Dvorkin Cohen says marking Nakba Day at Tel Aviv University was "disgraceful... an offence to Israel and its sovereignty" ("Nakba Day marked at Tel Aviv U," letter, May 24). For most of the 21 per cent of Israelis who are Arabs, Yom Ha'atzmaut may well seem like Yom Nakba. Does Cohen want to suppress their right to express their views? Now *that* would be "disgraceful" and "an offence"! I applaud Tel Aviv University's dean of students, who approved Arab students holding a peaceful ceremony. I applaud TAU's chairman, Moti Cohen, who said: "We are a democratic institution in a democratic country."

**Bernard Katz**
**Toronto**

• • •

## Anti-African violence in Tel Aviv

Terror recently raged in Tel Aviv ("Anti-African violence in Tel Aviv condemned," May 31). Preschool children were sent home for fear of attacks, and people were afraid to walk in their neighbourhoods. Who were the perpetrators? Jews. Their victims? African refugees. These refugees watched their families killed and their villages bombed, and escaped to Israel to preserve their lives. The Jewish nation cannot turn its back and say, "This is not our problem." We shouldn't even whisper such words, given our history of losing millions as other nations turned their backs. And yet, recently, Jews screamed these words as they violently marched through the streets of Tel Aviv. In the Knesset, Jews said these words as they put forth a policy to deport refugees to South Sudan, a move that could send thousands to their death.

### *LET THEM GO...*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

In 1944, David Ben-Gurion asked the international community, "If, instead of Jews, thousands of English, American or Russian women, children and aged had been tortured every day, burnt to death, asphyxiated in gas chambers, would you have acted in the same way?" I pose that question, too. If Jews, instead of Africans, thousands of Jewish women, children and aged were being threatened every day, attacked by Molotov cocktails, and facing the very real possibility of deportation to countries where they could be killed in a matter of hours, would you act in the same way? Or, should we confront our leaders and acknowledge that this is our problem?

**Anna Rose Siegel**
**Tel Aviv**

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*cjninfo@gmail.com*

# The moral costs of Jewish day school

Rabbi Aryeh Klapper

There is a lot of hand-wringing these days about whether the rising costs of Jewish day schools are sustainable. The discussion has been about money: How can we get more? How can we spend less? These questions miss the point. The largest costs of high day school tuition are not financial but moral, and the key to solving the financial dilemma is to address the moral problem.

What are the moral costs? Imagine that someone proposes a new Jewish practice that would have these consequences:

- Parents take second jobs, or work longer hours, that deprive them of almost all weekday contact with their children and leave them too exhausted to make Shabbat meaningful.
- Almost half of all households are transformed, for years, from community contributors to charity recipients.
- Children aspiring to intellectual, creative or service work, such as teaching (especially Torah) or other helping professions, are told that these are not options because they will not produce enough money to sustain a committed Jewish lifestyle.
- For economic reasons, families choose to have fewer children.

We would consider such a practice stunningly irresponsible. Yet these are real-life consequences of current day school tuition, even as the community seems committed to making day school education a requirement of serious Jewish child-rearing. How can we live with these consequences?

Furthermore, parents receiving day school financial aid have no guarantee, and often no idea, of how they will be affected by tuition hikes or whether the school will take account of a job loss, a new baby, a car's breakdown – or, on the other hand, a gift from a parent or extra income from a second job. They cannot make future plans; they are chronically dependent on other people's decisions. They are deprived of economic dignity. Indeed, financial aid applications require families to state their expenses in often-humiliating detail. They know a committee will sit in judgment of their priorities. A family that eats pasta all month so it can go to a movie risks an aid cut because it spends on entertainment. A family that uses an inheritance to visit yet-unseen relatives in Israel risks a cut because it can afford travel.

The price of poverty is often the loss of privacy. This is an evil, which we should minimize. But the current system maximizes intrusions on privacy by forcing people who make five times the median income to apply for charity. Because the maximum tuition is unaffordable even for many families earning over $200,000 per year, they are forced into a financial aid system that requires complete financial disclosure.

The system also undermines the schools' Jewish effectiveness. If our children lack Jewish passion, doesn't that bespeak parental exhaustion? If they are materialistic, isn't this related to their being told that their career paths are limited because they are poor? When they show signs of being "at risk," doesn't this reflect lessened parental involvement? How can children internalize the core Jewish value of human dignity and the spiritual value of financial independence when their schools make them dependent?

Should we, therefore, undo our commitment – admittedly unprecedented in Jewish history and inconceivable in a less wealthy community – to broad-based day school education? This is not necessary. We can address the moral issues and, in doing so, the financial issues as well.

The Solomon Schechter School of Greater Boston has proposed a version of a model with great potential. In very simplified form, here is how it might work: tuition is set as either a fixed percentage of income – say, 15 per cent, with small adjustments for the number of children in the school – or a relatively high set amount per student, which high-income families can use if they wish to pay a lower percentage of their income. Families unable to pay even the 15 per cent could, as now, apply for financial aid.

This model corrects many of the current system's moral deficiencies:

- It makes the tuition-setting process transparent and predictable.
- It moves many middle-class families off the rolls of those receiving financial aid.
- It defines day school education as a public good to be communally supported instead of an individual good, privately purchased.
- It makes clear that the rich, even when they pay the maximum tuition, are assessed a lower percentage of their income than the middle class.

There are, of course, gaps and imperfections. The new system does not (yet) address families with children in multiple schools or questions of what costs should and should not be included in tuition. It also excludes, consciously, family assets. Yes, this exclusion could allow families to "cheat" by hiding their true financial capacity, but counting all assets would provide a disincentive to saving – and, equally important, would have critical implications for privacy and dignity.

No system is without drawbacks, but the proposed system's moral advantages are significant.

Still, let's be practical: the model will and should be required to pass the budget test. It should provide our schools with revenues at least equal to those of the present system. In fact, the new model would meet or exceed the test, if only because the percentage of income required as tuition can be set so as to produce approximately the revenues that schools receive now.

But the new system would have further budget advantages. Under the current system, schools operate under deeply flawed ideas about their revenues and their communities' financial capacities. They have arbitrary "financial aid budgets" for what they consider tuition "subsidies." They turn down students when these budgets are "spent" and they can no longer "afford" to take students paying less than full tuition. In fact, however, any student who pays a significant portion of gross family income will be contributing significantly more than the marginal cost of his or her education. In rejecting such students, schools forego revenues and profits. Moreover, notes Dan Perla of the AviChai Foundation, if a school sets tuition as a percentage of income during a recession, when costs rise faster than wages, it will realize rising revenues from the same percentage of income when times improve.

In addition, it is wholly reasonable to expect that the new system would change behavior. Families who do not consider day school under the current system, because of uncertainties or privacy concerns, may well consider it when they know how tuition payments will relate to their income and are required to submit only the first page of their income tax returns. Families with many children will be more likely to send them to day schools. Indeed, such families may grow larger over time. Wealthier and even middle-class families, who will no longer see their tuition payments as subsidizing their neighbours, may be more likely to donate. Families without children in the schools may also be more willing to donate if day school costs are presented as a communal obligation, not a commodity for purchase.

This new model requires elaboration and customization, but it can redirect the community's conversation and efforts toward a model of day school financing that is both financially and morally sustainable.

*Rabbi Aryeh Klapper is dean of the Center for Modern Torah Leadership and teaches rabbinic literature at Gann Academy, a pluralistic Jewish high school in Waltham, Mass.*

File photo of senior kindergarten students at the north campus of Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto at a special program where they learned about animals at the zoo earlier this year.

# On a walk through Jerusalem

On the morning after Yom Yerushalayim, I walked past the prime minister's house on the way to the dentist. The house sits on Balfour Street, named for the British lord whose famous declaration of 1917 paved the road to the Jewish state. Half a century later, the Israel Defence Forces recaptured the Old City and unified Jerusalem, a momentous event commemorated on Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day).

A stroll in Jerusalem always inspires memories and invokes moral dilemmas. What does it mean to live in a city that's holy to three faiths and where virtually every street prompts historical analogies?

En route to the dentist, I recalled my first trip to Israel, in the summer of 1968. I landed on a Friday, and that same evening went for Kabalat Shabbat to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Hillel House, then located on Balfour Street. At the end of services, the young congregants lined up to shake the hand of a fellow worshipper, an elderly gentleman. I asked someone who this was.

"You don't know?" he replied. "That's the president of Israel, Zalman Shazar."

That was the warm, informal Jerusalem I fell in love with, the capital of the Jewish People. In those days, every day was Jerusalem Day, a cause for proud celebration. But in recent years, the anniversary of the conquest has taken on a right-wing colouration that can foster extremism.

In 1968, it was commonly held that the dazzling victory of the Six Day War would lead forthwith to a two-state solution. Today, we have a bruising contest of values: manifest Jewish destiny versus modern Jewish democracy.

What will Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu do, now that the Kadima party has joined his government, affording him a luxurious 94-seat Knesset coalition?

***Stuart Schoffman in Jerusalem***

With history on my mind, I turned left from the prime minister's house and passed the Restobar café, previously known as Moment, where on March 9, 2002, 11 Jewish Israelis lost their lives in a Palestinian suicide bombing. I took the next right, heading up the street named for Haim Arlozoroff, the brilliant young Labour Zionist leader who was murdered on a Tel Aviv beach on June 16, 1933. Extremist right-wing Jews were arrested but not convicted. Their supporters blamed Arabs for the crime. The wounds are still open, the polarizations remain.

North of Ramban Street, Arlozoroff becomes Solomon Ibn Gabirol, after the 11th-century Judeo-Spanish poet and neo-Platonist philosopher who wrote in both Hebrew and Arabic. As I neared my destination, I thought of the historian Benzion Netanyahu, who died April 30 at the age of 102, and his 1,384-page study of the Spanish. Having actually read and reviewed the book in 1995, I can more or less ratify *Time* magazine's glib assessment that "Benzion believed that the history of the Jews is a history of holocausts," a grim outlook that has had a deep effect on his son the Prime Minister, and thus on the rest of us as well.

May we Israelis, then, be forgiven for not putting our trust in anyone but ourselves? Should we reject any whiff of appeasement of Iran and seize the rare opportunity afforded by Netanyahu's parliamentary consensus to strike a pre-emptive blow to thwart an Iranian plot to annihilate the Jewish state? Or, as many Israeli experts urge, should the prime minister place a new emphasis, from his position of strength, on achieving the two-state solution so essential to Israel's survival as a Jewish and democratic state?

These are heady questions to ponder on a simple walk. Better, perhaps, to reflect on Ibn Gabirol, who died in 1058, at the age of 37 or so. According to legend, he was killed by a rival poet, an Arab who was jealous of his prodigious talent. Attributed to Ibn Gabirol is a book called *Mivhar Hapeninim* (*A Choice of Pearls*), a collection of adages, one of which I committed to memory years ago: "*Kol sin'ah yesh tikvah l'refuatah*," begins the poet – "Every hatred may be healed" – "except," he continues, "for hatred that originates in jealousy."

A thousand years later, his words ring all too true. Can we possibly mitigate the jealousy that Palestinians feel toward Israelis? Or is this a problem suffered by a people who had their shot at statehood back in 1948 and blew it, and then repeatedly refused Israel's offers of compromise, and is therefore no longer our problem?

*Stuart Schoffman is a fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute and editor of* Havruta: A Journal of Jewish Conversation.

***Yair Lootsteen will return***

# *Netanyahu's opportunity*

Eighteen months is a very short time in politics, particularly in Israel, but this is the window that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his new partners in the Kadima party, headed by former IDF general Shaul Mofaz, have to fix a wide range of problems.

In forging an alliance that includes 94 of the 120 members of the Knesset, they have prevented the political instability of early elections, but also created expectations that will be very difficult to meet.

For decades, Israeli politics has been largely frozen by a number of small parties that have exercised artificial power, resulting from the ability to bring down narrow coalitions. The immediate trigger that almost brought down the previous coalition was a court ruling that ended special exemptions from military service for the haredi sector. More broadly, basic changes in the relations between this narrow group and the wider population, the unjustified economic subsidies it receives, and the exaggerated political role of its rabbinical leadership are long overdue.

At the same time, the wider deficiencies in the electoral system that produced gridlock in many others critical issues will have to be addressed. Although Israel became a sovereign nation in 1948, the political process remained unchanged from the eastern European model used in the Zionist movement before independence. That system gives even tiny fringe parties a loud voice and leads to weak governments and frequent elections.

By raising the threshold for small parties and removing their veto power, as well as strengthening the position of the prime minister, the gridlock can be broken. To do this, a "super-majority" in the Knesset is required, and now, Israel finally has the right conditions to make these changes.

Wider economic reform is another immediate issue, particularly the need to reverse the growing divide between Israel's richest one per cent and the young and underpaid general population. The Jewish principles of social justice had become empty slogans, and last summer's student-led protests rightfully demanded affordable housing, improvements in public transportation and the break-up of monopolies.

On the complex issues of borders, settlements and negotiations with the Palestinians, the new government can belatedly confront the violent fringe that has sought to impose its views. The pragmatic consensus that recognizes the dangers to Israel of perpetuating the current chaos indefinitely can reassert its voice.

This doesn't mean a return to the vulnerability of the 1949 ceasefire lines or destruction of communities built in good faith across that "green line." But if Israelis see a basis for stable agreement, including an end to invented Palestinian histories and efforts to flood Israel with millions of third-generation refugees, the majority will accept the costs. And if such negotiations reach another dead end, a broad-based Israeli government can move toward implementing the consensus approach to borders and leave the Palestinians to decide how to govern themselves.

***Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem***

A broad unity government anchored by Likud and Kadima – the two largest Israeli parties – will also have the legitimacy and stability to deal carefully and seriously with the wider regional challenges. If Iran continues to move toward nuclear weapons, all options are still on the table, and do not need to be spelled out again. The presence of three former IDF chiefs of staff in this government is, in itself, a form of deterrence.

In addition, given the unprecedented and unpredictable change in Egypt and Syria, Israel presents an image of stability and strength. New Egyptian leaders who might seek to divert public attention from economic and other issues by renouncing the peace treaty with Israel may now have second thoughts regarding the potential response.

This agenda is daunting, and if the grand coalition fails to bring change, Likud and Kadima will pay the price. At the same time, Netanyahu's skill should not be underestimated, as is usually the case. The fact that this political move took Israeli pundits by surprise demonstrates the degree to which he is viewed through a hostile and distorted lens. Many journalists are blind to the caution and deliberation with which Netanyahu has led Israel's fragile government in the past three years. Now, he has the opportunity to prove them all wrong.

# Turkey's model minority

A valued and protected model minority during the Ottoman Empire and full citizens since the formation of a secular republic in 1923, the Jews of Turkey have enjoyed equality and respect, but have had to cope with periodic outbursts of xenophobia and racism.

Turkey, a pro-western state of 75 million inhabitants with the second-largest Jewish community in the Muslim world after that of Iran, treasures its centuries-long bond with Jews. As Turkish diplomat Ertan Tezgor said, "We have quite tight relations with the Jewish people."

Judging by the historic record, Jews have fared far better in Turkey than Armenians or Greeks, whose grievances can fill a book.

The Jewish presence in Turkey can be traced back to antiquity, to the Roman and Byzantine empires, when Greek-speaking Romaniote Jews settled in Anatolia, Turkey's heartland, and were eventually absorbed by Sephardi Jews, who reached Ottoman lands from Spain under duress in the 15th century.

Invited to the Ottoman Empire by the sultan, Mehmet II, Jews repaid the favour by being exceedingly loyal and productive citizens. Like all minorities, they lived within the framework of the millet system, which organized non-Muslim communities on the basis of religion.

Rifat Bali

With the breakup of the remaining segments of the Ottoman Empire, a cosmopolitan domain that reached deep into the Middle East and the Balkans, the number of Jews declined precipitously, from several hundred thousand in the 19th century to 80,000 by the conclusion of Turkey's war of national independence, which resulted in a Muslim/Christian population exchange.

In modern Turkey, founded by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the revered father of the nation, minorities, especially Greek and Armenian Christians, were subjected to assimilationist policies and discrimination until the 1950s, according to Istanbul historian Rifat Bali.

In Eastern Thrace, Turkey's gateway to Europe, several thousand Jews in towns such as Edirne and Canakkale were forcibly expelled in 1934 in a campaign of physical violence, psychological intimidation and economic boycotts. The expulsions finally stopped when the central government intervened and allowed Jews to return to their homes.

***Sheldon Kirshner in Istanbul***

"It's not clear who was behind all this," said Bali. But right-wing nationalists sympathetic to Nazi racial doctrines may have been among the perpetrators.

In 1942, the Turkish government imposed a crippling wealth tax (*Varlik vergisi*) on well-off citizens. Historians generally regard the punitive tax, most keenly felt by Jews and Christians, as an attempt by the government to stop war profiteering and to transfer wealth to the Sunni majority.

Bali describes the tax, revoked in 1944, as a discriminatory and arbitrary measure that blatantly violated the 1924 constitution. In his view, the tax sent an unmistakable signal to minorities that they had no future in Turkey.

In 1955, following reports that Ataturk's ancestral home in Salonika had been destroyed, anti-Greek riots erupted in the centre of Istanbul, resulting in the destruction of numerous shops and homes. Jews and Armenians were caught in the backwash of this pogrom.

Five decades on, Turkey has matured and now has "a positive attitude to minorities," said Bali. But due to the events of 1934, 1942 and 1955, the pull of Israel after 1948 and an outbreak of terrorism in the 1970s, Turkey's Jewish community has declined numerically.

About 18,000 Jews, all but 400 of whom are Sephardi Jews, reside in Turkey today. Emigration is still a factor, with upwards of 150 Jews making aliyah every year. By one estimate, there are 100,000 Jews of Turkish origin in Israel.

By all accounts, the 1986 and 2003 bombings of Neve Shalom, the biggest synagogue in Istanbul, did not cause a significant exodus of Jews. The attacks, which were respectively perpetrated by Arab and Turkish terrorists, claimed the lives of more than 40 Jews and Muslims.

Turkish Jews are largely concentrated in Istanbul, with much smaller centres in Izmir, Bursa and Ankara. They possess an impressive range of institutions, synagogues and schools, but these facilities are increasingly difficult to maintain.

Demographic realities, notably an intermarriage rate ranging in the vicinity of 25 per cent and an aging population in which deaths outnumber births, are key problems in the community, said Izak Kolman, an advisor to Chief Rabbi Isak Haleva.

He and others believe that Jewish population stability will be assured by Turkey's vibrant economy and by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's decision to bring in a new constitution enshrining human rights.

By local standards, Turkish Jews are fairly prosperous, being active in business (particularly in the textile trade) and the professions. Yet 200 families in Istanbul require food aid per month.

Traditionally, the civil service and the armed forces have been informally off-limits to Jews and Christians. However, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu recently declared that Jews should be members of the diplomatic corps. Whether the new policy is merely tokenism remains to be seen.

Jewish leaders here claim that antisemitism does not pose a problem in daily life. But since most Muslim Turks have never met a Jew, "you have fear and negative feelings," noted Sami Herman, the community's president.

Antisemitic material is published in the ultra-nationalist and Islamic press, Bali observed. "But the sentiments they express reflect opinion in the street, and are not held by Turkish elites."

Although Jews are well integrated into Turkish society, ethnocentric Turks claim that only Muslims are real Turks, and that Jews are foreigners (*yabancis*).

The Mavi Marmara incident of May 2010, during which Israeli commandos stormed a Turkish ship trying to break Israel's naval siege of the Gaza Strip, may have contributed to the erroneous belief that Jews are faux Turks. "Jews feared that their loyalty to Turkey would be questioned," said Bali. "But no one questioned their loyalty."

By way of response, the Jewish community immediately issued an official statement expressing sadness and sorrow over the loss of life. Much to its relief, Erdogan issued a warning that anti-Israel feelings should not be allowed to spill over into antisemitism.

"We felt a little stressed, but there has not been a long-term impact on our community," said Herman, observing that the Mavi Marmara affair only affected Turkey's bilateral relations with Israel.

Sami Herman
*[Sheldon Kirshner photos]*

Although Turkish Jews tend to be pro-Israel, citing historical and cultural affinities with Israel, they tread carefully in public discussions about Zionism.

"We're not Zionists," declared Herman. "Not at all. But for sure Israel is very important for Jews."

Herman's colleague, Adil Anjel, put it more starkly: "In Turkey, Zionism is a bad word, like saying you're a racist."

He added, "We are Turkish Jews who feel sympathetic toward Israel."

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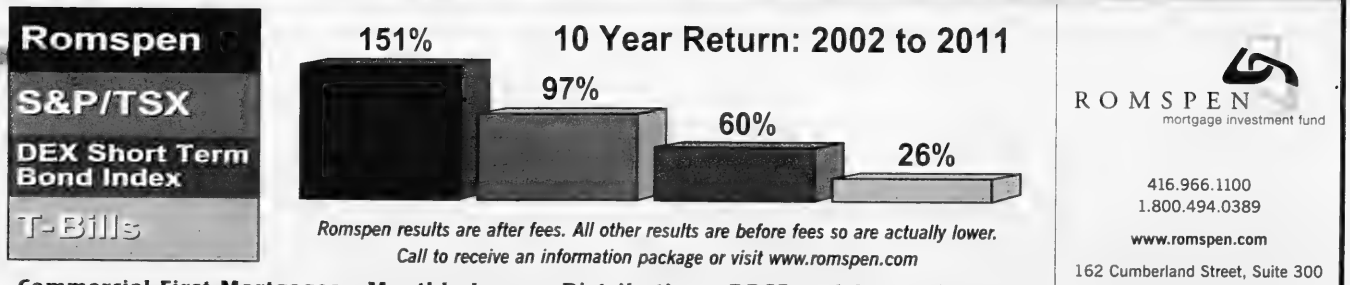


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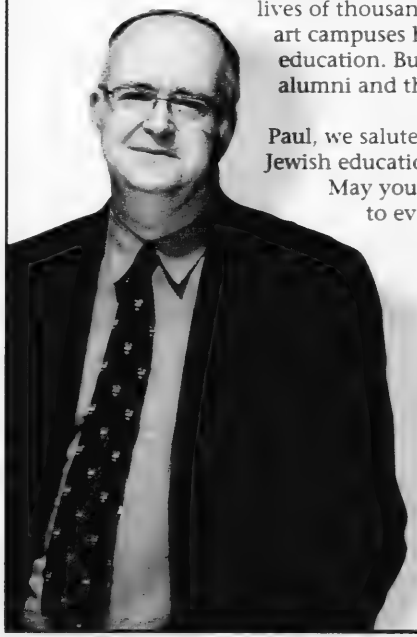
# Cloudy skies fails to stop Israel Day festivities

**Hundreds of people came out to York Hill Park in Thornhill, Ont., to celebrate the 17th annual Israel Day Festival June 3, despite the cloudy weather. The festivities, organized by Na'amat Canada Toronto and the Canadian Zionist Federation, had the crowd dancing, singing, shopping and enjoying Israeli delicacies throughout the day.**

***[Michelle Bitran photos]***

*A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.*

Henry Brooks Adams



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Paul, we salute you for your masterful efforts, inspired leadership and tremendous contributions to Jewish education in our community. We wish you continued success at your new home at Ramaz. May you have the vision, strength and blessings to continue your influence and may you soar to even greater heights.

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# Gala brings American political pundits to town

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

The 2012 annual Spirit of Hope Benefit Gala held by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) broke all previous years' records, raising an astounding $2.58 million.

But it wasn't just the fundraising that made the benefit, co-chaired by Judy and Paul Bronfman, memorable. FSWC brought in well-known American political pundits for a spirited debate.

"The theme for this evening is based on one question, and that question is: has [U.S.] President Barack Obama made the world safer," said CNN chief political analyst Gloria Borger, who moderated the debate.

Democratic political strategist and campaign manager Donna Brazile and Democratic political commentator and media personality James Carville, arguing in favour of Obama, were pitted against past Republican presidential candidate and Fox News host Mike Huckabee and former deputy chief of staff and senior adviser to former U.S. president George W. Bush, Karl Rove.

**From left are U.S. political commentator James Carville, former U.S. deputy chief of staff Karl Rove, Spirit of Hope Benefit co-chairs Paul and Judy Bronfman, Fox News host Mike Huckabee and Democratic political strategist Gloria Borger.** ***[Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies photo]***

More than 2,000 guests crowded into the Allstream Centre at Toronto's Exhibition Place on May 29, including many high school students invited by FSWC. The audience used a text-to-vote system, allowing them to use their cellphones to answer "yes" or "no" to the question of the evening.

The final tally showed a competition as tight as the current presidential race in the United States, with 51 per cent voting that the world is not safer under Obama, and 49 per cent voting that it is.

The topics of the debate ranged from the economy to Syria, Pakistan and, ultimately, to Iran and Israel. Both the Republicans and Democrats voiced support for Israel, although the Republican debaters were quick to state that they feel Obama has not been nearly supportive enough of the Jewish state.

"The policies of this administration have not been friendly to Israel," said Huckabee, criticizing Obama's policies on the Middle East. "I don't think Americans understand that Israel is fighting for its existence, not for its prosperity," he added, to loud applause.

Brazile responded, insisting that Obama has been helping Israel, both in the United Nations and through military funding. "President Obama has been tough. He has been relentless, and he has been a champion and supporter of Israel," she said. She also noted, to audience applause, that "Israel really doesn't have a reliable partner to make a peace deal at this time."

When it came to the issues of a nuclear Iran and to the violence in Syria, Rove called the president "naive," in his initial dismissal of the Iranian threat and in his strong opposition to any kind of military action. "This president walked away from the Iranian problem for some very vital years," he added, explaining that only with this summer's incoming sanctions, is Obama taking some appropriate action.

Carville disagreed with the Republicans' criticism, adding that the Middle East faces very complex issues that defy simple solutions. "I like a guy that thinks before he shoots," he said of Obama.

The debate ended without a firm winner, at least as far as the text-to-vote system displayed, but it served to entertain and enlighten the large audience. All parties finished their speeches by commending the work of FSWC in fighting racism and antisemitism in Canada.

Also that evening, there was a major gifts dinner and a concert by Canadian musician Kim Mitchell. During the dinner, FSWC honoured Lt.-Gen. Charles Bouchard, the commander of the NATO mission in Libya, as well as six other members of the Canadian Forces. Dean and founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Rabbi Marvin Hier, and president and CEO of FSWC, Avi Benlolo, also addressed the guests. The funds raised at the benefit will go toward education programs that are designed to counter antisemitism and racism and to promote human rights and social justice.

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# Organ donation: 'highest form of mitzah'

**Jennifer MacLeod**
Special to The CJN

"I am a very lucky lady. I am a miracle," Chaya Levinson says.

The 57-year-old nurse, mother and grandmother might have died of kidney disease six years ago if not for Mindy Halper, a fellow nurse but near-stranger who offered one of her two healthy kidneys.

"Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it turned into a butterfly," Levinson said at Beth Tzedec Congregation on May 22.

Yes! You Can Donate! was the theme of an evening on "Jewish Perspectives on Organ Donation" and sponsored, in part, by National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section, which has taken on the challenge of registering 200 new donors from the Jewish community.

Levinson, Halper and other speakers offered halachic, statistical and emotional views on the current organ crisis in Ontario. Some 1,500 people here desperately await organ donors, said Versha Prakash of the Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN), and although one donor can save up to eight lives and enhance 75 others, someone dies needlessly every three days waiting for an organ.

Eighty per cent of us support organ donation in theory, Prakash said, but only 21 per cent have registered their consent to be donors, and at 14 per cent, the GTA has one of the province's lowest rates of registration.

Rabbi Miriam Margles said that may be due to the inclination many of us have, when facing uncomfortable conversations, to spit three times and change the subject. Each speaker stood up hoping to change minds and open the door to those important conversations.

It's never been easier, Prakash said. Signing up at TGLN's website takes two minutes and requires only your health card. Even if you've already filled out an organ donor card, you should register there – cards are rarely available when needed, whereas the TGLN central database is available 24/7.

Prakash addressed myths surrounding organ donation. There is no upper age limit, for example, to be a donor: Canada's oldest organ donor was over 90. Others may fear that doctors won't work as hard to save the lives of known donors – this is not true, she said, because the TGLN database is confidential and only accessed at the point where saving the donor's life is no longer an option.

Many of the strongest objections, however, come from people who believe their religion does not allow organ donation. In fact, Prakash said, every major religion in Canada permits organ donation.

Offering Jewish legal background was Beth Tzedec's senior rabbi, Baruch Frydman-Kohl, who spoke of astonishing consensus: almost all movements not only permit, but praise the decision to arrange to donate organs while alive, and also to permit organ donation after death, a "gift to the deceased as well as to those who will continue to live."

**Organ donor Mindy Halper**
*[Jennifer MacLeod photo]*

The Rabbinical Assembly, the Conservative movement's association of rabbis, has said organ donation is "a new means to fulfil an ancient, eternal religious duty, a mitzvah of the highest order," while the Union for Reform Judaism, as far back as 1968, affirmed it as "a positive act of holiness."

It's true that a dead body has sanctity in Judaism, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said, mentioning the Israeli organization Zaka, which gathers human blood and tissue for burial following bombings.

"We have tremendous regard for the integrity of the body," he said. That's why we limit autopsies and conduct funerals as soon as practical. Yet, he added, "all rabbinic authorities came to an agreement – Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist, New Age, chassidish: preservation of life supersedes all prohibitions."

Heather Talbot, whose 22-year-old son was a passenger in a drunk-driving accident in 2009, said, "I never expected to be an advocate for organ donation… but I never expected to be a bereaved mother."

When Jonathon, a "smart, popular, happy, natural athlete," sustained irreversible head injuries, doctors asked the family if they'd consider donating his organs, Talbot said. "I didn't know if it was against my religion." Today, she helps educate others in the community.

**Continued on page 28**

# UJA Federation says goodbye - and *todah* - to Consul General of Israel

## *Tributes pour in as Amir Gissin's five years in Toronto come to a close*

*By Daniel Horowitz*

For the past five years, Jewish Toronto, home to more than 200,000 Jews of all backgrounds, has been fortunate to have Israeli Consul General Amir Gissin in its midst, allowing its citizens to benefit from his wisdom, leadership and knowledge.

Unfortunately, Consul General Gissin's term comes to a close this summer, and he will be returning to his home in Israel.

During his tenure as consul general in Toronto and Western Canada, Gissin worked tirelessly on behalf of the Jewish people, leaving an indelible impression in our community, and making his name synonymous with Jewish life in our city.

Recently, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto paid tribute to the consul general at a farewell dinner hosted by community leaders Julia and Henry Koschitzky, where more than 200 people came together to show their appreciation for his efforts .

"Every time you speak, you show us the heartfelt concern you have, not only for Israel, but for the Jewish people everywhere," said UJA Federation Board Chair Elizabeth Wolfe, who presented Consul General Gissin with an award on behalf of UJA in appreciation of his five years of service. "You have shared with us your commitment, your dedication, and your love for Israel and for our community, and we are forever grateful for that. Most diplomats spend the bulk of their time representing their government and a very small portion of time interacting with the local community. The reverse has been the case with Amir who has spent the bulk of his time getting to know our Jewish community, understanding our priorities, needs and concerns. It is Amir's ability to unite those concerns – from both the Israeli perspective and the local perspective - that has made him so successful here. We thank you for your dedication to our community. You have set the bar high, and we will all truly miss you."

*Henry & Julia Koschitzky with Israel's Consul General to Toronto and Western Canada, Amir Gissin and his wife, Yael (photos by Jen Arron)*

"Amir had a mission when he arrived in Toronto and I believe he has achieved that mission which was branding Israel in a positive light," explained the hostess of the evening, Julia Koschitzky. "One of the ways he intended to do that was by showcasing how Canada and Israel are so much alike and by highlighting the positive aspects of Israel including its passion, its creativity, its innovation, and the incredible accomplishments it has made. He was also here for some contentious issues, whether it was those who tried to boycott the Toronto International Film Festival, or Israeli products, he was in the forefront, leading the way in combating this negativity and turned it around. In the process, he also rallied the community and, as a result, we were there to make sure it wouldn't happen again. We as a community have a responsibility to carry on his legacy."

"When you deal with Amir, you're getting the highest level of professional excellence that you'd ever want from a representative of Israel, and you're getting a person who really cares about his Jewish identity," said UJA Federation President & CEO, Ted Sokolsky. "Amir has been an amazing partner for UJA Federation because one of the things we believe is that Jewish Toronto, as a community, has to show leadership in the Jewish world. Part of that leadership has to be at the forefront of the changing paradigm between Diaspora Jewry and Israeli Jewry. I can't think of a consul general who better understood the potential power of the Diaspora in forwarding the strategic goals of Israel, and vice-versa."

During the evening, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper praised Amir's efforts on behalf of both Canada and Israel, in a letter read by Shimon Fogel, CEO, The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.

In the letter, PM Harper spoke of "Amir's efforts, and his role in the exceptional bilateral relationship, based on shared values, common interests, and strong political, economic, cultural and social ties," between the two countries.

Then it was time for the man of the hour to speak.

"This community has made me a better person," said Gissin. "Any achievements I have made are only because of the energy that was flowing from Jewish Toronto to me. Toronto will always be our second home. I feel that I was very privileged to be here during a time of great change. I think that what we achieved here, and how UJA Federation handled a number of challenges, showed the way to many other communities in North America and around the world. I'm sure that after I'm gone, you will continue to see that Jewish Toronto continues to lead the way."

Then, in a lighter moment after someone asked him about his future plans, Gissin quipped, "We are returning to Jerusalem where we plan on opening a small restaurant called Bathurst, in which we will only welcome Canadian customers."

*Shimon Fogel, CEO, The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs*

*Ted Sokolsky, President & CEO, UJA Federation, addresses the crowd of over 200*

To view the Amir Gissin tribute video please visit JewishToronto.com/gissin or scan below.

## Reena in the News

Reena

It is not often that we draw attention to acts of *chesed* or extraordinary merit performed by Reena staff members. However, this letter which we recently received from Franklin Simkevitz, Chair of the Beth Tikvah Foundation of Hamilton and former Chair of the Reena Foundation, is one which we feel should be read by readers of the Reena In The News column.

**BETH TIKVAH (HOUSE OF HOPE) FOUNDATION OF HAMILTON**
**81 Arkel/ Street, Hamilton, ON L8S 1 N6**

Dear Sandy:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Beth Tikvah Foundation, I am writing you to thank you profoundly for the helping hand that you and Reena extended to our organization in Hamilton when we were faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles last year.

When we learned of our dire circumstances early last year, my immediate thought was to contact Sandy Keshen to discuss how Reena could help. Your reputation as a person with vision and the ability to deal with, and overcome complex issues made the decision simple. I also know you value the importance of having proper Jewish resources in place where Jewish communities exist. You truly are instilled with the spirit ***tikun olam*** (repairing the world). Reena's reputation as an excellent service provider on behalf of people with special needs provided the rationale to ask you and Reena to help us navigate the stormy waters. Our Board readily agreed.

The Beth Tikvah Foundation of Hamilton supports individuals from the community who have a developmental disability. While it is a small organization currently servicing six full-time residents as well as several outreach people, it is the only agency that supports Jewish families in the area and it is paramount that it continues to operate and provide programs for people with special needs within a Jewish environment and certainly within a kosher Jewish home.

The Board of Beth Tikvah truly appreciates how your Reena management group (from yourself through to the supervisors) stepped in to help. It involved travel to and from Hamilton. It also involved restructuring our house staff needs and instituting new training programs and procedures. We were impressed with their willingness to do this in addition to their ongoing work at Reena. Not only did Reena provide management services for the operation of our home and our programs, you also took on the task of financial administration of the Beth Tikvah Foundation. Without question, these changes brought us through some very dark times and we are now poised (with your assistance) to move forward to meet unaddressed needs in the community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the individuals and their families who are supported by Beth Tikvah and the Jewish community of Hamilton, I thank you sincerely for your positive leadership in the rescue of yet another agency in need.

Yours truly

Franklin Simkevitz, Chair
Beth Tikvah Foundation

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# Sivan: a month of peace and harmony

**Rabbi Zushe Silberstein**

***Rabbinic Reflections***

Let's learn to count according to the Kabbalah. One stands for absolute oneness, an effulgence of Godly influence that encompasses everything. There's no room for another perspective. All that exists is Him.

Two allows for the possibility of a different perspective, the existence of created beings who feel separate from Him. And three refers to establishing harmony and synthesis between the two views: that even those created beings who feel separate acknowledge and appreciate their unity with Him.

Three is different than one. On the level of one, there's no room for any other existence. His is the only identity felt. On the level of two and three, by contrast, the created beings are conscious of their own existence. On the level of two, they never really get past that. Even when they're conscious of the One above, their own identity determines who they are. On the level of three, however, although they're conscious of who they are, they transcend their individual identities and see themselves as part of a greater whole.

This motif is reflected in the months of the Hebrew calendar.

Nisan, the first month, is associated with revelation from above, miracles that transcend the scope of nature. The second month, Iyar, is associated with man's Divine service. For that reason, the entire month is associated with counting the Omer, which focuses on man's efforts to refine his character.

Sivan is the third month, when a synthesis between the two is created. This is achieved through the Torah, which fuses the spiritual and the material and establishes harmony between them, for the Torah speaks in material terms. Unlike the miraculous pattern of Nisan, it recognizes the natural order but teaches us not to rely on miracles.

Instead, the Torah places itself within nature, having exact requirements for the observance of its mitzvahs, focusing on the cycle of time and relating to all the details of our lives. Nevertheless, it relates to those factors on its terms. It doesn't follow man's conception of worldly existence, but instead sets its own pattern, defining the way man should live. Within the framework of mortal existence, man lives for a higher purpose than he possibly could on his own. He lives in God's world according to God's plan.

Although the above concepts are true, in our age, they require faith to be accepted. No matter how many times, we tell ourselves it's God's world, when we wake up in the morning and become conscious of our physical bodies and the material world around us, it's hard to appreciate the spiritual.

That's why the coming of the Mashiach and the era of Redemption are primary elements of our faith. At that time, the concepts we accept on faith will be seen as reality, and the world will be one with its inner spiritual nature and we'll identify with the Godly life force that maintains our existence.

For millennia, humanity has edged toward the fulfilment of this purpose. Our present generation, like dwarfs standing on the shoulders of past spiritual giants, can and must complete the task.

*Rabbi Zushe Silberstein is spiritual leader of Chabad Chabanel Maison Belfield in Montreal.*

# *Fear of Food*

***Bookmarks***

***Bernard Baskin***

There is a time-worn adage that we are what we eat. Food has always been a prime human concern. After all, we ingest it unfailingly three times every day.

Many and varied have been comments about food. George Orwell suggested that the secret of a successful restaurant is a sharp knife. Montaigne wrote that a man should not so much consider what he eats as with whom he eats. King James I ventured, "He was a bold man who first swallowed an oyster."

Oscar Wilde once said to a dinner companion: "If the soup had been as warm as the wine, and the wine as cold as the fish, and the fish as young as the maid, and the maid as willing as the hostess it would've been a good meal."

Harvey Levenstein, a professor emeritus at McMaster University, has written a number of informative and entertaining books about food, including *Revolution at the Table: The Transformation of the American Diet* and *A Social History of Eating in Modern America.*

In his latest work, *Fear of Food: A History of Why We Worry about What We Eat* (University of Chicago Press), he makes clear that what and how we eat has become increasingly entangled with false advertising, faulty research, government ineptitude and the greed of giant corporations.

In two vivid chapters, the author describes the widespread germ phobia of the 19th century that turned anxious, usually normal, citizens into fly-swatting fanatics.

The quest for nostrums is an old story. In the 1950s, Gaylord Hauser's opus *Look Younger, Live Longer* was a national bestseller. The author, handsome and oozing charisma, invaded Hollywood. His enthusiastic followers included Greta Garbo and the Dutchess of Windsor. Hauser endorsed five "wonder drugs": skim milk, brewer's yeast, yogurt, wheat germ and blackstrap molasses.

Vitamins, once widely hailed, are now viewed in the medical community as largely unnecessary. "High-quality studies have failed to show that extra vitamins, at least in pill form, help prevent chronic disease or prolong your life".

Does eating fatty foods lead to coronary disease? Twenty-one reports tracking 350,000 people found no association between them. As Edward Pinkney, a disgusted preventive medicine physician wrote, "The consumers understandable fear of heart disease and its impending death is being exploited by certain health groups as well as by an industry whose profits have more than doubled as a direct result of its implied promise that heart disease forestalled through use of its products."

And so it goes with fears about white bread, whole milk, butter, salt – and now sugar.

Recently, there have been widespread fears expressed about gluten. Researchers believe that only five per cent or six percent of those who claim to have gluten sensitivity actually have it. Some parents are eliminating gluten from the diet of their children, hoping it will be a cure for autism

Levenstein suggests that we remain skeptical about food claims. Advice? Eat a wide variety of foods and follow the rule of moderation. But don't deny yourself the foods you crave; such self-inflicted punishment is both foolish and needless. This is a necessary book, expertly researched and accessible, written with wit and verve.

# IOC still rejects Munich remembrance

*My View*

*Laurence Hart*

In the early hours of Sept. 5, 1972, Palestinian terrorists broke into the dormitories where Israeli athletes were housed at the Munich Olympics. A wrestling coach and a weightlifter were gunned down as they tried to fend off the intruders, while nine others, taken hostage, would later lose their lives following a tragically bungled rescue attempt by the German authorities.

At the time, a horrified world looked on while the doyens of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) scrambled to salvage Games that many, including the local organizers, wanted to cancel. Nonetheless, while competition was suspended to accommodate a hastily organized memorial service and some athletes did opt to go home, for the most part, it was Olympic business as usual, right up to the closing ceremonies.

Even during the memorial service, then-IOC president Avery Brundage said relatively little about the Israeli athletes themselves, choosing instead to focus on what he considered to be the enduring strengths and resilience of the Olympic movement.

Unfortunately, the perceived insensitivity of the IOC has persisted well beyond Munich. At most Olympics since 1972, request after request to properly honour the slain Israelis has fallen on deaf ears. This Olympic year is no different. So far, appeals to the IOC oligarchy by the Israeli government, the Anti-Defamation League and two members of the U.S. House of Representatives have been summarily rejected. All that's being asked for is a minute of silence during the opening ceremonies of the upcoming London Olympiad.

But even so minimal a gesture seems to be beyond the IOC's reach. The formal response from current IOC president Jacques Rogge reflects his organization's usual pitch that "the IOC has officially paid tribute to the memory of the athletes on several occasions and will continue to do so in close co-ordination with the National Olympic Committee of Israel."

Such "co-ordination" presumably refers to commemorations that have been arranged by the Israeli Olympic Committee at private venues during successive Olympiads over the past four decades. Rogge has pledged to attend such a reception at London's Guildhall during the Games in July.

The IOC's position on memorializing the Munich Massacre is filled with platitude and inconsistency. What rumbles through, though, is an undercurrent of realpolitik, wherein it's speculated, at least by the two members of U.S. Congress who wrote to Rogge, that the IOC's greatest concern is that honouring the dead athletes might "risk alienating countries that have disagreements with Israel."

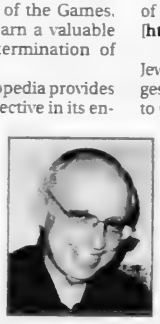
It should be remembered that in the immediate aftermath of the Munich killings, 10 Arab nations resisted joining the rest of the Olympic delegations in lowering their flags to half-staff, thus refusing to recognize the Israeli victims. Sadly, not much has changed in 40 years. An IOC that tolerated Arab intransigence then still seems to be appeasing anti-Israel sentiment today.

Maybe when Rogge and his cronies turn up at the Guildhall, they should be told that their token sympathy is no longer acceptable and then shown the door. Surely it's high time for the IOC to show some moral fibre, even if it's for just one minute, and at last offer a fitting *public* tribute to the athletes who were so brutally murdered in Munich.

# Are the Olympics good for Jews?

*Jewish & Digital*

*Mark Mietkiewicz*



Next month, the world will be focused on London as athletes compete in the 30th Summer Olympics. While some Jewish thinkers have taken a critical view of the Games, others say we can learn a valuable lesson from the determination of gold-medal athletes.

The Jewish Encyclopedia provides some historical perspective in its entry, "Athletes, Athletics and Field-Sports." After looking at some "notable 'mighty' men" of the Bible (Jacob, Esau, Saul, Jonathan, David, Joab…), it focuses on the post-biblical era and attempts by some Jews to ingratiate themselves to King Antiochus Epiphanes by establishing "a gymnasium, modelled on the Greek plan, close to the Temple at Jerusalem, where men and boys might practise wrestling, boxing, ball-playing, throwing, slinging" etc. The backlash was a factor in the Maccabean revolt. [**http://bit.ly/jolymp8**]

The late Lubavitcher Rebbe was disdainful of the modern Olympics and their connection to the original Games. He was not pleased when he heard of plans to carry the Olympic Torch through Israel prior to the 1972 Olympics. "The whole point of Chanukah is the Jews' victory over the Greeks… Now they want to… resurrect this Greek custom, the opposite of the whole point of Chanukah!" [**http://bit.ly/jolymp2**]

In "Why the Olympic Spirit Lacks a Jewish Neshamah," Eliezer Segal suggests that "whereas Jewish objections to Greek sports were primarily due to their inherently pagan character (as well as to their immodesty and frivolity), the Romans introduced a new dimension to the arena: cruelty which even surpassed that of professional hockey." (Ouch!) Segal says that Israel's first chief rabbi, Abraham Isaac Kook, was a notable supporter of athletics. He believed in the importance of maintaining a healthy mind in a healthy body. That is, as long at the healthy body would permit Jews to better perform their religious duties. [**http://bit.ly/jolymp1**]

Rabbi Asher Meir of the Business Ethics Center of Jerusalem writes, "Many noted religious figures are and have been gifted athletes or avid sports fans. At the same time, Jewish tradition has the utmost disdain for violence and the violent urges." Sports like bullfighting have no place in our religion and "aggression is one of the few tendencies that Judaism does not strive to legitimize and elevate on an ongoing basis." [**http://bit.ly/jolymp3**]

Richard Greenberg says that Jews can learn valuable lessons from Olympics athletes. In "Olympics & Kavanah," Greenberg draws a parallel between the intense concentration that athletes use to visualize their goals and the kavanah – focus – used in the performance of mitzvot and recitation of prayer. But that parallel only goes so far. "In sports, winning is everything. But in Judaism, trying your very best can also get you to the medal stand." [**http://bit.ly/jolymp4**]

Rabbi Mitch Smith is a certified sports psychologist and founder of the Center for Sport and Jewish Life. [**http://bit.ly/jolymp5**] "To be the very best in life, we can take our cue from the gold-medal athletes. If we dream dreams for ourselves, if we summon the dedication and commitment to those dreams and take the steps necessary to achieve them… and if we cast our portion with something larger than ourselves, then we can hold our head proudly as we take our place on the gold medal podium of life." [**http://bit.ly/jolymp6**]

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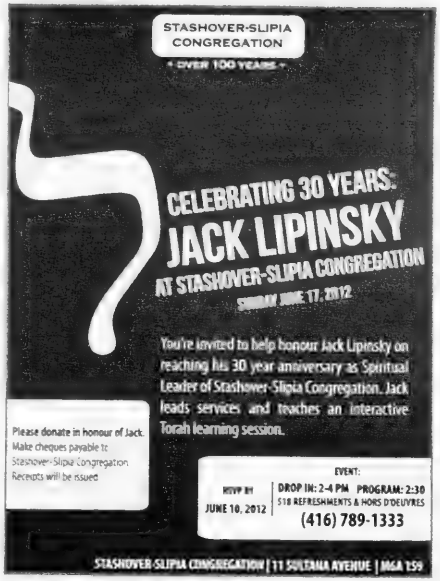
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# Vaughan mayor pledges $5K grant to Friendship Circle

Compiled by CJN Staff

Vaughan Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua received a standing ovation at a recent event sponsored by the Friendship Circle when he announced a $5,000 grant to broaden the scope of a program that pairs teen volunteers with children who have special needs.

In his remarks, he praised the 130 teenagers who work in the program, sponsored by Chabad Lubavitch.

Since he began working in public office 25 years ago, he said, he has been aware of the work of Chabad Lubavitch.

The year-end celebration brought together government officials, Friendship Circle children, their families, the teenage volunteers and their parents.

Tribute was paid to the teenagers who dedicate their time to the Friendship Circle on a weekly basis.

"Tonight is one of our most important [gatherings], when we acknowledge the commitment and selfless devotion of the volunteers," said program co-ordinator Esther Grossbaum, who launched the Ontario chapter 10 years ago.

**Vaughan Coun. Sandra Racco Yeung, Vaughan Regional Counc. Michael Di Biase, Vaughan Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua, present an award to the Friendship Circle volunteer Tyler Swartz.**

"This incredible group of teens spend time mentoring, shadowing or hanging out with their special friends, making sure to maximize the time they spend together while having fun," she said.

The volunteers wore royal blue monogrammed hoodies given to them as a token of appreciation.

Yehuda Benchetrit, MC for the evening, said he was introduced to the Friendship Circle 10 years ago by his older siblings who served as volunteers.

"When I was about eight years old, I went with my sister to her friend's house. I remember entering and seeing the beautiful smile light up the face of Andrea when she saw my sister. Ever since that day, I knew I wanted to volunteer for this amazing program.

"While this evening is a tribute to the volunteers, I am of the belief that we need to thank our special friends for giving us an opportunity and allowing us to build a connection with some of the most amazing individuals we will ever meet."

He thanked the Friendship Circle for helping him learn important values and teaching him the value of giving and the gifts of friendship he received in return.

Rabbi Zalman Grossbaum, executive vice-president of Chabad Lubavitch of Ontario, quoted the Torah, saying, "If, indeed, our commitment to a cause is genuine and not superficial, then one can scale a mountain with ease in pursuit of his objectives."

The mayor, Regional Coun. Michael Di Biase and Coun. Sandra Racco Yeung presented each volunteer with a federal, provincial and municipal citation of appreciation.


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# שישאר בינינו

## גידי קורן וחברים

**נס גדול היה כאן:**

לפני שבועיים הסתיימה הרצת ההצגה "הוא הלך בשדות" של תיאטרון המפגש הישראלי. חמש פעמים מילאו אנשי התיאטרון את Miles Nadal שבדאון טאון לעומת שתי הצגות בשנים קודמות. השנה היה לפחות חצי מהקהל יהודי ולא ישראלי, ובזכות הכיתובים באנגלית יכול היה להבין, להתרשם ולהתרגש כמו הקהל דובר העברית. ואחרון חביב- היתה זו חוויה היסטורית לראות את יעל שמיר- פיינגולד מביימת את מחזהו של אביה משה שמיר מלפני שש וחמש שנים, שהועלה על ידי התיאטרון הקאמרי עוד טרם נולדה.

ההצלחה חסרת התקדים הזו שייכת קודם כל לשלוש נשים מופלאות: ראשונה היא המפיקה תמי ברמן, מורעלת תיאטרון מדופלמת, שאוי ואבוי למי שעומד בדרכה בתקופת ההפקה. בנוסף לתיאטרון המפגש-תמי פעילה בחבר הנאמנים של תיאטרון טארגון האגדי. השנייה, לא בהכרח בסדר יורד, היא גליה סרנר, ראש הדסק הישראלי בפדראציה, ומי שעומדת מאחורי תכניות תיאטרון המפגש. לא סוד הוא שהפקות תיאטרון כמו תיאטרון המפגש אינן מכסות את עצמן גם כשהאולם מלא- וללא תמיכת הפדראציה-ההצגה הזו לא היתה יוצאת לפועל. גליה מייצגת אותנו נאמנה בפדרציה, הרבה מעבר למה שמצפים מנושא תפקיד. ואחרונה חביבה- יעל פיינגולד, במאית הבית שמזה ארבע שנים רצופות מבלה בטורונטו חודשים ארוכים כל שנה הרחק ממשפחתה, כדי לביים את הצגות התיאטרון.

וכאן באה רשימה ארוכה של שחקנים שראויים לכל שבח. כוכבי המחזה של משה שמיר- דודי פרידמן (אורי) וטטיאנה סטולניץ (מיקה) הם שחקנים מקצועיים שיכולים לסחוב על גבם כל הצגה. אבל השנה האתגר שלהם היה לדעתי קשה יותר כי התסריט של משה שמיר מלפני שש וחמש שנה נתן להם תפקידים רזים עם טקסט שטוח ולפעמים לטעמי גם שטחי. אבל הם עמדו במשימה בכבוד. אוראל בוצר, אורי קורנבליט, גיא וינר, דרור ענבר חיים נובק וחנה רוקמן הביאו נסיון ובשלות, כמו גם הקולגה שלי יגאל דרור, מיכה בוצר, וענת אוזן. טל רוזנברג, מאי חבה, ניר צור ונוף פסטרנק הביאו רעננות והזכירו לכולנו שהמלחמה ההיא, כמו המלחמות הנוכחיות, מנוהלות על ידי בני שמונה עשרה עד עשרים.

אבל יד על הלב- השחקן שריגש אותי יותר מכולם היה אריה איגנר, ששיחק גם את המספר וגם את אביו של אורי. איזו אישיות בימתית ואיזה חוש אימפוק נהדר.

וזה מביא אותי לדמות השניה שריגשה אותי במיוחד- המוסיקאית אלונה יודשקין שעיבדה וניצחה על כל השירים, ויותר מכל- שרה מדהים כסולנית. לצידה שרו אסתי בלמואלד, נסים ממן, שירה בוצר, גל חדד, חנן קופלר ומיכאל גרף, ומשכמה ומעלה- הצעירה מכולן טל כץ -כשהיא פוצחת בשיר-המלאכים מחייכים.

וכמו בכל סיפור הצלחה- הרחק מאור הזרקורים עבדו קשה וביעילות אורלי כהנה-רפורט, ענבל טל, טלי דוברובסקי , אביבה ירושלמי, יעל רשף, ערית בוחניק, עמיר גבריאלי, וגדי הוז.

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# Sisters use lemonade to aid homeless

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

For Jaime and Alexandra Eckler, lemonade is more than just a refreshing summer treat. It is a way to support Toronto's homeless youth.

The Eckler sisters, eight and five years old respectively, held their first lemonade stand four years ago, when they were barely toddlers. Their mother, Sharon Zohar, was inspired by the story of Amanda Belzowski, a 14-year-old girl who has raised more than $150,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation since holding her first lemonade stand as a two-year-old.

Alexandra, left, and Jaime Eckler

Zohar took the young sisters to Belzowski's annual lemonade stand, and Jaime immediately told her mother that she wanted to raise money the same way. But for the Eckler girls, it was important that the money go toward helping the homeless, particularly homeless youth.

"I like doing my lemonade stand because I like raising money for the homeless youth, and because I feel bad that they don't have any homes," said Jaime. Over the last three years, the Eckler sisters have raised about $8,000 to support the homeless, first for the charity Raising the Roof and, starting last year, for Toronto youth homeless shelter and support organization Eva's Initiatives.

This year, the goal is to raise another $8,000 at their upcoming lemonade stand event on June 23. The theme for this year's event is a carnival, and people who come out will be able to enjoy cotton candy, face painting, balloon artists, prize giveaways and, of course, lemonade.

Over the years, Jaime and Alexandra's Lemonade Stand has grown from a modest operation at the edge of their driveway to an all-out themed event taking place in a public park. The lemonade stand has garnered the support of sponsors, including Aroma Espresso Bar, the Jane Goodall Institute, Shoppers Drug Mart and Menchie's. This year, the Eckler sisters will also be joined by their lemonade stand inspiration, Belzowski.

Though Jaime and Alexandra are still very young, Zohar said they demonstrate a strong interest and dedication to the cause of homelessness. "They just are aware, that's the bottom line. They look outside of themselves," she said.

She explained that since first seeing a homeless person in downtown Toronto several years ago, the girls insist on offering food or simply stopping to "extend a hand and say hello" to any homeless person they see.

As Jaime and Alexandra grow up, they've been able to have more involvement and to add their own spin to their lemonade stand. "Every year, I really want them to grow more with it," said Zohar, explaining that Jaime now takes the responsibility of writing letters inviting city officials, including Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, to attend the event.

Alexandra, who has a special fondness for animals, has made the decision to raise additional funds at the event to go towards saving orphaned chimpanzees through Jane Goodall's chimpanzee protection program.

"This is very meaningful for them," said Zohar of the lemonade-stand initiative. She added that it's important to her that the charity work continues to resonate with her daughters.

Zohar asks the girls each year in earnest if they want to continue with the lemonade stand, in an effort to ensure that it is truly something that they find important. Each year, she said, the answer is the same, "they scream, 'Absolutely!'"

Jaime and Alexandra's Fourth Annual Lemonade Stand will take place at Woburn Park in Toronto on June 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Sharon Zohar at shazohar@yahoo.ca.

*The Belzowskis raised over $8,000 with their own lemonade stand, please see page 28.*

# Mazel Tov
## מזל טוב

Mazel tov to Samuel Sheinkman on your 95th birthday from your loving family and friends.

A heartfelt mazel tov to Harry & Sara Gorman on your 65th wedding anniversary. With much love from your children and grandchildren.

Congratulations Justin Goodfield-Barber on becoming a bar mitzvah. Love from Mom, sister Ashley and Grandma Aileen.

Mazel tov to the family of Ahava Esther Boesz of Passaic, N.J., on her engagement to Michael, son of Cheryl & David Baker.

Congratulations to Liam Weber-Nudel on his graduation from Merton School. We are all so proud of you! Love from your family

Mazel tov to Ken & Laura Beasley on the birthday of Jadyn Shiloh, sister of Rebekah, Jessica and Jordan. Love from proud grandparents, Zurs & Tobicoes.

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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

Social Networking @ The Canadian Jewish News
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**Deadline reminder: June 11 is the deadline for the issue of June 21. June 18 is the deadline for the issue of June 28. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail whatsnew-cjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, June 7

*CELEBRATION OF LIFE*

Beit Halochem Canada, Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, presents Celebration of Life, concert, 7:30 p.m., Toronto Centre for the Arts. For tickets, 905-695-0611 or www.beithalochem.ca.

**JERUSALEM DAY TREASURES**

The Jerusalem Foundation of Canada hosts an art exhibition and live auction, 6:30-9:30 p.m, PI Fine Art, 1180 Caledonia Rd. Tickets, $80. 416-635-5491.

**YIDDISH VINKL**

**Prof. Kalman Weiser** speaks about his latest book, *Jewish People, Yiddish Nation: Noah Prylucki and the Folkists in Poland*, noon at the Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. RSVP: yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca.

**REMEMBERING SRUL**

Beth Tikvah Synagogue holds its annual fundraising concert marking the yahrzeit of composer and choir director **Srul Irving Glick**, 8 p.m. Tickets $36 at the door or call 416-221-3433.

**'WEEKEND OF TWINNING'**

The Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims discusses a "Weekend of Twinning" between synagogues and mosques, 7 p.m., Darchei Noam Congregation, 864 Sheppard Ave. W. For more information, contact **Barbara Landau**, blandau@rogers.com; **Shahid Akhtar**, shahidacktar1@rogers.com, 905-712-2872.

## Friday, June 8

**CHABAD GOES TO NEW YORK**

Chabad of Markham's women's trip to New York is June 8-10. Call 905-886-0420, ext. 221.

## Saturday, June 9

**EMUNAH SHABBAT**

Emunah Women of Toronto host a city-wide seudah shlishit program. With **Rifka Sonenberg** at the BAYT 5:30 p.m.; **Ayelet Marciano** at B'nai Torah 6:15 p.m.; **Miryam Spiegel** at Shaarei Shomayim 6 p.m.; **Ahava Spillman** at Shaarei Tefillah 5:30 p.m.; **Sarah Gutenberg** at Yeshivat Or Chaim 6:15 p.m. Pre-registration required: 416-636-0036; Emunah@emunahtoronto.com.

**CHARITY LEMONADE STAND**

**Noah, Lauren** and **Jordyn Black** and friends hold a bake sale/lemonade stand for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Mosswood Park (641 Thornhill Woods Dr.).

**CITY SHUL SAMPLER**

Experience the City Shul's Shabbat services, 9 a.m. Wolfond Centre, 36 Harbord St. 647-799-3557.

**Continued on page 21**

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Continued from page 20

**DANFORTH CIRCLE SHABBAT**
Danforth Jewish Circle celebrates Shabbat and gay pride. 10 a.m., Eastminster Auditorium, 310 Danforth Ave. 416-580-6303; www.dictoronto.com.

**MISHPACHA MINYAN**
Shaar Shalom Synagogue holds a Shabbat service for young families. 10:45 a.m., 2 Simonston Blvd. Thornhill.

**BETH TIKVAH TORAH STUDY**
**Allen Cooper** leads the Torah class at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 9:45 a.m.

**JEWISH MUSIC WEEK**
**Community Musical Melaveh Malka**, part singing and part listening. June 9, 10:30 p.m., Congregation Darchei Noam, 864 Sheppard Ave. W. Free admission.

**Golden Age of Jewish Music** with **Mitch Smolkin**, June 10, 11 a.m. First Narayever Congregation, 187 Brunswick Ave. Free admission.

**Jewish Big Band** with **Bob DeAngelis** and the Champagne Symphony Big Band, June 10, 7 p.m., The Rex Hotel, 194 Queen St. W., $20. www.jewishmusicweek.com.

## Sunday, June 10

**JEWISH SPEED-DATING**
Koach chapter of Hadassah holds a speed-dating event for singles ages 28-40, Moxie's Grill, 4905 Yonge St., 7-10 p.m. RSVP: koachchapter@gmail.com.

**BOB RAE ON ISRAEL**
**Bob Rae**, Liberal party interim leader, discusses "Israel, the Palestinians and the Future of Canadian Foreign Policy," 7 p.m., First Narayever Congregation. Sponsored by JSpaceCanada. Tickets are free but must be obtained in advance at http://bobrae-jspacecanada.eventbrite.com.

**KAVANAH GARDEN OPENS**
Celebrate the beginning of the growing season at the Kavanah garden, 12-4 p.m., 18 Lebovic Campus Dr. $6 person/$18 family.

**YIDDISH CONCERT**
Friends of Yiddish holds its closing concert with **Stella Walker**, **David Rosen**, **Waylen Miki**, 2 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Tickets $5/$15.RSVP **Sandy**, 416-736-8073; 416-458-1440 or yiddish18@yahoo.ca.

## Monday, June 11

**JEWS OF MAURITIUS**
**Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses "The Jews of the Mauritius," 7:30 p.m., Temple Har Zion, 7360 Bayview Ave., Thornhill. (Rescheduled from June 7.

**STARS OF STAGE & SCREEN**
**Ben Steinberg** discusses the work of composer **Ernest Bloch**, 1:30 p.m., Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave, 416-487-3281.

**ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**
Information night with Developmental Services of Ontario, new Bridge-Transition program, DANI'S Place, 12 McAllister Rd., 7 p.m. RSVP: ssokol@dani-toronto.com.

## Tuesday, June 12

**CITY SHUL INFO NIGHT**
The City Shul, led by **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**, information evening, 7:30 p.m., Wolfond Centre, 36 Harbord St. gottabe@cityshul.com; 647-799-3557.

**CHARLES PACHTER**
Artist **Charles Pachter** on "My Life in Art," Temple Har Zion. Bring a dairy lunch at noon, program begins at 12:30 p.m. $3/$5.

**CHUG HA-TANACH**
**Joshua Langer** discusses the prophet Malachi. Beth David Synagogue, 8 p.m.

**JEWS FOR JUDAISM**
**Rabbi Michael Skobac** discusses "Jesus Didn't Have to Die for Our Sins," 8 p.m., The Lodzer Congregation, 12 Heaton St. Contact 416-789-0020 or toronto@jewsforjudaism.

## Wednesday, June 13

**CURE FOR COURTNEY**
The Cure for Courtney holds a fundraising evening for the young woman's cancer treatments, 7:30 p.m., The Avenue Banquets, 1600 Steeles Ave. W. Tickets $118. For tickets: www.courtney.eventbrite.com; **Carey Rosenzweig**, 416-818-2600; **Jennie Dale**, 416-809-7976.

## Thursday, June 14

**NASH AND DRASH**
Enjoy lunch and a concert with **Cantor David Edwards** and **Paul Mathew**, Beth Emeth Synagogue, noon. Advance purchase only, 416-633-3838.

## Other News

**YIDDISH PERFORMERS**
New Voices for Yiddish is looking for a female performer with some knowledge of Yiddish. Call **Nathan Garnick**, 416-633-6755.

*SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 23*

## JF&CS GROUPS

All programs require pre-registration and are open to all members of the community. To register, call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or www.jfandcs.com. All classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St., unless otherwise noted.

Raising Your Child/Teen in an Age of Overindulgence: A workshop for parents wanting to learn more about overindulgence and the consequences, June 13, 7:30 p.m.

Dating in Midlife: A workshop for men and women over 40 who have been single for two or more years, June 14, 7 p.m.

When You're About to Separate, What to Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents in the early stages of separation, June 14, 6:30 p.m., Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

**BEREAVED PARENTS**
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. Group is attending a fundraising performance of *Lost in Yonkers*, June 10. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Seniors Social Club** meets June 10, 7 p.m., Earl Bales Community Centre. **David Rosenberg** discusses addiction in the Jewish community. Call **Sandy** 416-736-8073; 416-458-1440.

**Association of Jewish Seniors** holds a health seminar, June 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Earl Bales Community Centre. Audiologist **Marilyn Reed** discusses "Come Hear What You've Been Missing." RSVP **Tammy**, 416-635-2860, ext. 458.

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. Casino Rama, June 13. Kosher dairy lunch, June 14, $5. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts.Call **Morty**, 416-783-6078; 416-630-6487.

**The Bridge Club** at Forest Hill Library seeks new members. Call **Lea** (evenings), 416-487-7630.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell, 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips, 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 416-633-3838.

**Bernard Betel Centre** 416-225-2112. June 12, **Lorne Miller** discusses "The Junction Shul," 10 a.m.; June 14, **Riva Waldman** discusses "Colour Therapy," 1:30 p.m.

**Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC,** 416-924-6211, ext.155. June 7, Opera educator **Iain Scott** presents "*Nabucco*: Verdi's Jewish Opera," 1:30 p.m. $5.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526, **Colin Blayney.** Ongoing yoga, dance fitness and aquafitness classes.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

**Cantor Benjamin Maissner** discusses Israel's popular songs, June 7, 10 a.m.

**Kevin Courrier** teaches a course on "The man who would be king – John Huston," June 27-July 25, 1 p.m.,

Register for bridge classes beginning June 18.

Save the date: Seniors art exhibit, June 25; Movie Monday *Waltz With Bashir*, June 25, 1 p.m.

Folk dance, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

**Adam Nayman** discusses the film *The Shining*, June 11, 7 p.m.

Tickets on sale now for MNJCC Community Choir in concert, June 6-7, 8 p.m. ext. 0.

The Annex Festival, June 10, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. along Bloor Street.

**Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** teaches a class on "Thinking Jewish," June 11-25, 8 p.m. Ext. 154.

Summer Institute for Creative Adults offers adult vocal/choir camp, July 16-20. Ext. 250.

Call for submissions to the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition. Deadline July 3, 2012. esthera@mnjcc.org or ext. 606.

The adult daytime choir runs all summer, Tuesdays 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

Art by student winners of Jewish Music Week Art Contest is on display in the gallery, June 1-10.

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# Students make unexpected discoveries in Israel

Brian Moskowitz
Special to The CJN

**SASKATOON** — A new program at the University of Saskatchewan is introducing aspiring business leaders to the international stage and creating connections with entrepreneurs and universities in Israel and Jordan.

Launched in April, Entrepreneurship and Mining in Israel and Jordan – an International Tour gave 16 Edwards School of Business students insight into Israel's dynamic entrepreneurial sector and a first-hand look at the international success of Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. (PotashCorp). The world's largest producer of fertilizer donated $50,000 toward the trip and sent its executive vice-president and chief financial officer Wayne R. Brownlee to join students in surveying the Middle East's potash industry – PotashCorp owns 14 per cent of Israel Chemicals Ltd. and 28 per cent of Arab Potash Company in Jordan, both major suppliers of fertilizer to Asia.

The 10-day tour held in May exposed students to the economic and cultural growth of the Jewish state and the importance of potash mining to Jordan's development.

After passing through security, the first-time visitors were anxious to begin the tour, but one student had other reasons for feeling nervous.

With the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's seal stamped on his Canadian passport, finance major Qamar Ahmed attracted the attention of Israel's border authorities, provoking a barrage of questions about family, friends and religion.

**University of Saskatchewan Edwards School of Business students Qamar Ahmed and Dean Daphne Taras are seen in in Amman, Jordan.**

"After the officer asked me if I was Muslim, I told her I belonged to the Ahmadiyya Islamic Community and came to visit our Haifa mosque. Once I mentioned that, she began to relax," Ahmed recalled.

Ahmed's great-grandfather, Mirza Bashir Ahmed – son of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908), believed by Ahmadis to be the Islamic messiah – travelled to Israel in the 1950s and established a community in Haifa.

"This experience at the Mahmood Mosque was unbelievable and humbling," Ahmed said, referring to the mosque built by the Israeli Ahmadi community in the 1970s.

Most Muslim countries regard Ahmadis as heretics and they are often persecuted for their beliefs.

"One of the local community members said Israel is the best place for practising Ahmadis," he said. "Even though the majority of the country is Jewish, people are allowed to be themselves."

Students also met with the Canadian ambassador to Jordan and the head of Arab Potash Company, and learned about the environmental situation of the Dead Sea from a senior lecturer at The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies. The most emotional experience for many of the participants was the visit to Yad Vashem.

A couple hours before Shabbat services at the Western Wall, participants discussed their impressions of the museum. One student, however, found it hard to speak.

"I was overcome with emotion," said management major Anna Burton.

About a year ago, Burton's grandfather found out his father was Jewish but had converted to Christianity in 1903.

"We went to learn about potash and entrepreneurship but returned with a lot of unexpected personal and cultural learning experiences," said Burton, who, along with several classmates, is thinking about a second trip to Israel.

"It's never a surprise to me when people find meaningful connections to Israel, whether because of religion, family background, etc.," said Dylan Hanley, director of Canadian Academics for Peace in the Middle East, which donated $20,000 and co-ordinated the trip.

Hanley is a non-Jewish academic who supports Israel and has led more than a dozen trips to Israel since 2007.

Despite the suspicious reception at Ben-Gurion airport, Ahmed's experience of the ancient and modern aspects of Israel – including test-driving an electric car at Better Place – changed his views about the country.

"Before I visited Israel, I had a negative opinion of it. But travelling really opens your eyes, and it's important to experience things first hand. Otherwise you're doing the country an injustice," Ahmed said.

Other sponsors of the tour included the Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration ($35,000), the University of Saskatchewan's President's Fund ($16,000) and The Hanlon Centre For International Business Studies ($8,000).

"No two people had the same response to the stimuli," said Daphne Taras, dean of Edwards School of Business. "It really affirmed that each individual who goes to Israel, finds different points of meaning, often in unpredictable ways."


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# Israeli does his country proud on Everest's slopes

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Late last month, the *Toronto Star* reflected on the mix of tragedy and triumph that has marked climbs on Mount Everest this season, one of the deadliest on record. Tragically, Canadian Shriya Shah-Klorfine died on her descent after having reached the summit. Triumphantly, in what the *Star* called an "act of raw heroism," one man's actions stood out: "A tough young Israeli, Nadav Ben-Yehuda, gave up his dream of scaling the summit this year when he was within 250 metres of reaching it to save the life of a fellow climber, Aydin Irmak."

Irmak, an American originally from Turkey, had lapsed into unconsciousness. Ben-Yehuda, 24, who had trained for two years and was poised to become the youngest Israeli to reach the top, instantly gave up his quest after spotting Irmak.

"Risking his own life," the *Star* noted, Ben-Yehuda "strapped Irmak… to his harness and manoeuvred him 1,000 metres down the icy slopes, past frozen corpses and amid violent gales and deadly cold. It took eight gruelling hours. In the Israeli military, 'you never leave a friend in the field,' he explained."

Israeli media reported on the extraordinary details. Though struggling in -40 Celsius winds, Ben-Yehuda had to shed his gloves, as they made the rescue too awkward, and proceeded without oxygen after having his mask break. Facing possible amputation of fingers because of severe frostbite, Ben-Yehuda later said he has no regrets.

While certainly an exceptional case of self-sacrifice, Ben-Yehuda's act reflects in broader terms a side of Israelis that few in the West ever read about.

Though other Canadian media outlets reported about this amazing human drama, the *Star*'s decision to note it in an editorial stands out as a testament to Ben-Yehuda's care and courage.

• • •

In stark moral contrast, last week's revelations of the massacre of more than 100 Syrian civilians in Houla, including the horrific close-range shootings of scores of women and children, spurred media revulsion in editorials and other commentary.

Many, but not all, placed the blame squarely on Syrian President Bashar Assad, and more strongly than ever rebuked Russia (and China) for continuing to shield Assad in the face of mounting atrocities perpetrated by him in defiance of a UN "ceasefire" plan he supposedly accepted.

According to Alex Thomson of Britain's Channel 4 News (one of a very small number of journalists who managed to enter Houla in the days following the massacre and interview scores of witnesses), the Houla attack was carried out by the "Shabiya" – militia fighters operating under Assad's military.

**Nadav Ben Yehuda, left, and Aydin Irmak**
*[Israel Sun photo]*

Dressed in military uniform and numbering around 100, they were identified by the townspeople as having come from nearby Alawite villages. The force entered Houla just after Assad's military had shelled the town for several hours. The timing of their appearance is further proof (as if any is needed) that the Shabiya work as an arm of the Assad regime and not, as some journalists who were not even in the country reported, as members of "civilian gangs" (implying rogue elements for which Assad is not responsible).

As to Russia (which, along with Iran, supplies Syria with arms), Moscow's support of Assad reached a new level of callousness in the aftermath of the Houla massacre. Speaking alongside British Foreign Secretary William Hague in Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov appeared to trivialize the atrocity, saying that since it takes "two to dance," rebel forces must assume their share of responsibility. (Compounding the insensitivity of his analogy, he decided to clarify that what he really had in mind was not "the tango" but rather "disco" since "several dozens are taking part.")

According to a *Guardian* news report of Lavrov's comments and related events, a "prominent" independent Russian journalist, Vladimir Varfolomeyev, disgusted by his country's actions, wrote: "We will not forget that Assad's crimes became possible because, in part, Russia did not allow the [UN] Security Council to take tough decisions on Syria in the spring… We are accomplices."

*Paul Michaels is director of research and communications for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

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# Rabbis outline same-sex marriage guidelines

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

The Rabbinical Assembly's committee on Jewish law and standards – the Conservative movement's highest legal body – unanimously voted last week on guidelines that outline how to perform same-sex marriages.

These guidelines, which are officially sanctioned by the Conservative movement, were passed May 31 by a 13-0 vote, with one rabbi on the committee abstaining.

Rabbi Elliot Dorff

The new ritual guidelines were presented by rabbis Elliot Dorff, Daniel Nevins and Avram Reisner six years after their paper, which allowed commitment ceremonies for same-sex couples, as well as the ordination of gay and lesbian rabbis, was endorsed by a majority of 13 votes.

Although the ritual committee officially sanctioned gay relationships in 2006, it stressed that rabbis were permitted, but not obligated, to perform such ceremonies.

Rabbi Howard Morrison, spiritual leader of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, explained that when the ritual committee "issues more than one position, or at times even a single position, there is no enforcement on the rabbinate to follow the position or positions rendered. The role of the [committee] is to render opinions. As such, a colleague is free to accept or reject the opinion or opinions of the [committee]."

The new ritual guidelines offer two types of gay weddings and outline policies on gay divorce.

Rabbi Nevins told the Jewish Daily Forward that both versions of the same-sex wedding ceremonies are egalitarian.

"They differ mostly in style – one hews closely to the traditional wedding ceremony, while the other departs from it," he said.

Rabbi Jarrod Grover of Beth Tikvah Synagogue said it's important to note that the guidelines refrain from calling the ceremony kiddushin.

He said the ritual committee made a clear distinction between a same-sex union and a traditional, heterosexual one.

In traditional weddings, kiddushin, when the groom presents the bride with a ring, is regarded as the moment an act of marriage has occurred.

"Kiddushin is reserved for marriage between a man and a woman… They called [the same-sex ceremonies] marriage, because it is a secular word, but the Jewish word has very important implications," Rabbi Grover said.

Rabbi Nevins said the templates detail a ring exchange that is based on Jewish partnership law, an established halachic concept.

Although Rabbi Grover doesn't perform same-sex unions, he said these guidelines were necessary to address concerns and answer questions about how to move forward.

"They had to do this. Even me, who is opposed, I have to admit that this is a hole that existed in the paper, and if you're going to allow it, you better explain [how to do it]," Rabbi Grover said.

"I remember when this was discussed – I was still in seminary in 2006 – and I remember the students saying, 'Well, what do you mean we permit same-sex marriage ceremonies? What does that look like?'" Rabbi Grover said.

He said that since Conservative rabbis started performing same-sex marriages, they have had to come up with their own ideas of what a ceremony should entail.

"I'm glad there are at least these guidelines for my colleagues who do choose to perform these ceremonies."

Despite this new development, Rabbi Grover doesn't anticipate a big change in the way Conservative rabbis in the Toronto area handle the issue.

"Before this paper, if you were opposed to the Jewish religious sanctification of same-sex marriages, this paper is not going to change anything for you, as it doesn't for me," he said.

Rabbi Martin Berman, spiritual leader of Shaar Shalom Synagogue, said that although the 2006 paper was endorsed, it's not necessarily halachic.

"From my perspective, just because some people say something is halachically permitted, without any basis on Jewish tradition to make that stand, I find that questionable," Rabbi Berman said.

"We all believe in the dignity of human beings and we believe that everyone has, in a democratic society, a right to choose what they want to do in their lives. Those of us who come from a more traditional spectrum of Jewish tradition certainly feel the pain of those who are in this situation, but unfortunately, not every situation can be resolved in a way that makes everyone happy."

# Bnei Akiva students learn about philanthropy

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

From left are Ulpana students Adina Tanen, Kayla Shields and Devorah Green, who won $5,000 for Camp Oochigeas, which serves children with cancer.

Adina Tanen, a student at Ulpanat Orot, says that she and her friends Kayla Shields and Devorah Green were "really inspired" by their participation in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), a program for high school students founded by the Toskan Casale Foundation.

As part of their Grade 10 careers course this year, the girls researched and won $5,000 for Camp Oochigeas, which serves children with cancer. Their presentation on "Camp Ooch" was the winning entry for Ulpana, based on a vote by student peers.

The girls' male counterparts at Yeshivat Or Chaim won $5,000 for Circle of Care's Meals on Wheels program. The two branches make up Toronto's Bnei Akiva Schools.

Noam Cotton, who worked on the winning project with his friends Aaron Zeifman and Adin Pellow, said participating in YPI made him more aware of services that people use.

A May 24 event at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre that brought together YPI participants from across the province to hear motivational speakers was one of the most moving experiences of his life, he added. As a student at the only Jewish school to be involved in the program, he said it was "incredible to be part of that."

The school has been involved in YPI since 2007.

The program, which began in 2002, is a project of a family foundation launched in 2001 by the founders of MAC cosmetics to support community-based grassroots organizations. It has given more than $5 million to Canadian social service charities since its inception, and has engaged more than 100,000 students internationally.

Ulpana's assistant principal, Shari Weinberg, who teaches the careers course, introduced the YPI to the school.

"Our kids know about it and are so enthusiastic, and put a great deal of work into it," she said. She added that the hands-on program involves site visits.

Every year, about half her students research Jewish organizations, and about half focus on non-Jewish charities, Weinberg said. "I think it's been a wonderful program for the class [and] also for the entire school."

In addition to the Grade 10 students' involvement, she noted, "one of the things that happened [is that] they continue to have a relationship with their charity of choice."

A mother-daughter night at the school earlier this year raised more than $2,000 for Bikur Cholim, the Jewish Volunteer Service of Toronto, a charity that students researched as part of YPI two years ago.

Hannah Samuels, one of the Grade 12 students who prepared a presentation on Bikur Cholim, told *The CJN* that even though her presentation didn't win the $5,000, YPI "definitely had a big influence" on her. Last year, she started a program through the organization, for students at her school to call isolated seniors every Friday. The program is still ongoing.

"I've always been interested in helping the community," said Samuels, whose father, Frank, is principal of the school. "YPI allowed me to see with my own eyes how much people can help even with limited resources. It really inspired me to do whatever I can to help the community."

Michael Teversham, who teaches the careers course at Or Chaim, said YPI "opens students' eyes to a world they haven't been exposed to."

Tanen agrees. Previously, she had only been involved with Jewish charities, and hadn't heard about Camp Oochigeas. "We knew we wanted to do something with kids," she said. "Kids are so fun, and we feel connected with that. We were so moved and inspired… That $5,000 could change a kid's life, and give them hope."

# JNF brings Negev Dinner to SW Ontario

## — Hamilton, London, Windsor —

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Hamilton's Jewish National Fund is celebrating 60 years of Negev Dinners on Sunday at the Hamilton Convention Centre.

The Negev Dinners, which are held in 10 Jewish communities across the country each year, raise funds for JNF projects in Israel, while honouring both Jewish and non-Jewish inspirational community leaders.

This year, the Hamilton community will honour Larry and Jacki Levin, who have immersed themselves in the organized Jewish community in Hamilton for the past 30 years.

"They are very committed and involved people," said JNF Canada director Franklin Simkevitz.

Larry and Jacki Levin

But Larry Levin, who carved out a successful career as a dentist, and currently sits on the board of the Canadian Dental Association, said getting involved in the Jewish community came naturally to him and his wife Jacki.

"We didn't set out to make our involvement in Jewish life a priority. We moved into the community from Toronto. Our kids got involved with the Hebrew Academy School and I had an opportunity to sit on the board… That was one of our first entrees into the Hamilton Jewish communal life," Larry said.

Around the same time, his wife became president of the parent-teacher association.

"That was about 30 years ago. From there we continued to be involved at different levels. I was asked to be involved with the [UJA Federation of Hamilton]… I was on the board of federation and later became president."

Larry still sits on the federation board with Jacki, who served as the Hamilton federation's treasurer for two years.

In the late 1990s, Jacki joined the board of Shalom Village, a Jewish long-term care facility, and later served as president for three years. While she continues to sit on the board, Larry has taken over as the Shalom Village president.

"We both always felt we wanted to make a contribution, we wanted to set an example for others and we got so much out of our involvement," Larry said.

"We always wanted to try to improve things and that's the way in which you can. You can get involved rather than being critical… roll up your sleeves and make the difference."

The June 10 event, which is expected to attract more than 500 people, will include a keynote speech by Rex Murphy, a Canadian commentator, author and journalist, who appears on CBC's *The National*, host's CBC Radio One's *Cross Country Checkup*, and has a regular column in the *National Post*.

Simkevitz said dinner guests will also be treated to a special video in honour of the 60th anniversary of Negev Dinners in Hamilton, which will highlight past honorees, as well as the projects that the dinners have helped fund in Israel such as water reservoirs, forests, research and development projects, and Zionist educational projects.

Simkevitz added that attracting 500 guests in a small Jewish community like Hamilton, which has less than 5,000 Jews, is quite a feat.

"Windsor is another city that attracts hundreds to the dinner from a much smaller pool of only about 1,200 Jews."

The Windsor event on June 20 will honour Frances and Jerry Goldberg. JNF Windsor board and executive members. Jonathan Tepperman, journalist and managing editor of *Foreign Affairs*, and former deputy editor of *Newsweek*, will deliver the keynote address.

Simkevitz added that about half of the dinner guests are non-Jews who resonate with JNF projects.

"It's got a cachet in each of these communities. It attracts people from the general community, people who are supportive of Israel and supportive of the Jewish community."

The JNF dinners also often celebrate non-Jews who benefit the lives of Canadian minorities.

For example, on June 24, London's JNF will honour the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney.

"Jason Kenney is being recognized in part for his outspoken support for the Jewish community and Israel," Simkevitz said.

"Recently, he's been first off the mark to condemn antisemitism… and he's also been outspoken in his support for Holocaust education."

The dinner, which will be held at the London Convention Centre, will also feature a musical performance by singer Aviva Chernick and her band Jaffa Road.

The Levins agreed that supporting JNF is a worthy cause on many levels.

"We support what JNF stands for, the opportunities it creates for people in Israel to improve the environment in Israel, and the wonderful message it sends to people around the world about green and environmental issues that JNF is always working towards."

But the main message, Larry said, is that volunteerism is vital to maintaining thriving communities.

For information, contact Simkevitz at 905-527-5516 or fdsimkevitz@jnf.ca.

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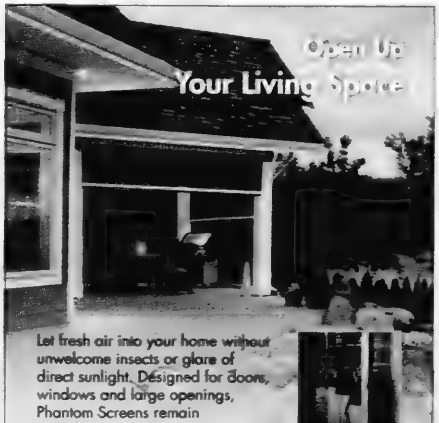


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# Prenups now required at two Orthodox shuls

Janice Arnold
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — Couples who want to marry at two traditional synagogues in Montreal will now be required to sign a halachic prenuptial agreement.

The rabbis of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim and Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem (TBDJ) have pledged to only officiate at weddings where the bride and groom have first agreed that, if they ever seek a civil divorce, he will give her a *get* – a Jewish divorce decree – and she will accept it.

Rabbi Adam Scheier

TBDJ is affiliated with the Orthodox Union, while Shaar Hashomayim is officially independent of any denomination but Orthodox in many of its practices.

Rabbis Adam Scheier and Yonah Berman, respectively, senior and associate rabbis at Shaar Hashomayim, and Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz of TBDJ are members of the International Rabbinic Fellowship (IRF), an association of modern Orthodox rabbis that has adopted this policy.

On May 22, at the IRF's annual conference held in Washington, D.C., its 150 members voted "overwhelmingly" in favour of the resolution, according to a statement the organization issued.

The resolution further encourages, but does not require, members not to participate in any wedding ritual where no prenuptial agreement exists. This means not reading the ketubah, serving as a witness or making one of the *Sheva Brachot*, for example.

The IRF, which was founded in 2009, called the resolution "a historic step to prevent further agunot," women who are unable to remarry within traditional Judaism because their ex-husbands have not given them a *get*.

"The IRF is now on record as the only Orthodox rabbinical organization in the world to require its members to use a halachic prenuptial agreement in any wedding at which they officiate," said its president, Rabbi Joel Tessler, senior rabbi of Beth Sholom Congregation in Potomac, Md., and an executive board member of the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA).

"This is a critical part of our ongoing efforts to help eliminate the tragedy of the modern-day agunah situation."

In practice, little will change at the two Montreal synagogues. Rabbi Scheier has required a prenuptial agreement at all of the 20 to 30 weddings he conducts on average each year since he joined the Shaar Hashomayim in 2005. The shul, however, has no written policy on the matter, he said.

Rabbi Scheier said most modern Orthodox rabbis in Montreal also require a prenuptial agreement. "I have encountered no resistance, but I have heard of some grooms or families [balking at entering such an agreement]."

The importance of the IRF resolution, to Rabbi Scheier's mind, is that it is a "principled position" that reinforces the message that denying a former spouse (it's usually the woman) of a Jewish divorce is unacceptable and has "devastating" consequences.

In Montreal, there is no standard prenuptial agreement that is halachically acceptable. Rabbi Scheier said modern Orthodox rabbis here use a number of adaptations of one developed by the RCA, in consultation with divorce lawyers and other experts, suitable for the Canadian context.

Whether compliance with a halachic prenuptial agreement can be enforced is less clear. The remedies within the Jewish community are limited and are questionable in civil law.

Rabbi Scheier said he could not offer a legal opinion on how Canadian courts might regard such agreements.

"Their legality has not been fully tested," he said. "This is an important, but not final, step in the resolution of the agunot issue."

Rabbis Scheier and Steinmetz are board members of the IRF, which was founded by American rabbis Avi Weiss and Marc Angel. The IRF has members throughout the United States, seven in Canada, and some in Israel and elsewhere.

Among the other members in Canada are Rabbi Howard Joseph, rabbi emeritus of Montreal's Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue; Rabbi Aaron Levy, founding director of Makom: Creative Downtown Judaism in Toronto, and Rabbi Martin Lockshin, a York University humanities professor and writer.

Rabbi Lockshin said the resolution represents an important moral stand, but experience has shown that the existence of a halachic prenuptial agreement does reduce the likelihood of a *get* being refused, or at least, not for an extended period.

"The Beth Din of America, whose prenuptial agreement is the most commonly used, claims that where a couple has signed such an agreement, the longest it has taken [for the *get* to be issued and accepted] is nine months. So it is having an impact on cutting down the agunah problem."

Rabbi Lockshin, volunteer rabbi of the Toronto Partnership Minyan, said he performs about two weddings a year.

"The first thing I tell the couple is that I will not conduct the wedding without the agreement. I give them a copy and suggest they consult a lawyer, if they want."

Although there has been no court challenge, he said it appears that "just having the threat over their heads has been effective so far."

# Refugee claimants will get IRB hearing

**Continued from page 3**

He faced harassment and threats after making controversial statements last summer about Hungary's role in the Holocaust, the Hungarian News Agency reported.

He claimed "a political campaign" had been mounted against him by Budapest City Hall and also "from within the government and parliament."

Writing in the American Hungarian-language newspaper *Amerikai Nepszava*, earlier this year, Kertesz said Hungarians alone can now be blamed for the Holocaust in their country, because unlike the Germans, they have failed to admit to and repent for their crimes.

He also said that the current right-wing government in Hungary has "launched a witchhunt and fuelled the extremists" and that he has been "subject to constant harassment and threats." He said he was attacked in the street and that his life would have been in jeopardy if he stayed in his homeland.

Kertesz's Montreal lawyer, Mitchell Goldberg, wouldn't comment on his client's case, but said there were problems with Bill C-31 when it comes to Hungarian and Jewish refugee claims.

Ana Curic, Kenney's director of communications, said that under Bill C-31, all refugee claimants, regardless of country of origin, will continue to receive an IRB hearing on the merits of their case.

"Bill C-31 will benefit genuine refugees, as they will receive Canada's protection in a matter of a few short months, compared to the current system, in which they must wait an unacceptable two years," Curic said.

Last month, Kenney amended the bill to allay opposition MPs' concerns that it would unduly punish refugees with long detentions prior to the government reviewing their claims.

Instead of a 12-month detention for refugees who arrive "irregularly" to Canada, Bill C-31 now proposes a mandatory review after 14 days, followed by reviews every 180 days.

Additionally, the bill also now incorporates a provision that will allow the minister of public safety "on his own initiative and at any time" to release a detained individual when grounds for detention no longer exist, according to the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration website.

"We have listened to parliamentarians on Bill C-31 and, as a result, we have a stronger bill that will continue to protect genuine refugees, while ensuring that bogus asylum seekers are detained, processed, and swiftly removed, and sending the message to human smugglers that targeting Canada will no longer pay," Kenney said.

But Maureen Silcoff, a Toronto lawyer and former member of the IRB, said Bill C-31 is still problematic.

"As a politician, Minister Kenney should not be deciding which refugee claims have merit, and which don't," she said. "That's for an independent tribunal [like] IRB to decide, in my opinion."

Silcoff also believes Kenney is targeting Roma applicants unfairly. She said she represents "hundreds" of Roma asylum-seekers from Hungary and the European Union, and the current cases she's seeing are very strong

"There's a growing fascist movement in Hungary in which Roma and Jews are being targeted" for persecution, she said.

She said so far, Hungarian Roma have been more affected, as they are a more visible minority than Jews.

"But when [Hungarian] Jews are dressed visibly, there have been many human rights reports" of attacks on Jews.

However, the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration said no countries will be automatically designated as "safe."

# Bikers raise money for Holocaust education

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

It's not many events that will bring 400 Jewish motorcyclists to one place, but the Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance's (JMA) annual Ride 2 Remember managed to do just that last week.

The Ride 2 Remember is a yearly motorcycle tour that brings together Jewish biker groups from all over the world to raise money for Holocaust education. This year, the eighth annual ride was the first one to take place in Canada.

Despite the stormy weather, the ride had record attendance, with hundreds of bikers from Canada, the United States, Israel, England and Australia touring through the streets of Toronto to raise funds for the Holocaust Educator Study Tour. The program, which operates through the UJA Federation's Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, works to bring non-Jewish teachers to the sites of the Holocaust in Europe and to teach them the tragic history of the Holocaust in a meaningful way.

"They will come back to their schools and impart their knowledge on their students," said Gadi Prager, president of Toronto's Yidden on Wheels (YOW), who hosted this year's event. Prager stressed the importance of educating teachers about the Holocaust because of their ability to share the message with so many young people.

**Jewish motorcyclists braved a downpour in Toronto last week**
*[Michelle Bitran photo]*

So far, the Holocaust Educator Study Tour, which is offered to 30 participants at a time, has had the funding to run in 2005, 2008 and 2010. The Ride 2 Remember fundraisers hope it will become a more frequently run program with their support.

The enthusiastic riders, clad in leather outfits stitched with group names like the "Chai Riders," "Lost Tribe" and "Riders of Israel," began their biking journey on May 31 in Ottawa. There, they met up with Christian motorcyclists at Parliament Hill for a "Never Again" pledge, organized by YOW.

The JMA motorcyclists then made their way to Toronto for the Ride 2 Remember the following morning. The ride kicked off at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, and, due to the wet and dangerous weather conditions, followed a shortened path with police escort to Holy Blossom Temple for a celebratory lunch.

"This is truly an authentic Jewish biker experience," YOW's Stephen Stein, the chair of the 2012 Ride 2 Remember organizing committee told the crowd at Holy Blossom. "We went to Shaar Shalom, we ate breakfast, we thought about what to do next and we came to lunch," he said with a smile.

Among the speakers that afternoon were Susan Jackson, the executive director of Women's Philanthropy at the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Amir Gissin, the consul general of Israel in Toronto and Western Canada.

"Riding a bike is probably the ultimate expression of freedom in western culture," said Gissin, adding that the annual ride is a powerful and important opportunity for free people to remember those who lived without freedom.

"We have to make sure that it's not just us who remember, but that it's everybody else."

For more information on the Holocaust Educator Study Tour and the Ride 2 Remember, visit http://holocaustcentre.com and click on Educators and Students.

# Progressive Zionist group calls out QuAIA

Compiled by CJN staff

Canadian Friends of Peace Now (CFPN) has denounced an anti-Zionist group's plans to take part in the 2012 Toronto Pride festivities and called on city council to withhold funding to Pride Toronto if groups hostile to Israel are allowed to participate.

Late last week, the progressive, Zionist CFPN issued a statement against Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA), a gay and lesbian activist group that has accused Israel of being an apartheid state and of "pinkwashing" its image by boasting of its treatment of gays and lesbians.

Peace Now said QuAIA practises "cheap anti-Zionism" and should not be allowed in the July 1 Pride Paarade.

The city is scheduled to grant nearly $104,000 to Pride organizers for this year's events.

"While CFPN has long argued against Israel's occupation of the West Bank, we find [QuAIA's] fierce attacks on Israel to be highly suspect," the nonprofit group said in a statement.

"Surely QuAIA must know that Israel is the only state in the Middle East which extends a measure of tolerance to the LGBT community. It would make more sense for the group's Pride banner to read 'Queers Against Arab Homophobia.'"

QuAIA did not take part in Toronto's 2011 Pride week, bowing to pressure from Pride organizers and the gay community to ensure city money flowed to the festival after an acrimonious public debate threatened to see the city cut its funding.

Pride Toronto also instituted a new dispute-resolution mechanism last year as a result of the controversy surrounding QuAIA's participation in prior parades.

A dispute-resolution committee made up of legal experts and community members has been empowered by Pride Toronto to examine any complaints against parade applicants and decide whether they can officially participate.

As of *The CJN*'s deadline, QuAIA had not yet applied to be in this year's parade.

Meanwhile, Toronto City Council was scheduled to vote on Pride funding at its June 6 and 7 meetings.

Last year, the city had considered a motion to withhold funding from Pride until after the festival to make sure that QuAIA would not be allowed to participate. It was unclear whether council would consider a similar motion this year.

In 2011, council ordered city manager Joseph Pennachetti to report on whether QuAIA's messaging violated Toronto's anti-discrimination bylaw.

Pennachetti's report ruled that the term "Israeli apartheid" did not constitute hate messaging under city bylaws, since the term had never been judged to be hate speech by a court or tribunal.

Jewish and pro-Israel groups have so far been reluctant to bring the matter up in court or at the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

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# Montessori method helps people with dementia

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

A children's educational program, developed more than 100 years ago by Dr. Maria Montessori, and recently adapted for people with dementia, has vastly improved the quality of life for some residents of L'Chaim Retirement Home.

Since introducing the Montessori method for dementia to the Sheppard Avenue West home this past winter, owner Judy Cohen says she has seen a remarkable change in many residents.

About 90 per cent of L'Chaim's 30 residents have dementia.

With the help of consultant Carol Saba, who is trained in the Montessori method for dementia, said Cohen, the entire home – all staff attended a two-day workshop – has embraced the method, and has changed the approach in which they deal with residents.

"By engaging residents in meaningful activities, we are seeking the person behind the dementia," she said.

Upon entering the home, changes are evident, said Cohen. "We've painted murals on entrance and exit doors so instead of being enticed to escape through the doors, residents admire the art work."

Saba said there is a lot of environmental cuing. They bypass declarative memory, the recall of facts and knowledge, and concentrate on procedural memory, the act of doing something. "Procedural memories [are often] retained after declarative memory is lost. Many tasks, such as reading, can be retaught."

"We post daily schedules, which remind residents of tasks such as bathroom visits or meals.

"Residents who constantly ask about a daily walk may forget that they just returned from their walk. A schedule that shows when they last walked and when the next walk occurs can be very helpful," said Saba.

**Long-time resident Evelyn Sher in action**

They have also created memory books, with pictures provided by families, she said, that draw on past life experiences.

Cohen said specific roles and routines, make residents feel that they are contributing to society.

"One woman loves folding towels, and others match coloured clothespins to bowls, or visit the "glamour exchange" where they can borrow jewelry or try on hats for Shabbat.

"Carol works one-on-one with residents to determine their needs, strengths and abilities, and then finds activities that address these needs. The emphasis is always on demonstrating tasks instead of using words.

"One woman who did not speak, started to sing and speak when she was presented with a baby doll."

She said that concentrating on a task helps people with memory loss feel more secure.

Cohen is dedicated to keeping the method going, she said, and demonstrate that people's lives can be changed. "We want the community to know that it is out there. All caregivers can be trained."

# *Rabbis express support for organ donation program*

**Continued from page 14**

Doctors were able to use Jonathon's lungs, kidneys and heart valves – for which the Talbots later received anonymous thank-you notes from recipients: a kidney patient who'd gone off dialysis, children at Sick Kids who'd received his heart valves. Though her family's loss was devastating, Talbot said, "people are alive because of him, and he lives on in them."

Teacher and author Frank Bialystok, a member of Darchei Noam Congregation, appeared in a short video, *My Second Bar Mitzvah*, celebrating the 13th anniversary of his "rebirthday," thanks to a donated liver. His wife, Ellen, said the donor "didn't just save Frank's life… [but] all of our lives."

Rabbi Reuven Bulka, the Ottawa rabbi who chairs TGLN's board of directors, appeared in the video, saying it's "preposterous" for any rabbi to suggest that "a person performing the ultimate mitzvah is going to be penalized" posthumously for giving up organs. This "makes no sense whatsoever."

Following the presentations, speakers addressed questions about donor registration and live kidney and liver donations (only part of the liver is donated; it later regenerates). TGLN only co-ordinates cadaver donations, but in light of the shortage, they can help with financial expenses for living donors.

Levinson said anyone interested in donating a kidney can contact the organ donation program at Toronto General Hospital directly – it's one of the few in Canada willing to accept and co-ordinate anonymous donations. Renewal Toronto (www.life-renewal.org, 416-894-5670) is a rabbinically endorsed organization that co-ordinates kidney donations within the Jewish community.

"If you're considering being a live donor, don't hesitate," Halper said, looking back on the experience that has given her more than a new "sister" in Levinson. Following the operation, Levinson's husband, who'd become Halper's immigration lawyer, sent her for a physical. She laughed, because she'd just gone through intensive screening to donate her kidney, but eventually gave in. That physical turned up a tiny cancerous tumour in her lung, which was removed before it could become symptomatic. She has just passed the five-year point of remission. "It's a miracle of life for both of us," she said.

For more information or to register with National Council of Jewish Women's "Gift of 8" campaign, visit http://beadonor.ca/ncjwc-ts.

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## LEMONADE STAND

**On May 27, Joshua Belzowski helped his sister Amanda hold her 14th annual lemonade stand. In less than four hours, they were able to raise more than $8,000 for lifesaving pediatric cardiac research through Save a Child's Heart and the cardiac wing of the Hospital for Sick Children. The event featured food and attractions from a number of sponsors, as well as a silent and live auction.**

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# Netanyahu orders deportation of 25,000 illegals

**Barak Ravid**
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

**JERUSALEM** — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered his ministers to accelerate efforts to deport citizens of South Sudan, the Ivory Coast, Ghana and Ethiopia who are living in Israel illegally.

Speaking at Sunday's cabinet meeting, Netanyahu said that while it is not possible to expel citizens of Eritrea and Sudan, whose lives would be at risk in their home countries, holding facilities for them must be built in the Negev as quickly as possible.

A senior Israeli official said that two different groups of infiltrators were discussed during Sunday's cabinet debate. The first are infiltrators from countries with which Israel has diplomatic relations, so no barrier to repatriating them under international law exists, he said. This group numbers some 25,000 of the approximately 60,000 African migrants now in Israel.

The second group is made up of infiltrators from Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia, who cannot be repatriated because their lives would be at risk, according to the official. This group comprises some 35,000 people.

**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**

Sudan is classified as an enemy country, another reason that infiltrators can't be returned there, he said, while Eritrea, though it has diplomatic relations with Israel, considers those who fled the country to be AWOL soldiers, and upon their return, they could be severely punished. Eritrea has a mandatory conscription law for all men aged 17 to 45, and demands reserve duty up to age 55. There are no exemptions. Regarding the first group of infiltrators, Netanyahu said, "Whoever can be sent away should be sent away from here as quickly as possible."

About the second group, he said, "It's clear that we cannot return Sudanis and Eritreans to their countries."

During the cabinet debate, Netanyahu appeared impatient and dissatisfied with the conduct of the relevant ministries and banged on the table several times, according to sources who were present. He ordered a substantial expansion of the Saharonim lockup in the Negev so that it could hold the tens of thousands of people who can't be repatriated.

He also ordered a team of interrogators put together to interview all those who will be brought to the Saharonim facility to determine whether they are indeed entitled to refugee status. The Foreign Ministry has been conducting discussions for several months with the governments of those countries whose citizens can be repatriated, a senior ministry source said.

Israel is exerting heavy pressure on Ethiopia to begin returning its citizens who are in Israel illegally. Ethiopian diplomats have visited the Saharonim facility and interviewed Ethiopian nationals.

The Foreign Ministry has also been in regular contact with South Sudan, whose nationals are being given a chance to return voluntarily. On June 17, a plane carrying some 200 South Sudanese will fly from Israel to Juba, the South Sudan capital. In mid-July, there will be another plane of South Sudanese who agreed to leave but asked to do so after the school year ends.

A senior Foreign Ministry source said that Israel has made it clear to the Ivory Coast and Ghana that the government plans to deport their nationals, by force if necessary, and that if their governments don't issue the migrants travel documents, then Israel will do so.

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# More IAEA talks with Iran

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VIENNA — The UN nuclear watchdog and Iran will begin a new round of talks this week to try to reach an agreement to resume a long-stalled probe into suspected atom bomb research in the Islamic state. IAEA chief Yukiya Amano said on Monday.

Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, made a rare visit to Tehran two weeks ago and said that when he returned to Vienna, he expected a framework co-operation deal to be signed soon with Iran.

Western diplomats have voiced doubt that Iran will implement any such agreement with the Vienna-based UN agency, which says Tehran has stonewalled its investigation for almost four years.

"I wish to inform the board that a meeting between Iran and the agency has been scheduled for June 8 in Vienna," Amano said in a speech to the IAEA'S 35-nation governing board, according to a copy of his remarks.

"I invite Iran to sign and implement the Structured Approach document as soon as possible and to provide early access to the Parchin site," he said, referring to an agreement on how to conduct the IAEA's investigation.

The IAEA suspects that Iran had carried out research relevant to developing nuclear weapons at the Parchin military site, southeast of Tehran, which Iran denies.

# *'Decision has practical and symbolic importance'*

**Continued from page 1**

Many in the Jewish world greeted the announcement enthusiastically.

Natan Sharansky, chair of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel, called the development a step toward Jewish unity.

"I believe this decision has both practical and symbolic importance," Sharansky said. "It contributes significantly to the strengthening of the relationship between Diaspora Jews and Israel. The Jewish Agency sees this decision as a bridge and as another step toward bringing unity to the Jewish people.

"The government's decision... gives official recognition to these dynamic community leaders and rabbis who work tirelessly to build strong and vibrant Zionist and Jewish communities throughout Israel," Sharansky added.

"We have a long-term goal to have an inclusive, democratic, pluralistic Israeli society," said Rabbi Daniel Allen, executive director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America. "We're going to be patient and persevere until the ideal meets the real. This is one step forward in that effort."

ARZA Canada, the Reform Zionist organization in Canada, applauded the attorney general's announcement, noting Rabbi Gold will be the first non-Orthodox rabbi to be recognized and paid by the State of Israel.

"After a seven-year court battle, which so many of us have supported, it is rewarding to see that progress is being made for a pluralistic approach to religion in Israel. This is a very significant victory for religious freedom in Israel," said Les Rothschild, president of ARZA Canada.

Rabbi Jennifer Gorman, executive-director of Mercaz-Canada and the Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism, both Conservative organizations, called the development an important step.

Although only rabbis in smaller communities are affected, it opens the door to the possibility of expanding recognition of non-Orthodox rabbis in larger centres, she said.

"Our hope is that it will keep the conversation going and that Conservative and Reform rabbis are accepted for all communities," she said.

"The Masorti movement is growing by leaps and bounds in Israel" with 63 congregations now part of the Masorti movement, with eight of them added in just the last few years, she said.

"With that sort of growth, you can see that it's also important to Israel that as a pluralistic view of Judaism grows in Israel, the government goes along with that," Rabbi Gorman said.

"This is a big step for religious pluralism and democracy in Israel," Rabbi Gold said. "Israeli Jews want religious alternatives, and with this decision, the state is starting to recognize this reality. There is more than one way to be Jewish, even in Israel."

In New York, the Rabbinical Assembly of the Jewish Conservative movement and the World Union for Progressive Judaism were also among those that lauded the decision.

"This is a historic day for Israelis and Jews around the world," said Rabbi Julie Schonfeld, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly. "In order for Judaism to grow and thrive in Israel, it is necessary that the government recognize its obligation to provide equal funding to various Jewish religious streams and expressions that flower in the Jewish state."

**Natan Sharansky**

Yizhar Hess, the executive director of Israel's Masorti movement, said there is a more important issue than the initial number of communities receiving financial support: Conservative and Reform Jews in these areas will no longer have to donate privately to support their rabbis while also paying taxes to support the Orthodox-dominated rabbinate.

This, he hopes, will allow more Conservative congregations to form and reduce the Israeli movement's dependence on donations from America. Three-quarters of the Masorti movement's annual budget of approximately $4.5 million (US) now comes from the Diaspora.

"The only way for a Masorti rabbi to act as a Masorti rabbi was to be able to raise enough funds from donations and dues to make a living," Hess said. "We know that there are more communities that want to reach out and have us."

David Lissy, executive director of the Masorti Foundation in New York, pointed to two recent surveys of Israeli Jews showing increased awareness of and identification with non-Orthodox movements. One, a recent report by the Israel Democracy Institute and the Avi Chai Foundation, showed that 30 per cent of Israeli Jews had attended a Conservative or Reform service.

"More and more people feel that they would like to take responsibility for their Jewish identity," Hess said. "They understand that there is more than one way to be Jewish."

ARZA noted last week's announcement followed other developments advocated by the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center. Among them, the Supreme Court has ruled in favour of the placement of a Reform rabbi on the religious council of Mevasseret Zion (a town west of Jerusalem); the High Court ruled that forced gender segregation on public transportation is discriminatory and prohibited, and it ordered the allocation of pre-fab units to non-Orthodox congregations for synagogue buildings.

*With files from Paul Lungen*

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# Senate distinguishes between Palestinian refugees, descendants

JTA

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Senate appropriations committee approved language that would distinguish between Palestinian refugees alive in 1948 and their descendants.

The amendment to the foreign appropriations bill, initiated by Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and passed May 31, requires the State Department to report within a year on approximately how many people are receiving assistance from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) "whose place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948 and who were displaced as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict; and who are descendants" of those people.

The State Department had expressed concerns about the language in the amendment, but Kirk prevailed.

"This will have major implications for future negotiations over final-status issues with regard to refugees," said a senior Senate aide involved in shaping the amendment.

Should the Obama or any subsequent administration heed the new requirement, it would deliver a diplomatic blow to Palestinian efforts to leverage their refugee status in peace talks with Israel by aligning U.S. policy with Israel on the matter.

Palestinian negotiators have spoken of a "right of return" of refugees to Israel, and have suggested they would concede this in exchange for a final status package.

UNRWA, the main body assisting Palestinians, unlike other UN agencies assigns refugee status to descendants of Palestinians who fled the area during the 1948-1949 war, although in its definition it is careful to distinguish between the two populations. As a result, five million Palestinians are currently eligible for UNRWA services.

An estimated 30,000 Palestinians would fit the stricter definition of refugee.

The United States is a major UNRWA funder.

**A young Palestinian girl in Gaza walks by a bag of flour, part of monthly food aid from UNRWA.**

*(Flash90 photo)*

# Ancient mosaic floor in Tiberias irreparably damaged

JTA

**JERUSALEM** — An ancient mosaic on the floor of a fourth century synagogue in Tiberias was irreparably damaged.

Some of the mosaic tiles at the Hammat Tiberias synagogue in northern Israel were smashed into tiny pieces and other parts were deeply scratched in an attack that occurred last week. Graffiti also was sprayed on the site.

The damage reportedly will cost millions of dollars to repair.

The Israel Antiquities Authority suspects that haredi extremists opposed to archeological excavations of ancient graves caused the damage, *Ha'aretz* reported. Graffiti at the site read, "on each grave – a site" and "a response over the years."

The mosaic is the earliest such synagogue mosaic to have been discovered in Israel.

***IDF soldier killed***

A Palestinian gunman and an Israeli soldier were killed in a shootout on the Gaza-Israel border. The Israeli army said the gunman breached the border fence at about 5 a.m. last Friday. A border patrol detected the breach and confronted the gunman. He opened fire and killed a soldier, and was then killed in return fire. The army said the gunman intended to attack civilians. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the infiltration, then denied it. Israeli Air Force planes later struck open fields in Gaza.

***Israelis quite happy***

Israel is among the happiest countries in the world, according to an examination of international data by a finance website. According to the site Daily Finance, an analysis of data compiled by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development ranks Israel as the sixth-happiest country in the world. Israel scored high in "life satisfaction," educational attainment and life expectancy, among other markers. Eighty-one per cent of Israelis self-reported that they were in "good" or "very good" health. Denmark was rated the happiest country in the world. Canada was No. 9.

***U.S., Israel developed virus***

The U.S. National Security Agency and a secret Israeli military unit jointly developed a complex computer worm that attacked equipment in Iranian nuclear installations. The cooperation, which began in the Bush administration and was accelerated by the Obama White House, may have been part of a U.S. effort to dissuade Israel from launching a preemptive strike on Iranian nuclear installations, the *New York Times* reported. Israel's Unit 8200 worked with the NSA to develop what Americans called "the bug," the *Times* report said. The teams built replicas of Iranian centrifuges using equipment provided by Libya's Gadhafi regime when it revealed its nuclear program to international inspectors in 2003.

*Files from JTA*

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# *Should the community still seek public funding for day schools?*

## Internal and external solutions needed

There's no question that a serious inequity exists when children of one faith in Ontario receive the benefits of public funding denied to all other faiths. The government should act to redress this inequity.

We must recognize that equity cannot be achieved in a vacuum, divorced from Ontario's financial realities. UJA Federation and its advocacy arm, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), support both recognition of the outstanding contribution of faith-based schools to Ontario and the importance of a strong public education system.

Ed Segalowitz

The absence of public funding for Jewish day schools is one of many factors affecting Jewish education and its appeal for Jewish parents. Others include rising tuition and ensuring the highest educational standards through continuous quality improvements. With significant sensitivity to the financial burden borne by day-school parents and their quest for quality, federation's Centre for Jewish Education is exploring funding and revenue options, in addition to working on ways to advance school quality. Federation provides over $10 million in annual tuition subsides to help offset this burden. That's more than the five largest North American Jewish federations combined. Yet we know there's much more to do.

The community has an obligation to seek equity, and the federation, together with CIJA and its predecessors, have led this effort for decades. We'll continue to seek opportunities to advance this agenda where we think we can succeed. At the same time, we believe that a truly collaborative coalition of education community leaders, Jewish foundations, parents and teachers, with the support of the federation that does the most for Jewish education in North America, will be able to directly address the challenges of affordability. No one single strategy will get us there, and no single stakeholder can solve the challenge on their own. Together, we can and must remove barriers to Jewish education and ensure both the vitality and fairness of Jewish education for generations to come.

*Ed Segalowitz is executive director of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Centre for Jewish Education.*

## Other jurisdictions do it

Of course we should continue to seek public funding for Jewish day schools. Our current economic climate is nothing new, and education will continue to be a prime responsibility for every government in the modern world.

Remember that besides providing an extra component of Jewish identity and Jewish education, most Jewish day schools also teach to the Ministry of Education's expectations – in other words, the same curriculum that is taught in every government-funded public school. In many provinces, public funds go to maintain Catholic, Protestant, independent and private schools. Shouldn't Jewish students also be entitled to some level of public funding?

Claire Sumerlus

Our Jewish community has been very strong in fundraising for our Jewish day schools, and our schools owe their existence to the parents who, year after year, reach deep into their pockets for tuition in order to give their children a Jewish education. While we do have bursaries, there are still members of our Jewish community who just cannot afford tuition, and their children are, therefore, at a disadvantage. Public funding would enable Jewish day schools to make tuition more affordable so that all Jewish children have an opportunity to get a Jewish education.

In fact, American departments of education are showing a trend toward charter schools, which are, by definition, publicly funded independent schools. There are currently more than 5,000 publicly funded charter schools in 39 states, each with its own special purpose and enhanced curriculum.

I believe that we need to continue to lobby for public funding for our Jewish day schools. After all, there are precedents for it and there's no question that it would greatly benefit our Jewish students.

*Claire Sumerlus is head of school at Robbins Hebrew Academy.*

## Let's face reality

The cost of private Jewish day school is spiralling out of control. I'm a big believer in day school. I attended Jewish day school and high school, but I'm finding the cost to be very expensive and am wondering how I'll be able to send all three of my children there. Where can the money come from to help?

Rabbi Stephen Wise

On one hand, choosing a private day school is a choice I'm making for my family. I believe it gives children an incredible education, a strong Jewish identity, Hebrew and prayer fluency, and a commitment to Israel and the future of the Jewish People. But for this, I need to pay.

On the other hand, public money goes to support religious education for Catholic families, and that seems unfair. Last week, I read about Catholic boards fighting against the rights of students to create gay-straight alliance groups in their schools. How can the government fund a system that doesn't provide a safe environment for all? Imagine how much money our government could save if it had one public school system instead of two. With the savings, perhaps a tax break could be put in place for families choosing a private religious education that meets provincial education standards.

Theses ideas aren't new, but I don't sense that a change in education funding is imminent. Given current realities, we should think more creatively about funding from within the Jewish community. Recently, *The CJN* carried a great column by Rabbi Jay Kelman about an innovative idea for funding day schools using billions of dollars in private foundations. Looking within our community is more realistic at this time than seeking public funding, and with skyrocketing tuition, we need a solution soon.

*Rabbi Wise is spiritual leader of Shaarei-Beth El Congregation in Oakville, Ont.*

**An Occasional Feature**

## We can and we must

We should definitely continue to seek public funding for our schools. Here are three reasons.

• **Doing what's right:** Do we have a right to give up? Should we no longer plead our case for funding based solely on political calculations and assumptions? No. "*Tzedek tzedek tirdof*" exhorts the Torah (Deuteronomy 16:20). "Justice, justice you shall pursue." Our task is to work toward what is just and pray that God bestows upon us a favourable result.

Ira Walfish

Everyone realizes the current situation is discriminatory and wrong. Our duty is to advocate for what's right.

• **The impact of continuing the status quo without funding:** This isn't a viable option. Enrolment in our schools is down, assimilation is rampant, schools run annual deficits, some are in danger of closing and the strain on the parent body worsens every year.

A real solution must be found. In the United States, parents are desperately searching for alternatives. Charter schools or blended learning (face-to-face instruction and on-line instruction) are two examples. These alternatives must be investigated here in Ontario.

• **The political landscape:** We know our issue isn't popular. However, governments come and go, situations are fluid, and political self-interest can result in surprising policies. For example, in 1996, the Supreme Court of Canada rejected funding for faith-based schools. Yet, four years later, the Ontario government extended various health-care benefits to private schools. Political landscapes can and do change and are often influenced by circumstance. With this in mind, we, the Jewish community, must continue to pursue all avenues, both public and private, in our negotiations with the government. If we continue to advocate for this issue, we can only increase our chances of success. The status quo is untenable. The risk to Jewish continuity is dire. There is really no choice.

*Ira Walfish is chair of the Multi-Faith Coalition for Equal Funding for Faith-Based Schools and former co-president of the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools.*

# Run your career like a startup, entrepreneur suggests

**Author Ben Casnocha, right, along with Randy Masters, Toronto chapter president of Canadian Friends of Hebrew University (CFHU) and Tracy Bierstock Wilder, CFHU Toronto chapter board member.**

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

Author Ben Casnocha credits an oddball schoolteacher with starting him on his journey as an entrepreneurial self-starter.

He was taking a class in computer repair at a middle school in San Francisco, when the teacher, known only as "Mac Doctor," promised his students an A+ if they memorized and recited a poem in class.

Casnocha leaped at the opportunity, but when it came time to read the poem, it turned out to be the text of an Apple TV advertisement, titled "Think Different."

He's never forgotten it – its ode to misfits and trailblazers who can't be ignored, because they move the human race forward.

Its lesson remains valid, Casnocha suggested at a recent event sponsored by the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University. The key to success in a world where our basic assumptions are being upset is to adopt the characteristics of a successful startup and apply them to your own life.

Just as a startup faces a constantly shifting landscape, people too "face uncertainty and change" in their lives, he said. "The strategy that entrepreneurs use applies to us."

Casnocha is co-author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *The Start-Up of You: Adapt to the Future, Invest in Yourself, and Transform Your Career*, along with Reid Hoffman, co-founder and chair of LinkedIn. Casnocha was named one of America's best entrepreneurs by *Business Week* magazine.

Speaking to more than 200 people at the MaRS Discovery District in Toronto, Casnocha said the job/career model of the past 60 years is pretty much obsolete. No longer is it realistic to expect a career climbing the corporate ladder along a pre-determined path, retiring in your 50s or 60s: "That escalator is jammed at every level," he said.

New technologies and globalization have changed all that, for people and for corporations, he continued. Instead, people must employ skills and strategies that allow them to be flexible and adaptable.

Borrowing a term from the world of software, Casnocha said people must be in a state of "permanent beta," a reference to a product that is in the market but which is continually fine-tuned to operate better.

"The product is never finished. It's always a work-in-progress... a constant quest for improvement."

Casnocha suggested people adopt several concepts that are the cornerstone of successful startups:

- Develop a competitive advantage; find ways to do things better, faster, cheaper in a unique segment of the marketplace.
- Assemble a network of allies and acquaintances. Allies are people like you who you can confide in and who provide feedback; acquaintances provide information and job opportunities you might not otherwise find.
- Be adaptive. Successful entrepreneurs need not create something from scratch. Rather, they are often able to bring together existing technologies and ideas in a new and innovative way.

Citing Muhammad Yunus, a Bangladeshi financier and Nobel Prize winner who founded a bank that provides capital to small businesses, Casnocha said human beings are entrepreneurs by nature. People should embrace that and learn how to employ those skills in a useful way.

Entrepreneurs, Casnocha said, are alert to their environment, and where others see problems, they see opportunities.

People have to adapt to change, he continued. "I'm optimistic people will embrace this. I think they'll have to."

* * *

Here's one version of Apple's "Think Different" advertising campaign, which debuted in 1997:

"Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. While some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do."

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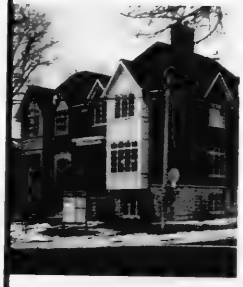

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## EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

### AZRIELI FOUNDATION CONTINUES ITS SERIES OF HOLOCAUST MEMOIRS, NOW AUGMENTED WITH SHORT FILMS

The Azrieli Foundation was preparing to introduce nine new titles this week in Montreal.

Three English-language memoirs, four French-language memoirs and two short films were set to be launched on June 4. The English-language titles are *Little Girl Lost*, by **Betty Rich**; *If Home Is Not Here*, by **Max Bornstein**; *Gatehouse to Hell*, by **Felix Opatowski**. The short films are *Tenuous Threads*, which tells the story of **Judy Abrams**, and *One of the Lucky Ones*, focusing on the story of **Eva Felsenburg Marx**.

A philanthropic enterprise with many objects, the Azrieli Foundation sponsors a Holocaust survivor memoirs program through which it publishes and distributes writings of Holocaust survivors in Canada. It is funded by philanthropist **David J. Azrieli**. Born in Poland in 1922, Azrieli came to Montreal in 1954, and became an innovative builder with huge projects in Canada, United States and Israel. www.azrielifoundation.org.

* * *

**Luminato Festival:** Luminato and the Toronto International Film Festival present a 10-day program of film screenings that includes director **Tomer Heymann**'s *Out of Focus*, a documentary on **Ohad Naharin**, choreographer and artistic director of the Israel's **Batsheva Dance Company**. Also, writer **Annie Proulx** introduces director **Ang Lee**'s acclaimed film *Brokeback Mountain*, based on her short story of the same name, and much more. June 8 to 17. www.luminato.com

* * *

**War of 1812:** *The Encampment* is a large-scale village of tents assembled by artists **Thom Sokoloski** and **Jenny-Anne McCowan** to highlight the civilian history of the War of 1812 at the Fort York National Historic Site. One historical figure highlighted in *The Encampment* is **William Solomon**, a German Jew from Berlin who led an adventurous life in British North America and the American frontier, and served as an interpreter for the British. Part of the Luminato Festival, *The Encampment* is at Fort York in Toronto from June 8 to 24. www.thomasandguinevere.com

* * *

**NXNE Festival**: **Johnny Cash**'s former manager **Saul Holiff**, who lived in London, Ont., and Vancouver, is the subject of son Jonathan's film *My Father and the Man in Black*, which features previously unseen material Jonathan found in his father's storage locker after his death. It's being screened at the NXNE Film Festival, as is *KMS – Jewish Negroes*, a film about Ethiopian Jews in Israel by Israeli director **Adi Zvieli**. June 11 to 17. www.nxne.com

* * *

**Names in the News**: Toronto singer **Lenka Lichtenberg** has finished her seventh album, *Songs for the Breathing Walls*, consisting of liturgical songs recorded in Czech and Moravian synagogues. The CD is being launched in Prague's Jeruzalemska Synagogue on June 20. Then Lichtenberg and friends have a number of European concert dates, including the International Conference of Jewish Genealogy in Paris on July 17. Back home, they're slated to perform in Stratford on Aug. 12 and at Toronto's Ashkenaz Festival on Sept. 1. www.lenkalichtenberg.com

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• Active Seniors presents opera educator Iain Scott discussing *Nabucco*, Verdi's Jewish opera. $5. Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, Thursday, June 7, 1:30 p.m., 416-924-6211, ext. 155.

• The 70-voice MNJCC Community Choir performs world, folk, tango, **Jacques Brel**, Ladino and more. $10. Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC, Thursday, June 7, 8 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 0.

• The 2012 Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards, hosted by CBC Radio personality **Michael Enright**, takes place in the well-appointed Bram and Bluma Appel Salon of the Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St. Free admission, everyone welcome. Thursday June 7, 8 p.m.

• Lecturer **Adam Nayman** continues his series on the films of **Stanley Kubrick**, with film clips. Next topic is *The Shining*, the classic horror film based on the novel by **Stephen King**. $12 drop in, students $6. Miles Nadal JCC, Monday, June 11, 7 to 9 p.m. www.mnjcc.org

• The Koffler Centre presents Israel's Batsheva Dance Company in a gala North American première performance of *Sadeh21*. MacMillan Theatre, 80 Queen's Park, Thursday, June 14. Tickets $250. 416-638-1881, www.kofflerarts.org

• *Blockade*, a new book by **Gerald Ziedenberg**, tells the heroic story of Jewish immigration to British Mandate Palestine. A Torontonian, Zeidenberg is a retired pharmacist who became a historian (earning a master's degree in modern history) late in life. A book launch takes place at Beth Lida Synagogue, 22 Gilgorm Rd. Sunday, June 17, 2 to 5 p.m. RSVP 416-481-3624.

* * *

**At the Galleries**

• Watercolours by the late Toronto artist **Sylvia Starkman** are on display to mark her 100th birthday. A graduate in occupational therapy from Harbord Collegiate, Starkman won numerous painting awards but shared her art only with close family and friends. Now her daughter, **Cheryl Lefton**, is sharing her mother's art and passion in this exhibit, titled *Her Spirit Shone Through Her Art*. Carrier Villa Gallery, Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Ave. W. June 7 to July 4. Opening reception June 7, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. 416-789-7011, ext. 300, www.carriergallery.com

• A solo exhibit of works by young sculpture-installation artist **Itamar Jobani**, an Israeli artist currently living in New York, continues through the summer at the Julie M. Gallery, 15 Mill St., Distillery District.

# *Israeli-Canadian tours a show about his mother*

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

In 1999, Itai Erdal packed his bags in Jerusalem and got on a plane to Vancouver to study at the Vancouver Film School. About a year later, he received a phone call from Israel telling him that his mother, Mery, had been diagnosed with lung cancer and had only nine months to live.

Erdal immediately boarded a plane back home to be with her. Ever the documentary filmmaker, he brought along a camera to record the final months of his mother's life – something his mother strongly encouraged. She considered it a way to contribute to her son's future career, Erdal said. She even offered guidance on how to get better shots and which angles to film from.

"My mom was a very unique woman, and her approach to her death was unique," said Erdal, now 37, adding that his mother faced her death with great strength and, with her robust sense of humour and joie de vivre, she continued to be the family's support system. "She was sort of like a rock and everyone was falling apart around her," he said.

After his mother died at the age of 57, nine months after her diagnosis, Erdal returned to Vancouver. He had planned to create a film about his mother, but when he sat down with the footage he had collected, things did not quite go as planned.

"It was way too painful and close and too soon," he said of his first attempt at putting together the film. Erdal decided to put the project aside for a while, until he felt able to return to it.

In the meantime, film work in Vancouver was disappearing, and Erdal found himself working in theatre lighting design, something he had experience with from his work in Israel. As the years passed by, he became a renowned lighting designer, working on productions in Europe, North America and Israel.

Eventually, about six years ago, Erdal got the opportunity he had been waiting for to return to the footage he had of his mother. A friend of his named James Long asked to show some of the recordings as part of a workshop he was conducting on short performance pieces.

Erdal agreed to show the footage and to speak to the workshop's participants about his experience with his mother at the end of her life. He stood in front of the small crowd and translated from Hebrew, adding his own commentary as the images flickered across the screen.

It was then and there that the first seeds of what would become Erdal's most personal and important work were sown. After about five years of writing, editing and hard work together with Long, who became the show's director, Erdal finished the script for *How to Disappear Completely*, a one-man show documenting the end of his mother's life.

*How to Disappear Completely*, which was produced by Vancouver's The Chop Theatre and debuted at the 2011 Chutzpah! Festival, features Erdal on stage with a projection of his footage above him. The show is expertly lit by Erdal himself, and, in it, he interacts with his mother's filmed image and tells the audience about her.

"This show is the most important thing I've done in my life," said Erdal, who just completed a run of performances at Toronto's Factory Theatre. He explained that the show allows him to continue spending time with his mother even 12 years after her death, and to show others what an exceptional person she was.

"I think my show forces people to feel things," said Erdal, adding that at the end of each performance, he has audience members lining up to speak with him about their own experiences with grief and about how his show has helped them. "Now my experiences can touch other people, and that's really the most beautiful thing about theatre," he said.

Erdal will be taking *How to Disappear Completely* to Seattle next year and has plans to continue touring it as much as he can.

For more information about Erdal, visit www.itaierdal.com.

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# Behind the scenes at the National Ballet

**Vicky Tobianah**
Special to The CJN

Getting an inside glimpse of the world of ballet is a rare opportunity. But director and writer Moze Mossanen set out to give us just that in his latest film, which captures 10 dancers as they vie for the leading role in The National Ballet of Canada's production of *Romeo & Juliet*.

"The performance business is about perfection, and here I am using a medium to capture the dancers' imperfections and figure out what makes them tick," Mossanen said. "In the film, you see that these figures of perfection on stage are really quite human, and the things they thought were flaws are really what the audience can identify with."

The National Ballet of Canada opened its doors to a filmmaker for the first time for the movie, called *Romeos & Juliets*.

"No one really knows how casts are selected, and I thought this was a really great opportunity to show an audience what goes into a huge production like this," Mossanen said.

The film centres around five couples competing for the coveted opening night spot and follows their struggles as they undergo gruelling rehearsals to prove themselves. It premieres on CBC on June 7.

"When we first started filming in the summer of 2011, I had no idea what shape the film would take. It was a daunting prospect at first, given that I'd be dealing with a major ballet company and one of the most significant works ever created in history," Mossanen said.

He quickly realized that the film would stress the dramatic tension of selecting a cast for the opening night show.

"I hadn't heard about the concept of a third, fourth or fifth cast until I started making the film. When I asked the choreographer, Alexei Ratmansky, how it worked, he said they all learn these parts and some never get to play them."

Mossanen, 53, studied at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute and the Actor's Studio in New York. His first feature-length documentary, *Dance for Modern Times*, was critically acclaimed as one of the best dance films ever made in Canada.

"When people tell me I make dance films, it strikes me as a bit strange because I don't see them that way – my films are about stories," he said. "I made my name with a dance film 20 years ago and it's interesting to come back to it."

He is also drawn to stories with Jewish themes. "I did a film a few years ago called *Nureyev*, based on the life of the Russian dancer [Rudolf Nureyev]. As an Iranian Jew, I identified with his sense of displacement when he was exiled from his country and what he tried to do when he came to the West."

**Moze Mossanen**

Mossanen said his film provides a unique account of what truly occurs in the ballet industry. "*Romeos & Juliets* gave me the chance to not only return to the documentary genre but to observe even more closely the enormous physical and emotional challenges dancers experience in their lives.

"The professional life of a dancer is short and pain is a constant companion – yet the chance to enthrall an audience with a vision of perfection is what makes ballet so great."

# Singer/pianist Fern Lindzon at T.O. jazz fest

**Kathryn Kates**
Special to The CJN

It has been a banner year for Fern Lindzon. Just off a Juno Award nomination for her CD *Two Kites*, the jazz singer and pianist is performing at three shows at this year's Toronto Jazz Festival.

The Toronto singer's first date is as a quartet in a free outdoor concert at the Shops at Don Mills at 2 p.m. on June 23. She'll be performing with Bill McBirnie on flute, Mark Segger on drums and bassist George Koller, who played on and produced *Two Kites*.

"Bill McBirnie is a breathtaking flautist. It is always fun to feature Bill," Lindzon says.

"It is going to be in the afternoon. It will be more up-tempo and light… with more Brazilian music because Bill is phenomenal at playing it. We'll also be playing some fun standards… some Thelonious Monk."

On June 24, she'll be at Chalkers Pub at 8 p.m. with Mike McClennan on bass and David French on sax. The evening will include longer solos, more instrumentals and a few more ballads.

She performs as a duo with bassist McClennan at Musideum on June 28 at 8 p.m. "It is a fantastic venue. It is like a living room that seats 30 people," she says.

"Mike and I have been playing together for some time now – he has a beautiful feel. We have a really nice rapport. I want the concert to feel like an intimate conversation between, Mike, me and the audience."

**Fern Lindzon**

Lindzon's repertoire includes jazz standards, Brazilian melodies, klezmer instrumentals, Yiddish arts songs and her own compositions and arrangements, including some Yiddish and Hebrew that she's incorporated into a contemporary jazz context.

At all the performances, Lindzon will play excerpts from both her first CD, *Moments Like These*, and *Two Kites*, as well as new material.

Audiences will be treated to the title track from *Two Kites*, a rarely heard English tune written by Brazilian Antonio Carols Jobim, which she says is a wacky tune with a fun set of lyrics.

Lindzon also plans to include an arrangement of the Yiddish folk tune, *Dona, Dona*, inspired by a sonata by composer Nikolai Medtner and *Hang Gliding* by New York-based composer and big-band leader Maria Schneider. *Hang Gliding* is in an unusual time signature, and that's the same timing that Lindzon decided on to perform *Dona, Dona*.

She will perform Rodger and Hart's *My Romance* and has composed a tongue-in-cheek verse that she calls *Moon in the Sky*, which she sings as a scat. Another favourite of hers is *Basin Street Blues*, which she has put her own spin on by changing the harmony, making it reminiscent of a steamy, sultry stroll down Basin Street.

Lindzon was the music director of the klezmer-swing act Sisters of Sheynville, and appeared at world music events in Canada, the United States and Poland. The Sisters won the Canadian Folk Music Award in 2008 for vocal group of the year.

Lindzon was commissioned to compose a jazz/klezmer original score for a sextet for Buster Keaton's *Sherlock Jr.* at the Toronto International Film Festival's Bell Lightbox in 2010. She will perform the Keaton movie music as part of a trio and speak about it at this year's Ashkenaz Festival in Toronto over the Labour Day weekend.

*For more information on Fern Lindzon visit www.fernlindzon.com. For the complete Toronto Jazz Festival lineup – the festival runs June 22 to July 1 – go online to www.tojazz.com.*


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# The pogrom in Baghdad is documented

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

In Arabic, the word *farhud* means a violent dispossession or mass killing.

A pogrom, in other words.

On June 1 and 2, 1941, the Jews of Baghdad were subjected to such an outburst of unbridled violence. Claiming hundreds of victims, it was probably the worst antisemitic incident visited upon the venerable Jewish community of Iraq, whose origins predate the rise of Islam in the Saudi peninsula.

American author Edwin Black contends it was a well-planned pogrom organized by Arabs aligned with Nazi Germany. He sets out his thesis in *The Farhud: Roots of the Arab-Nazi Alliance in the Holocaust* (Dialog Press), a book that delves into all its conceivable dimensions, and then more.

Black moves massive mounds of material, some tangential, to tell his important story. Since the primary theme of *The Farhud* is related to Iraqi Jews, Zionism, Palestine, Britain's imperial role in Iraq and Germany's ambitions in the Middle East, Black spends a great deal of time – too much time, in fact – examining all these issues.

Consequently, his 448-page book feels padded and overly long. But if you're patient, you'll be amply rewarded. *The Farhud*, for all its flaws, is a worthy addition to the historiography of the modern Middle East.

Black, a journalist who has previously dealt with the wartime period in books such as *The Transfer Agreement* and *IBM and the Holocaust*, starts cutting to the chase with his chapter on Germany in the Middle East.

Describing 19th-century Germany as "the Muslim's world's non-Islamic bulwark against Europe," he elaborates upon Germany's relationship with the Ottoman Empire and, later, its support of the Zionist project in Palestine.

Reaching the 1930s, he gets still closer to the main subject. Black writes about Arabs who sought out friendship with Nazi Germany, which, he points out, considered all Semites, whether Arab or Jew, at "the bottom of the racial ladder."

In this connection, he zeroes in on the grand mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, who was eager to establish ties with the new Nazi leadership so as to combat Zionism.

After analyzing Germany's quest for oil in the region, he pivots to Iraq, to which Germany had sold weapons and where a pro-British prime minister, Nuri al-Said, severed relations with Germany at the outbreak of World War II.

The plot thickens when Said is replaced by a pro-German figure, Rashid Ali al-Gaylani, the grand mufti's comrade-in-arms.

By his actions, Gaylani angered the British, whose influence in Iraq looms large. On May 6, 1941, Germany, having received an urgent appeal for help, dispatched aircraft and Luftwaffe personnel to Iraq. In desperation, Britain recruited David Raziel, a radical Zionist leader imprisoned in a British jail in Palestine, for a mission to destroy oil refineries in Iraq and thereby deny fuel to the Germans.

Tragically, he and three comrades were killed near a British military base in Iraq. Several days later, Adolf Hitler declared Germany's support for Iraq and its liberation from British colonialism. This was followed by Britain's decision to land forces in Iraq and Gaylani's and the grand muft's flight from Iraq. Germany was thus denied Iraqi petroleum for its imminent invasion of the Soviet Union.

With Germany's threat to Iraqi oil supplies vanquished, Britain sends troops to Vichy Syria to head off a possible advance by Germany into Syria and Lebanon. The Palmach, a Zionist strike force whose members include Yitzhak Rabin and Moshe Dayan, takes part in this operation. In the process, Germany loses a potential base in the Middle East.

At this juncture, Black finally sets the stage for the *farhud*.

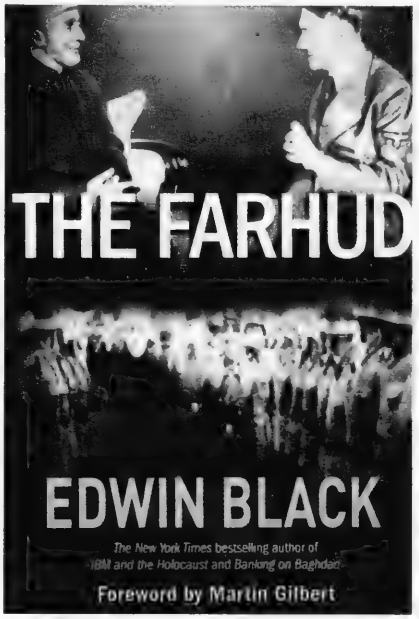
By 1941, 87,000 Jews lived in Iraq and nearly half resided in Baghdad, the capital. Having arrived in Mesopotamia 2,600 years earlier, they were fully integrated into Iraqi society and did not identify with Zionism. "Iraqi Jews, like most Jews in Arab lands, were genuinely anti-Zionist," he says.

Backtracking, Black offers a brief account of Nazi activities in Iraq in the 1930s.

On the eve of World War II, Fritz Grobba, Germany's chargé d'affaires in Baghdad, wired a report to Berlin claiming that Iraqi Jews were agitating against German and Italian interests in Iraq.

Grobba, having converted an Iraqi Christian newspaper into a Nazi organ that had published Hitler's *Mein Kampf* in installments, warned in his missive that Jews should exercise caution. As he put it, "If the Jews continue to make it difficult for Iraq with their deeds, a day will come when the anger of the masses will erupt, and the result will be a massacre of Jews."

Returning to 1941, Black writes that intimations of a pogrom ominously emerged when Jews


THE FARHUD
EDWIN BLACK
The New York Times bestselling author of
IBM and the Holocaust and Banking on Baghdad
Foreword by Martin Gilbert

were accused of collaborating with Britain, and Arab mobs broke into a Jewish hospital in a futile search of coding machines.

There is more.

Pro-Nazi Iraqis drew up lists of Jews in Baghdad and marked Jewish homes with blood-red symbols to guide pogromists.

Meanwhile, with British soldiers battling Gaylani's forces, the Iraqi regent who had been recently ousted returned to Iraq under Britain's protection.

He was greeted by, among others, a delegation of Iraqi Jews who had come to pay their respects. Iraqi troops in attendance attacked them with knives and axes, but a planned pogrom dissolved into a spontaneous *farhud* as frenzied mobs murdered Jews in Baghdad. Women were raped. Men were beheaded. Babies were dismembered.

In many instances, Black notes, regular police either joined the killing spree or declined to interfere. Aghast by the violence, Baghdad's mayor phoned the regent and beseeched him to order loyal army units to suppress the *farhud*. By one estimate, as many as 600 Jews were killed.

Black claims that the *farhud* became "a cherished event among Arabs in Baghdad, not a source of shame." He adds that the pogrom was a "turning point in Arab hatred for Jews" inasmuch as it inspired further pogroms in the Islamic world.

"Hitler's war against the Jews of Europe came to a colossal, toppling demise on May 5, 1945, when the Third Reich finally cracked" he observes. "But it continued throughout the Arab world as the forces of hatred refused to subside. It still burned fiercely in Arab capitals as a million Jews in Muslim lands were targeted for persecution, expropriation and expulsion during the several years after the 1948 birth of the State of Israel."

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# Novelist Morley Torgov hasn't quit his day job yet

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

For close to 40 years now, Morley Torgov, 84, has lived two distinctly different lives, juggling law with writing.

By day, from about 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. five days a week, he practises general commercial law in his downtown Toronto office, handling corporate work, working on real estate contracts and drawing up wills and trusts.

"Once I get home, my law office may as well be on another planet," he said. "It's not hard to disengage from law. I can compartmentalize my life."

At night, after dinner and a drink with his wife, Anna Pearl, and on Saturday and Sunday mornings as well, he assumes his other identity as a novelist, spinning elaborate plots and creating complex characters.

"I won't tell you how many hours I spend daydreaming," he said, suggesting that his professional career may be an adjunct of his love affair with the written word.

Torgov, a lawyer since the mid-1950s, published his first book, *A Good Place to Come From*, in 1974. A memoir of growing up Jewish in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., it struck gold, having won the 1975 Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour.

He rewrote *A Good Place to Come From* six or seven times, thereby setting a precedent for himself. "The only way to write is to edit yourself mercilessly," he said.

In 1983, six years after the publication of his second book and first novel, *The Abramsky Variations*, he won his second Leacock prize for *The Outside Chance of Maximilian Glick*, which was adapted for the screen and television as a feature film and a CBC series, *Max Glick*.

Torgov's next novel, *St. Farb's Day*, (1990), was nominated for a Leacock award, as was his young adult novel, *Stickler and Me* (2002).

The novel he wrote between these books, *The War to End all Wars* (1998), was in part based on his father's experiences as a soldier in the Russian army from 1914 to 1917 in World War I.

"I started off aiming at a Jewish audience," he said in an interview in his midtown home. "But after my fifth book, I didn't want to focus on Jewish topics any more. I'd been there and done, had come to the end of the line and felt I had to branch out."

So, in a leap of faith, Torgov decided to reinvent himself and become a crime novelist. In 2008, the first of his Inspector Hermann Preiss detective novels, *Murder in A-Major*, appeared.

As he describes him, Preiss is an articulate, clever and sophisticated 40- something German who has transcended his miserably humble origins and worked his way up the greasy ladder of success.

And as its title may suggest, *Murder in A-Major* is musically infused, turning on a plot to drive the composer Robert Schumann insane and involving his wife, Clara, his protégé Johannes Brahms and a fellow composer, Franz Liszt.

The second novel in the Hermann Preiss mystery series, *The Mastersinger from Minsk* (Dundurn) is due to be published on June 16 and concerns no less a figure than the composer Richard Wagner and a scheme to murder him on the day of the première of his opera, *Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg*.

To Torgov, Wagner is one of the greatest geniuses of all time, his antisemitism notwithstanding. As he put it, "He has always fascinated me. He was a marvellous musician, but a deplorable human being, a quintessential scumbag."

Torgov is currently working on his third Hermann Preiss novel, the tentative title of which is *Key Witness*. Franz Liszt and P.T. Barnum, the American circus impresario, are the central characters in a book that unfolds in New York.

As he pointed out, the Hermann Preiss series is steeped in historical facts and based on extensive research.

**Morley Torgov**

Being old school, he gathers his material from books rather than on the Internet. Amazingly enough, two of the books he still dips into were presented to him as bar mitzvah gifts in 1940.

The Preiss series is set in the 1850s and 1860s, one of the richest and most productive eras in the annals of classical music, when rivalries between composers were sharp and even vicious.

Torgov turned to the crime genre for commercial and personal reasons.

"Detective stories are popular, so I jumped on the bandwagon," he explained. "But I've always been interested in classical music. I started taking piano lessons at the age of six or seven."

Torgov was born in 1927, three years after his father, a Ukrainian immigrant, arrived in Canada and the year he set down roots in Sault Ste. Marie, where he owned two retail clothing stores.

"He wanted me to become a doctor, but my goal was to be a journalist," Torgov recalled. "Law was really a compromise. I had to make a buck."

Not enamoured of its cold winters and remote location, Torgov was glad to leave Sault Ste. Marie, which had 35 to 40 Jewish families in a population of 25,000 when he departed in 1947 to study at the University of Chicago.

Recalling his hometown, he mused, "It was a good place to get out of. It was too confining. I couldn't wait to leave."

As a young man, Torgov disliked the routine and outdated language of the law. "But the older I got, the more confidence I had in my profession."

He has no intention of retiring. "They'll have to carry me out of my office," he said, noting that his law practice has kept him intellectually sharp and in touch with friends and acquaintances.

Writing has fulfilled him, even if royalties have not always met his hopes or expectations. Yet he has no desire to devote himself solely to his pastime. "I couldn't sit in a garret writing all day," added Torgov.

Oddly enough, *Murder in A-Major*, translated into French, Greek and Korean, has sold more copies in South Korea than in any other country.

"Sales in Canada have been fair. Not as much as I wanted," he said.

His most commercially successful books have been *The Outside Chance of Maximilian Glick* and *A Good Place to Come From*, both of which have gone through several hardcover and softcover editions. Although not quite as popular, *St. Farb's Day*, a novel revolving around a Jewish lawyer, was the recipient of the Toronto Book Award.

Since 1984, Torgov has donated 15 batches of his literary working papers – drafts of books, memorabilia and correspondence – to the Ontario Jewish Archives. "Its efforts at storage and preservation have been marvellous," he said. "It's a first-rate organization."

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# Montrealer revitalizes Canadian snooker

**David Lazarus**
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — Watching Patrick Guigui prepare for a shot on the expansive green baize surface of a regulation size snooker table at Le Skratch, a billiards hall in a non-descript strip mall on Montreal's West Island, you'd be hard-pressed to realize that he's on a mission to bring the cue sport "to the next level."

That's the phrase that's posted on his snookercanada.com website, and it's Guigui who is almost single-handedly and methodically reviving the sport in Canada – he's even resurrected its Canadian governing body.

But it's no "fast break."

"It is a lot of work," conceded Guigui, who at 42 is a highly ranked snooker player – he recently won a Quebec class A tournament – and is juggling life as a web-based importer-exporter and as a very busy husband and father of two-year-old twins.

Yet, as Guigui says, snooker and everything about it is becoming an increasing part of his working day.

"Not many people know it, but snooker is the third-most-popular watched Euro-sport," said Guigui, who grew up in Cote St. Luc and attended United Talmud Torahs and Wagar High School.

"It's booming all over the world. In China, snooker is huge, with 100 million players."

Almost more than anything else, Guigui wants to convey to the public at large the senses of refinement, elegance and sophistication that are intrinsic to the way snooker is played and to how tournaments are conducted around the world.

In other words, the game is far, far removed from the stereotypical image of the dank, dark pool hall, with its smelly air and floors sticky from spilled beer.

Snooker is anything but that.

In tournaments around the world, Guigui pointed out, players wear bow ties and referees adjudicate. The game itself is characterized by finesse, and the ambiance at the table and among onlookers is hushed and respectful.

It's "a gentleman's game," Guigui said.

The sport itself, which essentially involves the methodical pocketing of differently coloured snooker balls in a specific order, calls for a larger table – 6 feet by 12 feet – with balls and pockets slightly smaller than other billiard games.

Guigui was so impressed by Mordecai Richler's last book, *On Snooker*, which seemed to perfectly capture the essence and artistry of the sport, that he recently spent months lobbying for, and finally obtaining, the go-ahead from Richler's son, Daniel, to name a planned snooker tournament after his late father.

It's a tournament that Guigui said he hopes to see played in 2013 at an appropriate venue befitting the image the sport deserves, such as Place des Arts or even the Segal Centre.

"I saw one hall at Place des Arts that would be perfect for it," Guigui said.

At Le Skratch, Guigui has used his influence to get two regulation-sized snooker tables placed in the back room, with space for several more. "I really want to reverse the trend of playing on small tables," he said.

Guigui said he has spent more than a year trying to burnish a new shine on a sport that declined over the last 20 years, in particular since the death of Armand Barbeau, who headed the Canadian Federation of Snooker.

"When he died, nobody took over," Guigui said. "The federation died too."

Guigui's work involved creating Snooker Canada and then seeking and obtaining its recognition by Sports Canada as snooker's official governing body. It has also included seeking potential Canadian television broadcasters for snooker.

Years ago, he noted, snooker tournaments were broadcast (and were popular) on the CBC. Now he's working to get networks such as TSN and Réseau des sports (RDS) to start showing them again – a must for corporate sponsorship.

Guigui is getting a lot of his support from Barry Hearn, a legendary sports event promoter in the United Kingdom who, until a couple of years ago, was the international head of World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.

**Patrick Guigui sets up a snooker shot.**

"Snooker is a beautiful television sport," Guigui said. "What I am doing today would not have been possible without Barry Hearn."

It all seems a far cry from the first time Guigui picked up his first pool cue as a 15-year-old teen.

"I immediately saw that snooker was the game I preferred," said Guigui, who actually gave up the sport for 17 years after moving to the United States for a number of years.

Although Richler's book showed him to be a true connoisseur of snooker and reminded the world that deep down, he was also a guy who loved to hang out at pool halls, it was also a reminder of the historic affinity between Jews and cue sports.

Montrealer Leo Levitt was the first amateur snooker player to achieve the maximum "break" of 147, Guigui recalled.

That took place in November 1948, at the now-defunct Windsor Bowling alley.

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# Grandmaster loses tiebreaker

JTA

**Boris Gelfand**
***[Flash90 photo]***

**MOSCOW** — Israeli grandmaster Boris Gelfand lost in a tiebreaker in the title match of the World Chess Championship in Moscow.

Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand of India defeated Gelfand, 2-1/2 to 1-1/2, in the four-game rapid chess tiebreaker last week. They had finished the 12-game championship match in a stalemate.

Gelfand, 43, a Belarus native who came to Israel in 1998, won the World Championship 2012 Candidates Tournament in Kazan, Russia, as the fourth seed in May 2011, allowing him to advance to face Anand in the World Chess Championship of 2012.

Anand will take home $1.5 million and Gelfand $1 million (all figures US).

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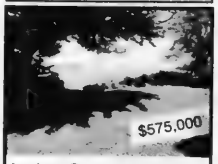


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**ASSOCIATED QUIZMASTERS: Associated Hebrew Schools' Kamin Education Centre in Thornhill recently held a day-long school-wide culmination of its Israel Chidon, a quiz program that saw students learn facts about Israeli geography, history, symbols, personalities, vegetation and achievements. Students competed in class and then in grade-wide contests. Pictured, front row from left, are contest winners Joshua Zadik (Grade 3), Jacob Phillipson (Grade 2), Jordyn Lasko (Grade 5), Brandon Taitz (Grade 1), Lior Hazanov (Grade 2), Jacob Goldschmied (Grade 1) and Roni Rapaport (Grade 4). Also pictured, at rear from left, are judges Gad Alon of the Israeli Consulate in Toronto; Rabbi Mark Smiley, Associated's director of education; Anat Uzzan, Israel's aliyah office representative to Canada, and Aviva Reifler, JNF representative to Canada.**

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# York grads launch bus service to Ontario parks

**Riva Gold**
Special to The CJN

What happens when the only way to access Ontario's most beautiful natural sites requires you to pollute? York University alumni Alex Berlyand and Boris Issaev work every day to answer that very question.

The outdoor enthusiasts have created Parkbus, a not-for-profit network of transportation that connects Toronto to Ontario provincial parks through a system of express buses.

"Not only do we help people get to Algonquin Park, we also allow people to connect via ferry to all kinds of outdoor places in the province," says Berlyand.

Berlyand, now in his late 20s, developed a passion for the outdoors from a very early age. He was only five years old when his family moved from Ukraine to Israel, which he describes as his first real home.

Growing up in Haifa, his family spent weekends exploring the country through hiking trails, which taught him to appreciate the value of his natural surroundings.

"My parents could never spend a weekend just sitting at home in front of the TV," he recalls. "Hiking up the mountains, walking, climbing – it's what led me to love the outdoors so much."

In 2001, Berlyand and his family moved to Canada, arriving just as a snowstorm was underway.

"I'd only seen snow in very small portions on rare occasions, so arriving in Toronto where everything was white and cold was a pretty terrible shock," he said.

Slowly, he grew to appreciate many of the province's parks and outdoor spaces, and wanted to share those experiences with others.

Issaev, also in his late 20s, moved to Toronto directly from Russia. While studying computer science at York, he spent a semester in France and noticed how easy it was to reach outdoor destinations by public transit.

It was this exchange experience that helped Issaev conceive of the idea for Parkbus. After easily travelling across France without a car to hiking trails and campsites, he realized how few options there were in Canada for people trying to get to places like Algonquin without a car.

After connecting with fellow York grad Berlyand on Facebook, the two started travelling together and worked on Issaev's plan.

"It's funny, because Boris and I went to Newtonbrook High School together, but we were not friends at the time," Berlyand says.

"Then years later, it was one of those situations where you have someone on Facebook and you're not even sure how you have them there. I started noticing that he was travelling many places, and I was planning on doing a hiking trail at a provincial park, so we started chatting and nature-climbing together. That's when he discussed the idea of the project with me."

Alex Berlyand

Looking back, the pair had very few resources to launch their not-for-profit.

"We started as just two guys with an idea," Berlyand recalls. "But we knew that a place like Canada, which had so many parks to explore, would need a good transportation network to get there."

Without tremendous capital or experience, the pair conducted research at Mountain Equipment Co-op and launched a pilot project connecting Toronto to Algonquin in the summer of 2010. Soon after, Transportation Option, a non-profit organization that promotes sustainable tourism and transportation in Ontario, adopted Parkbus under its umbrella.

"It was a challenge to really bring all these partners together, and to serve as middle men between large organizations like Ontario Parks as well as bus providers, equipment providers and a bus company," says Berlyand. "But we are incredibly grateful for their support."

The following year, they launched 10 weekend trips to Algonquin Park and secured a two-year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. They also received support from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, which allowed them to send buses to Grundy Lake and Killarney Provincial Parks in addition to their buses to Algonquin and Bruce Peninsula.

Boris Issaev

"This is really helping us grow over the next few years," says Berlyand. "We're expanding to new destinations and offering far more dates and flexibility."

Though they don't offer tours, the buses are staffed by volunteers who assist with pickups and drop-offs and help answer passengers' questions.

"I feel like going back to my childhood. Growing up and travelling to all these places and hiking helped form my perspective," says Berlyand. "Being outside generally makes people more active and is something everyone should do more often. We have such a beautiful backyard, so many beautiful parks in Ontario where we can go hiking, take canoe trips. Once I started going, I realized how amazing it could be, and that there are many people here who have never been able to go."

Over time, Berlyand and Issaev realized that their services were helpful for people in very different demographics.

"We originally thought Parkbus would be mostly appealing to young backpackers," says Berlyand. "But it's not just young people. We have had families who live in downtown Toronto who didn't have cars join us, and we even had an 80-year-old."

Berlyand says Parkbus has also attracted a number of international tourists.

"There's a growing number of people discovering Parkbus from Germany or the U.K. who have heard of the park but don't know how to get to Algonquin. There is really nothing else for them to use."

Despite their successes, Berlyand says starting a grassroots initiative has been an uphill battle. The key, he says, is to never stop pushing for what you feel is a worthwhile project or initiative.

"From the start, we had a strong belief in our idea and knew it had potential," he says. "It boiled down to just calling people up, e-mailing them, arranging lots of meetings, being persistent. If you have a good idea, then people will see it as a good idea and will be able to help you down the road."

Looking forward, the pair hopes Parkbus can someday become a self-sustainable, wide-scale transportation network that offers an environmentally friendly way of getting people to these outdoor destinations.

"We hope to reduce the ecological footprint and educate people about a greener way to travel," he says. The two also hope to build a more extensive network connecting Algonquin Park and other destinations to Ottawa and Toronto.

For more information, visit www.parkbus.ca.

*More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca*

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# Celebrate all that love

**Dear Ella,**

I'm getting married in October and my guest list is a bit unusual. In attendance will be my two mothers and three fathers. This happy bunch is the result of my mom's three marriages and my dad's two marriages.

Let me explain. My mom, Linda, and dad, Paul, divorced when I was five years old. My mom remarried, and I was primarily raised by her and my stepfather, Brian. Three years ago, my mom and Brian split up, and she's now with her new partner, Rob.

My dad, Paul, remarried Eve when I was a little girl, and I spent a lot of time with them over the years. What's funny about all this is that I love them all. They are all wonderful people and are important in my life. What's even more unusual is that they all like each other and get along very well at family functions.

Now that you know the background, here's the problem: I want them all to play an important role in my wedding. Larry, my fiancé, is fine with whatever I decide.

Who walks me down the aisle? Can they all be in my wedding party? What about the head table and the speeches? The invitation is a whole other nightmare! It's very complicated, and I don't want to hurt anyone, as I love them all.

**Lots of Lovin'**

**Dear Lots of Lovin',**

The addition of stepparents is not so unusual. What makes this unique is that they all get along. Of course, this works in your favour.

For the invitation, the phrase "together with their families," could be used, as there may be too many names to mention. A professional invitation person will have options for you to choose so your wording can reflect exactly what you want.

Now let's tackle the wedding party. Since they're all very special to you, you may want them all to take part in your ceremony. Perhaps the married couples could each march down the aisle and Brian, whom I assume did not remarry, can walk down on his own. Both Linda and Paul will stop in the centre of the aisle while their spouses continue to their seats in the front row or stand under the chupah –your choice. Linda and Paul, your biological parents will wait for you to come down the aisle, and they should walk you up to the chupah.

For the head table, if you want them there with you, just add more chairs. Remember: this is your wedding and you can do it your way.

Speeches can be a little tricky. For the sake of the guests, you don't want too many speeches. Possibly a short toast from some could be an alternative? How about having a pre-wedding meeting with everyone and do a little brainstorming? All the "*steps*" may even come up with a cute group speech.

An experienced wedding consultant can help with suggestions and proper execution. The most important thing to remember is this is your day. It can be as creative and meaningful as you and Larry want it to be. You don't have to follow "wedding etiquette." You're a lucky woman to have so much love in your life. Celebrate it!

***Ask Ella***

***By Ella Burakowski***

*Readers may submit their questions to Ella at* The CJN *e-mail: ellacjn@gmail.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*


**SOBA NOODLE KUGEL**

**1/3c oil (not olive)**
**1 small onion, finely chopped**
**4 green onions, finely chopped**
**12 oz. package soba noodles**
**4 eggs, beaten**
**1 tsp. salt**
**1 tsp. pepper**

Heat 2 tbsp. oil in pan. Add onions and saute on medium heat until translucent. Cook noodles per package directions, rinse, drain and toss with 1 tbsp. oil; allow to cool 15 min.
Mix eggs with salt and pepper and add to noodles. Preheat oven to 375°. Pour the rest of the oil into a 9"×9" baking dish or loaf pan. Heat pan with oil until hot. Pour noodle mixture into pan and bake 45 min. or until golden.

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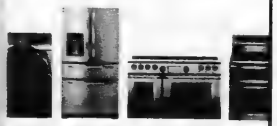

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## On cjnews.com

*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

Two Herzliah High School students recently won a bronze medal and a scholarship at the recent Canada-Wide Science Fair in Charlottetown. They will be going to Australia in January 2013 to present their project at the Australian National University science fair.

Chartered accountant Ilana Edery will participate in this year's Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer to help raise funds for cancer research.

*Exclusive to cjnews.com*

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tassassa says the influx of asylum seekers from Africa threatens Israel's delicate social fabric.

Web columnist Masada Siegel speaks from experience when she says that writing a book is a lot like dating.

On June 7, 2005, Peter Lewin, a little-known doctor and scientist died all too young. Though a pediatrician by trade, he was a pioneer in the field of paleopathology, a field that employs modern medical investigative techniques to unlock secrets within human remains.

A constitutional challenge by Jewish and other parents of Quebec's ban on religious instruction in publicly subsidized daycares has yet to be heard one year after it was first launched.

# Driving and aging

Last February, the media gave headline-grabbing coverage to the fact that many older drivers are on the road despite problems with their cognition, and it was claimed that doctors are not doing enough to address the problem.

Reports in the *Toronto Star* and on CTV News stated that the rising proportion of aging drivers with cognitive impairments, according to a Queen's University study, is expected to double from its current 45,000 to almost 100,000 in 2028. In response, some letters to the editor called for swift action, while others said we should be careful not to be "ageist" and turf safe older drivers off the road.

Those of us involved in the care of the aged are aware that driving can be a critical issue in an older person's life in terms of self-respect, independence and the ability to carry out some of their ordinary and necessary activities, such as shopping. This is especially true for those who do not have a supportive family or friend network or live in rural areas. But it's not an easy task for healthcare providers who are entrusted to carry out the Motor Vehicle Act, as it pertains to medically compromised patients, and it carries enormous responsibility and implications.

During a recent clinic, my medical trainees and I saw three patients in a row whose reason for being there included the question of their suitability to drive. As I listened to the case histories presented by the trainees, I realized that there might be an issue with driving. As noted in the *Star* article, many of these people, like the patients being evaluated that afternoon, were sent to me because of a concern about their cognitive function. When their histories revealed that they were either still driving or had stopped "temporarily," I could anticipate a difficult interview, depending on how much of a "shock" it would be that the issue of driving would be broached when some thought they were coming to me for a "general geriatric checkup."

***Senior Side of Life***

***Michael Gordon***

What was of interest in this cohort of patients, all of whom were accompanied by family members, was that bringing up the issue of driving did not seem to come "out of the blue." Some were cognitively intact enough to be aware that there was some "stuff in the news" about driving and older people.

One patient had stopped driving "temporarily" because of what was deemed a short-term medical problem, which in fact was related to cognitive decline, and another said she had already "given thought" to no longer driving. I was taken aback, because she used terms that I often use to help convince patients who are reluctant to make the change while they still think they have a choice. She responded to my mention of driving with, "I am paying a lot of money to keep the car to get me to the supermarket and back."

It is important for everyone to recognize, especially the families of elders for whom driving may become an issue because of cognitive decline, that physicians will have to become more diligent in dealing with patients with cognitive decline. There can no longer be an acceptance of overlooking the issue and trying to "protect them" from the harsh reality of no longer being able to drive. This has to be done in as sympathetic, supportive, but also law-abiding manner as possible. Public safety must always be the highest priority.

*Dr. Michael Gordon is medical program director of palliative care at Baycrest and co-author with Bart Mindszenthy of* Parenting Your Parents (Dundurn Press). *His latest book,* Moments that Matter: Cases in Ethical Eldercare, *follows his previous book,* Brooklyn Beginnings: A Geriatrician's Odyssey. *All can be researched at his website: http://www.drmichaelgordon.com.*

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# Scottish Jews favour tartan tallit, kippot

**Barbara Silverstein**
Special to The CJN

Chuck Elnekave loves Scotland. He even took his wife to the Highlands on their honeymoon.

Last year, Elnekave went one step further. He celebrated Robbie Burns Day. Yes, it was a real celebration with all the trimmings, which also included a rare delicacy – kosher haggis.

And so it will come as no surprise for people to learn that Elnekave's store, The Israeli Source (905-482-2025), is the only retail outlet in Canada to carry tallit and kippot in the tartan of the Scottish Jewish clan.

These tartan items are included in the huge selection of Judaica available at The Israeli Source (www.israelisource.com), a 3,000-square-foot warehouse at 60 Doncaster Ave.

It's the place to find unusual items like the Scottish Jewish tartan, as well as a large selection of well-priced conventional Jewish items such as Jewish cookbooks in Hebrew and English, Jewish-themed giftware and novelty items, Shabbat candlesticks and holiday items like menorahs and Chanukah candles, and religious items like tallit, kippot and mezuzot. The store also offers a choice of housewares that include kosher kitchen gadgets that are colour-coded to facilitate kashrut

"We are a hybrid wholesale-retail outlet," explains Elnekave. "We give the consumer the opportunity to shop for all their Jewish needs, other than food at highly discounted prices.

"They can save from 20 up to 80 per cent on their purchases."

Another service the store offers is the opportunity for travellers to buy Israeli mobile-phone packages. People visiting Israel can purchase a phone and SIM card or rent a phone before they leave on their trip, says Elnekave.

The amount of money on the phone can be topped up with a credit card by calling a specified phone number, because calling cards are not recommended for cellphones. If you're planning a simchah, The Israeli Source is definitely the place to visit.

Elnekave says, "We help people doing bar and bat mitzvahs and weddings get what they need for their celebrations like ketubot, benchers, kippot and other simchah favours.

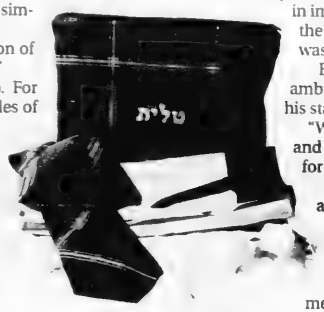
"We take care of the personalization of these items at a substantial discount."

And there's a wide selection, too. For instance, Israeli Source carries six styles of kippot.

Elnekave says many of the gift items sold are handmade in Israel. "I'm interested in finding unique things that you don't see everywhere.

"We try to get as much as we can from Israel directly. We meet up with artists making unique things."

Indeed, he might be walking in a shuk and see an unusual Judaica item, and then he may end up striking a deal with the artisan to carry the item at the store.



Israeli Source has it in tartan.

However, he stresses that The Israeli Source tries to cater to every budget so some of the Judaica items available are mass-produced outside of Israel.

Elnekave and his wife, Barbara, founded The Israeli source five years ago.

He calls The Israeli Source a marriage of his two backgrounds. "We took two things from our backgrounds and marketed them together."

His Israeli-born parents run an importing company that primarily brings in food from Israel, while he and his wife had both worked in the Judaica business. And so they formed a new company that imports Judaica, mainly from Israel.

"I basically know Judaica. My family has the expertise in importing, wholesaling and how to reach the Jewish market. Thus the Israeli Source was born."

Elnekave says his clients appreciate the ambience of the store and the experience of his staff.

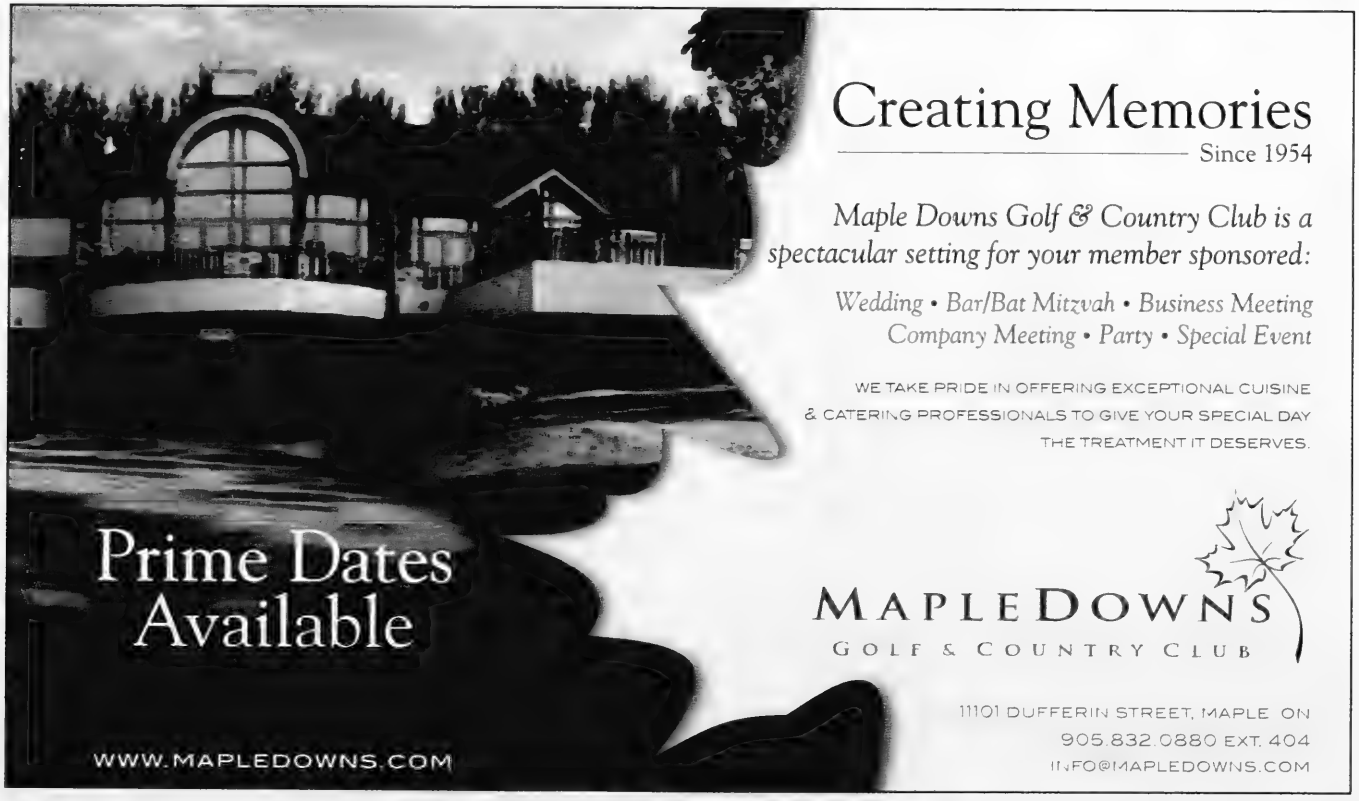
"We have a great working atmosphere and that creates a welcoming environment for our customers."

As for the Scottish Jewish tartan, it's an authentic piece of Judaica, says Elnekave.

He explains that a Scottish-born rabbi had a tartan registered with Scottish authorities to commemorate the Jewish community's long presence in Scotland.

"It's a novelty item. People buy it for the fun of it, but for many expatriate Scottish Jews, the tartan is something they're very proud of."

Along with the tartan, tallit and kippot, he carries kilts, golf balls and mouse pads. "The kilt is not a bestseller. It takes a certain kind of man to wear one. It's not in the North American tradition."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# You want it, they've got it

**Laura Fixman**
Special to the CJN

A bar or bat mitzvah isn't complete without great party favours or giveaways for the dance floor.

You may have an idea of what to get for your son or daughter's big day, but a visit to the right party supply store can help you stay on budget and choose from the hundreds of items available.

Former DJs Saul Sacks and Dan Jankelow started Incredible Novelties (416-663-9900, www.incrediblenovelties.com) because they wanted to use their DJ experience to help people make the best choice of prizes and giveaways for their child's bar or bat mitzvah.

Sacks said Incredible Novelties offers a unique perspective because all of their staff have been a DJ or a dancer in the special events industry.

**Dynamite has great items at competitive prices.**

"We understand how our products are used in the environment," Sacks said. "We all have experience behind us, so it helps our customers get the best bang for their buck."

Along with unique experience, Sacks said that Incredible Novelties has items that can't be found anywhere else. That includes a five-pound gummy bear, which Sacks said is the world's largest, as well as unique light-up pillows, yo-yo lip gloss and much more. He and Jankelow carry hundreds of items, ranging from 50 cents to $15, and if you don't see it in the store, Sacks said they can get it.

"People thank us for getting them exactly what they need," Sacks said. "We help make their party incredible and we make sure they're happy with what they got when they leave."

**Incredible Novelties offers a unique perspective.**

Sacks said that they are able to be so successful because they offer low prices and have great resources. He added that they've gotten great responses from people.

"The best thing people say is I'm telling my friends about you," Sacks said. "It's also great when they say they'll be coming back in a few years for their next kid."

If you have questions about the party favours you're looking for or just need a little help finding what you want, at Dynamite (905-669-7620, www.dynamiteparties.com), you'll get excellent customer services and great items at competitive prices. Owner Ken Gutman said it's important to listen to customers.

"You need to know your budget and I like people to be honest about what they want to spend," Gutman said. "We tell people to bring their children in because they're the ones that know their friends and it's a kid's party."

Gutman has 700 to 1,000 unique items, so he said there's something for everyone. He said some of the more popular items include Angry Bird Pillows, musical pillows and sequined flashing fedora hats.

He added that Dynamite gets a lot of repeat customers and that its most valuable form of advertising is word of mouth.

"The greatest thing is that when one person is happy they talk to their friends in the parking lot and tell them to go see Dynamite," Gutman said.

He added that the biggest change he's noticed in his business is that people are looking for quality items as opposed to quantity. He makes sure Dynamite gets both the right items and the right amount.

"I talk to people to get a feeling of what they're looking for," he said. "We want to make sure that people walk away happy."

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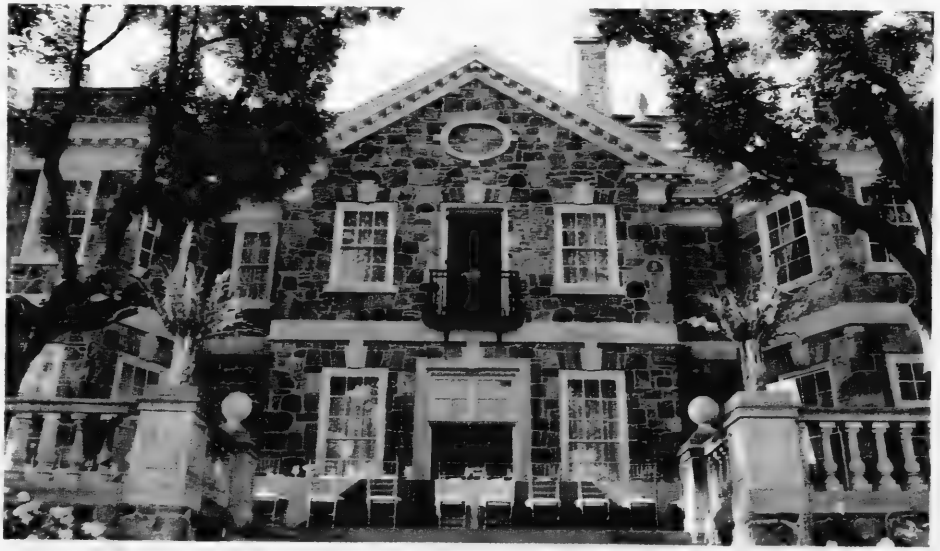

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# Rent the perfect touches for a memorable event

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

From table linens to cotton-candy machines, putting the right finishing touches on your perfect event is easy with hassle-free rentals from Susan Murray International and Kosher N Natural – The Candy Man.

Susan Murray International (416-243-9284, www.susanmurray.com) is proud to offer a huge range of linens, many of which have been designed by president Susan Murray herself. All linens are manufactured onsite at their Toronto facility.

Susan Murray offers a huge range of linens.

"We have an ability to understand the client's needs," said Murray. Providing everything from napkins and tablecloths to chair covers, backdrops and other party accessories like napkin rings and tufted pillows, Susan Murray International also partners with florists to help create a full décor experience, with the special design touch of Murray herself.

"We're able to create our own vision," said Murray. Drawing on years of event, hospitality and home décor experience, her team is well-equipped to style any venue.

To further accommodate growing interest in their products, which are also shipped and sold internationally, Susan Murray International is constructing a new showroom and manufacturing facility that is set to open in the fall. The 16,000-square-foot space will feature a showroom with workstations where clients can consult with event planners.

For Murray, having the space to consult and plan is important. As a designer, she is constantly planning the colours and patterns for her linen collections months in advance.

But it's not just tablecloths and chair covers that have to stay on trend. Jack Schnoll, the owner of Kosher & Natural – The Candy Man (416-789-7173), 3193 Bathurst St., Toronto, keeps his tasty event treats matched to your event's colour scheme.

"Everybody is colour co-ordinating," said Schnoll, who has been providing Toronto's Jewish community with a massive selection of kosher candy for the last 30 years.

The latest trend for desserts, especially at weddings, he said, is a colour co-ordinated candy treat table instead of a more traditional dessert table. "Cakes get stale, whereas candy lasts," said Schnoll.

Kosher & Natural has colourful tasty treats.

In addition to the colourful dessert tables, which come complete with loot bags for guests to pack away their favourite treats, Kosher & Natural specializes in renting out candy-making equipment.

They provide all necessary equipment and supplies, along with a "candy man" to run it, turning out treats like candy floss, snow cones, popcorn, soft pretzels and mini donuts. Schnoll said young people and adults alike love the freshly made delights. "Everybody's a child at heart – even the adults."

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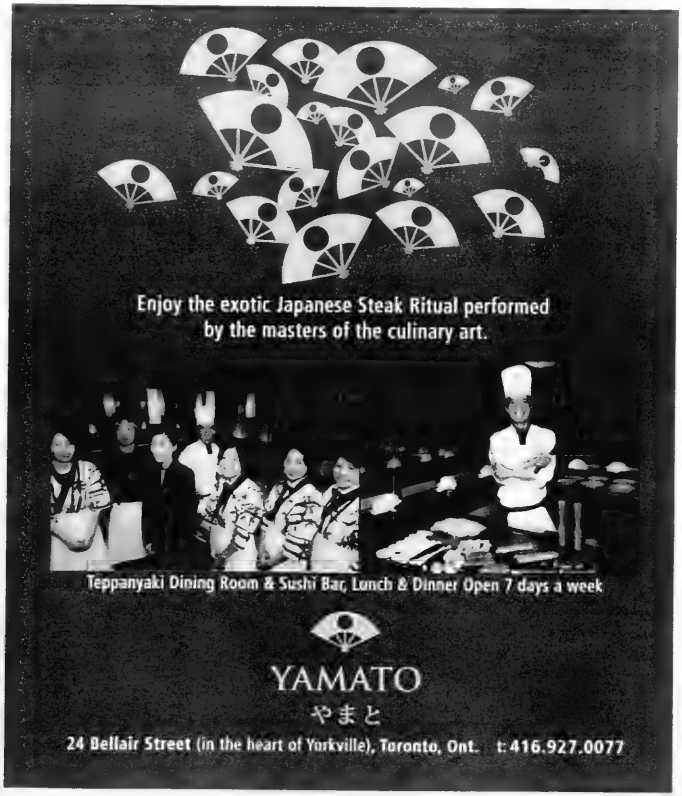
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# Pickle Barrel makes party planning easy

Michelle Bitran
Intern

Although many people have enjoyed tasty menus at Pickle Barrel restaurants, not everyone knows that they can enjoy the same quality food at one of the Pickle Barrel's two banquet halls.

The recently redecorated halls are at the Pickle Barrel's Markville and Leslie Street locations and are ideal for both parties and corporate affairs.

"It's very updated – it has new lighting, it has new walls," said Lilli Kazakow, the banquet manager of the Harold Soupcoff Room at the Markville location. The Harold Soupcoff Room is wheelchair accessible and has a capacity of 160 with a dance floor and up to 220 without one, but it can be booked for as few as 75 guests.

At the Leslie Street location, not wheelchair accessible, the Rose Room has been renovated and enlarged to seat from 60 to 120 people, with the dance floor.

"We keep updating as we go," said Tanya Murray, the banquet manager for the Rose Room, adding that, since the redecoration, the hall is "a lot more modern." She explained that bright colours have replaced the muted tones that once adorned the room, creating a stylish contemporary feel.

More than just great food and an elegant setting, each banquet hall offers a unique set of basic and premium party packages that may include everything from an event planner to bar bat mitzvah signing boards, DJ, entertainment, table linens and a complete buffet. Depending on the location, there are options for packages for corporate events, bar bat mitzvahs, weddings and even bris celebrations. The packages give party-throwers nothing to worry about with all the details of the celebration arranged by the Pickle Barrel staff.

**PICKLE BARREL**

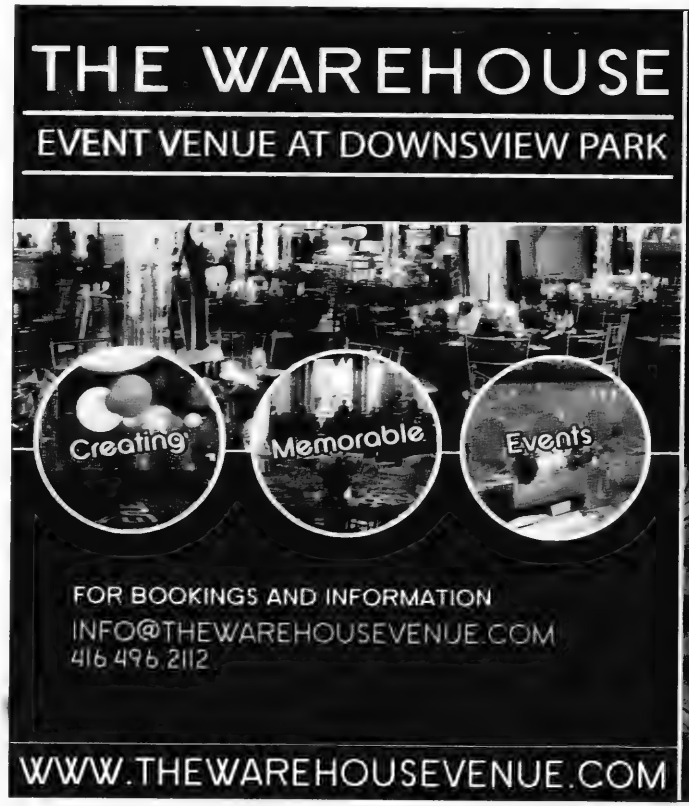
- √ Non Kosher
- √ Accessible
- √ Up to 200 person capacity

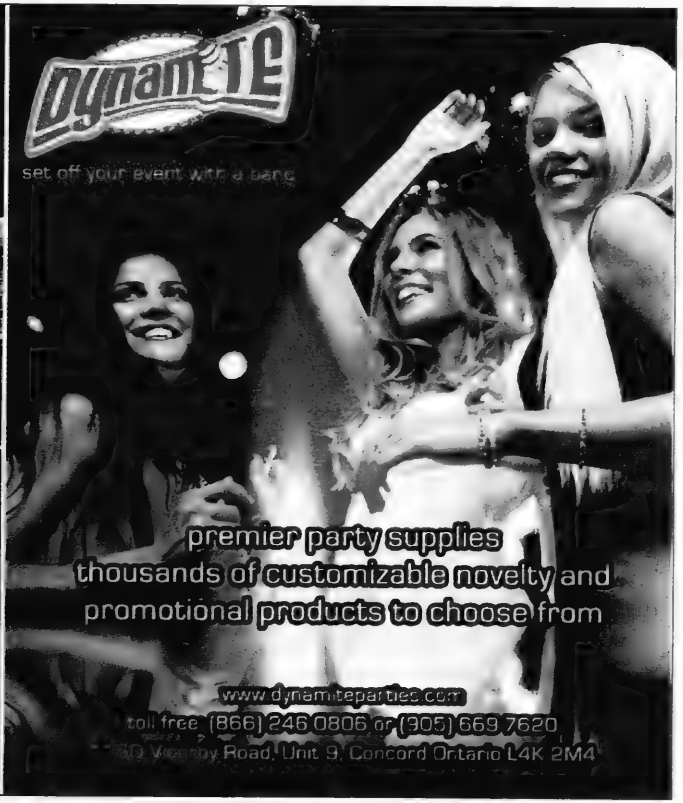
Murray said it's the convenience of the "all-in-one" packages, in addition to great service and fresh food, that has people flocking to the Pickle Barrel banquet halls to plan their events.

Some of the enticing fresh foods included in the Pickle Barrel's Ultimate Buffet package are a Mediterranean pasta salad, chicken fingers, a deli carving station and grilled vegetables. The buffet also includes a dessert table, with fresh fruit, a celebration cake and tasty pastries to satisfy any sweet tooth – the perfect way to end off any simchah.

The Harold Soupcoff Room at the Markville Pickle Barrel

For more information on the Pickle Barrel banquet halls, visit picklebarrel.ca/banquet or phone 416-990-5086 for the Harold Soupcoff Room and 416-493-4333 for the Rose Room.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# Spiritual celebrations in the Holy Land

Lauren Kramer
Special to The CJN

If your family has a bar or bat mitzvah on the horizon, Avi Rodak's advice is this: consider Israel.

"I can't think of a better place for a bar or bat mitzvah to be meaningful and rewarding for the whole family," says the vice-president of Toronto's Aufgang Travel (905-771-7800, www.aufgangtravel.com), which specializes in travel to Israel. "Whether you choose to have the ceremony at Masada or at another Jewish historical site, it will be so much more meaningful than a one-day party, and it will all be done as a family unit," he says.

Rodak says families considering a trip to the Holy Land should set aside 10 days to two weeks. "You can do the trip in less, but bear in mind that it takes a day to get there, a day to recuperate and a day to get back. So if you're going that far, you probably need 10 days to make it practical."

Travelers heading to Israel need to remember two things, he cautions. First, Israel is a small country, so you can get a lot done in a single day. Second, however, should your trip fall in the winter months, days are likely to be short and outdoor activities will be more limited. It can get dark as early as 4:30 p.m.

What it will cost depends on how you prefer to travel and how many people will be in your party. Aufgang Travel can arrange as many or as few of the details as customers prefer, including flights, airport transfers, sightseeing days with a driver, meal reservations, hotels, rabbis for the service, golf tee times and theatre tickets.

"I can't throw dollar figures on the table," says Rodak. "Every family is different and I need to discuss their expectations of hotels, what time of year they want to travel and how many days of sightseeing they want. There are lots of factors involved, and budget is absolutely one of them."

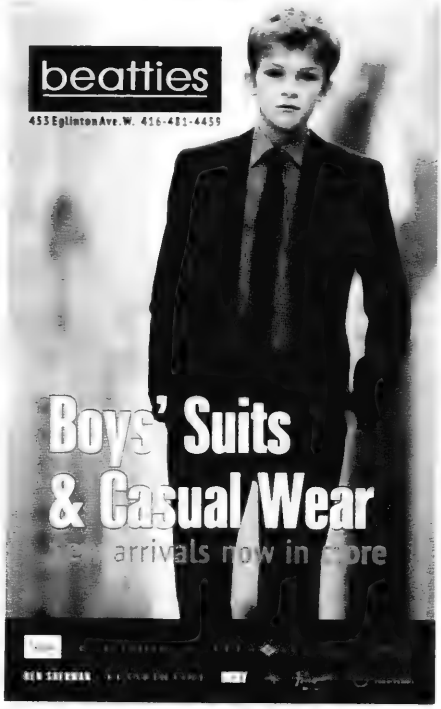
But there are financial advantages to celebrating in Israel as well, says Ami Lohr, owner of Amiron Travel, Payless Travel & Cruises and Go Israel Travel (416-840-0855, goisraeltravel.com). "The cost is definitely cheaper than handling the celebration in Canada," says Lohr, a former event planner and hotel executive who specializes in travel to Israel, especially for groups, pilgrimages and incentive travel.

Lohr says most spiritual celebrations in the Holy Land involve an average of 50 people. "If you throw a party in Canada and include food, beverage and band, you're running at over $100 per person," he says. "You'll cut your cost by nearly 50 percent by having the event in Israel – air excluded."

A bar or bat mitzvah at Masada is very meaningful

Lohr works frequently to organize receptions for families in premier venues like the Dan Carmel Hotel in Haifa, the Intercontinental in Tel Aviv and the Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem. "As a professional I can work step by step with the client and the Israeli vendors to make an event of a lifetime," he explains.

But for Lohr, Israel is more than just another venue. "By having your celebration in Israel, you get to introduce the country to your children and family as well. You give them the essence of Israel, something they will remember. You cannot compare it to anything else."

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# Park Hyatt Toronto has spent 76 years preparing for your gala event

To set foot in the Park Hyatt Toronto is to stand on hallowed ground graced by 76 years of simchas.

Think the folks at 4 Avenue Road have enough experience to handle your event?

For three generations, this Toronto landmark — a fixture at the corner of Bloor and Avenue Road since 1936 — has been the site of Toronto's most elegant weddings, engagement parties, Bar Mitzvahs and other special events.

In its first iteration as the Park Plaza Hotel, it set a standard for special events that is unsurpassed to this day. When the Park Hyatt chain purchased the property in 1999, great pains were taken to ensure a seamless transition.

How seamless?

Respect for tradition ruled the day. From the heritage fountain at the front entrance to the original wood panelling in the elevators, this grande dame has retained her old-world elegance and charm. Modern embellishments — from the exterior refacing to the world-class Stillwater Spa and Annona restaurant inside — compliment their regal surroundings. But the history requires no refacing. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a regular guest going back to the days of Murray's Restaurant, you can feel the character oozing from every pore of this edifice.

The longevity of staff speaks volumes about the positive energy at the Park Hyatt Toronto. Executive Chef Joan Monfaredi has called it home for 19 years — a lengthy span in an industry known for its transience. Ditto for Wedding Specialist Donald Hillis, now in his 10th year of service.

All Kosher food service inhouse: Kosher wedding cakes and pastries are baked on the premises

## Restaurant-style service a hit with guests

But don't mistake longevity for complacency. The Park Hyatt team never allows itself to "get comfortable", says Monfaredi. "We're highly motivated for every event. Our clients and wedding planners always want something new and exciting. We treat every meal like it's the culmination of our life's work."

"The Park Hyatt culture embodies attentive service, teamwork and courtesy," adds Hillis. "But it's not just a mantra; it's a way of life here."

As Toronto's only hotel with a fully operational Kosher kitchen, the Park Hyatt Toronto is one of Canada's only venues capable of handling all Kosher food service requirements in house. Standards are lofty; the finest ingredients are purchased, regardless of cost. Kosher wedding cakes and pastries are baked on the premises.

Monfaredi's talents have taken her the length and breadth of this continent and beyond. She has trained chefs at Hyatt hotels in Curaçao, St. Lucia, Las Vegas, Dallas, Vancouver and Calgary, and has been part of the official Super Bowl catering program the last seven years running.

So focused are Monfaredi and her team on catering to individual tastes that they offer restaurant-style service for most events. This places much greater demands on the kitchen and wait staff, but customer satisfaction has vindicated the practise, says Monfaredi. "The ability to serve meals made fresh to order adds an important dimension to event dining. Each person you've invited feels like a guest of honour."

Notwithstanding the boundless menu options at the Park Hyatt Toronto and the soaring popularity of regional cuisine, a few old favourites remain front of mind among the Park Hyatt Toronto's regulars. Were you to simply glance at the next table and "have what they're having," your main course might consist of a Ballotine of Chicken stuffed with Mushrooms, Spinach and Spanish Onions. Perhaps you'd accompany it by Chilled White Asparagus with Black Truffle Vinaigrette and Shaved Fresh Radishes, and an Arugula Bosc Pear Salad with Lemon Thyme Vinaigrette. For dessert, Molten Chocolate Cake drizzled with Raspberry Coulis and Chocolate Sauce would require little arm-twisting.

The Park Hyatt's main ballroom accommodates 285 guests, but it's the Roof Salon (120 guests) that elevates it above the crowd. The panoramic view of the city is unrivalled among special event venues.

## Offsite Kosher catering extends Park Hyatt's reach

The Park Hyatt Toronto's offsite Kosher catering has increased steadily in recent years, and now accounts for a significant share of their business. Their services are in demand at venues needing to serve Kosher meals but lacking a permanent Kosher kitchen.

Adding to the Park Hyatt's destinational cachet is its ability to accommodate your out-of-town guests. This is not just a place to spend the night; it's a retreat that says "Thank You" for having made the trip. The award-winning Stillwater Spa is rated top three among hotel spas in the Continental US & Canada by *Travel + Leisure* and Four Star by the *2012 Forbes Travel Guide*. A sojourn in the Stillwater will make your guests the envy of the bride and groom. Of course, packages including these amenities for the newlyweds are popular and readily available.

For more information about special events at the Park Hyatt Toronto, contact Wedding Specialist Donald Hillis at 416-324-1564. For reservations, call 416-925-1234 or visit parkhyatttoronto.com.

To traditionalists, the Park Hyatt Toronto is like an old friend who neither left the neighbourhood nor abandoned her old-school values. The children and grandchildren of those early guests, who are now embracing that history in planning their own milestone events, are thrilled to discover that what is old is also deliciously new.

*Wedding Specialist Donald Hillis and Executive Chef Joan Monfaredi. The fountain behind them was designated a heritage property by the City of Toronto in 1985.*

# One-stop party shops give you a leg up

Stephen Sweet
Special to The CJN

When it comes time to organize your party, there are a lot of things to take care of.

But if you can leave a single store with most of the items on your list crossed off, you're in good shape.

That's the advantage of one-stop party shops such as Party Supply Depot and Cody Party in Thornhill.

"Unlike all of these other places that call themselves 'one-stop party shops,' we do have everything that you need for a party," said Mel Grevler of Party Supply Depot.

"We don't provide music or food, but we do provide everything else."

Having been in business for 22 years, Party Supply Depot has consistently been on the cutting edge at providing for functions.

"We were the first in Toronto to come out with plastic plates, and now we have about 12 different kinds," Grevler said. "There are different appearances, colour schemes, and quality, with some of them looking more real than the real china does."

That's because Grevler puts in the work to find out what is – or soon will be – hot.

"I spend a lot of time travelling to find new items," Grevler said. "That's something important in this business, always trying to find something new. You see what they're talking about in the U.S. or overseas, and then try to locate a supplier for that.

"It's a massive store and you'll always find something new here."

He'll try to find you a good deal, too.

"Almost everything we sell is off-price, reduced in price from the manufacturer's suggestion," Grevler said. "We've tried to give as fair a price as possible on pretty much everything we can."

That includes balloons, of which only the finest will do.

"We only carry the very best quality balloons that are made in America," said Grevler, noting that Party Supply Depot was the first to discount balloons in Toronto. "They last longer and look more attractive.

"That's generally the way we go about everything in the store," Grevler added. "We try our best to give decent quality for a reasonable price."

Cody Party takes pride in being able to offer service to any customer in need.

"You come in here and you're not going to get [us telling you] to go here, or go over there," Cohen said. "Although we're not a party planner, we're able to help you with all aspects of the party, and we're there to help, not just point you in the right direction."

That means being able to provide assistance outside of the store as well, including full delivery and pickup service.

"We have some brand new tents for rentals that just came in, and we're getting ready with our cotton candy and sno-cone machines," Cohen said.

And when you're eating, Cody Party has enough variety so that your paper plates and tableware will blend into whatever colour scheme you're going for.

"We have a huge selection," Cohen said. "Because, for example, we have something like three different shades of green, it'll match into your theme, no matter what."

Cody Party is confident about what it carries.

"We're a bit higher-class of a supply party store," said Jacqui Cohen of Cody Party.

If you're not sure about something, just ask.

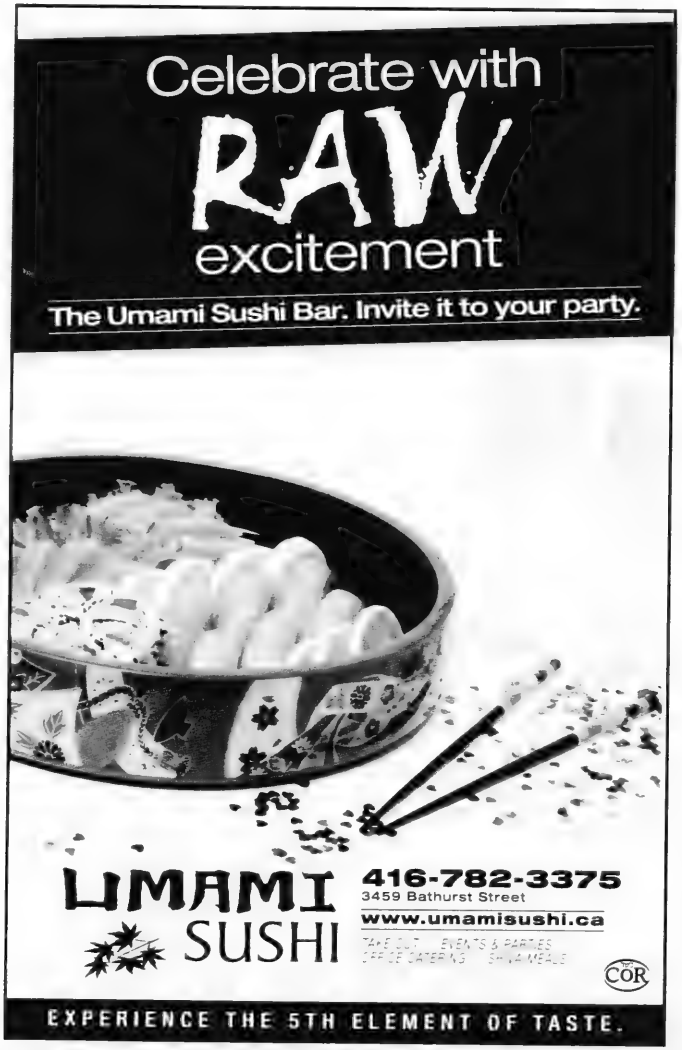
"Our sales staff is growing," Cohen said. "You usually see me here, and there's at least one person here who will always know how to help with any event."

Party Supply Depot (http://partysupplydepot.ca/) remains a fixture at 92 Doncaster Ave. in Thornhill. You can also reach the store by phone at 905-764-5457.

Cody Party (http://www.codypartythornhill.com/) is in the Coulters Mill Plaza, on the northeast corner of Clark Avenue and Dufferin Street in Thornhill. Its phone number is 905-669-0060.

Cody Party can help with all aspects of your party.

You'll always find what you're looking for at Party Supply Depot.

# Feed the hungry at your next event

Michelle Bitran
Intern

If you are looking for a unique way to give something back to the community at your next event, it could be easier than you think. Mazon Canada invites you to set a symbolic table for Canada's hungry at your next simchah.

The organization, named for the Hebrew word for "nourishment," is working to end hunger across Canada. Now in its 25th year, Mazon has allocated more than $7 million to organizations, both Jewish and non-Jewish, which are fighting hunger on the front lines.

Mazon suggests what it calls the "three per cent principle" when it comes to making donations from an event or simchah. Hosts are asked to contribute three per cent of their food costs from the event towards Mazon's efforts.

"We naturally ask for the food cost... It's just a way of remembering those who don't have food around their table," said Ida McLaughlin, national executive director of Mazon Canada. Mazon provides either place cards or table toppers, depending on the host's preferences, which inform guests of the wonderful mitzvah being performed through the simchah.

This coming November, Mazon will be hosting an event of their own to celebrate their 25th anniversary. The event will feature dishes from several caterers and Mazon is extending a special invitation to those planning simchahs to sample the different offerings in preparation for their own events. "It's really a good opportunity to try different caterers," said McLaughlin.

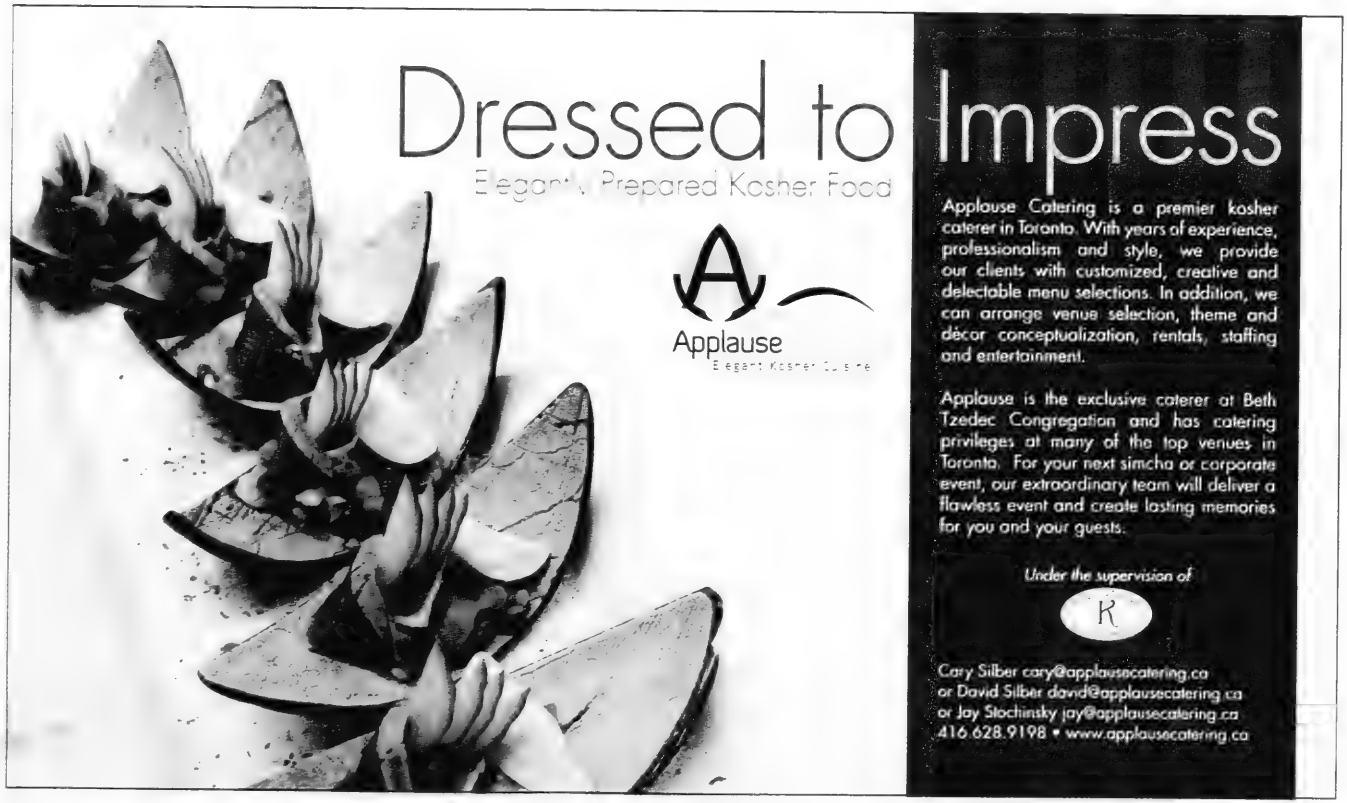
Another opportunity to contribute to Mazon's initiatives is through greeting cards, sent to friends, relatives or acquaintances to mark any occasion. The hand-written, beautifully decorated cards offer a greeting message and acknowledge a donation to Mazon in their honour.

According to McLaughlin, the idea of donating while celebrating is catching on, and people are always looking for important causes to contribute to. Event guests who see Mazon table toppers or place cards, or those who have received Mazon donation cards "are very respectful of the idea and want to do the same," she said.

A Mazon Canada greeting card

McLaughlin added that because Mazon's cause is universal, its urgency is clear: hosts are happy to help and to remember the less fortunate during their celebrations. "People feel really good about doing it. They feel really proud."

For more information, visit mazoncanada.ca, or call 416-783-7554.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# Registries offer Judaica and more

Vicky Tobianah
Special to The CJN

Whether you have an upcoming wedding, bar or bat mitzvah or even birthday, using a gift registry can help you get exactly what you need – and save your guests the headache of searching for the perfect present.

"For years, people would buy presents that you didn't want or they would ask you what you wanted and then get it for you," said Cole Diamond, founder and president of The Gift Network, 416-519-9186, www.thegiftnetwork.com. Toronto's largest gift registry, a free service which allows you to register with over 115 Canadian retailers in one centralized site. They are about to reach their 1,000th registration since going live three months ago.

"The average couple is living together for at least a year before marriage, so they already have the home essentials," said Diamond. "We have all heard stories of fine china piling up in cabinets. People really need to analyze their homes and life situation and understand what it is that they need – and then it's shopping time."

When debating where to register, Diamond recommends looking for registries that offer a wide range of options. "You don't have to stick to just one registry," he said. "The most important thing is to look inwards and understand what you need."

"Couples should also choose a registry that is user-friendly and easy to navigate," said Sarah Zeldman-Novak, giftware buyer and simchah consultant at Israel's The Judaica Centre, 416-256-2856, www.israelsjudaica.com, 875 Eglinton Ave. West, Toronto, or 441 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. "At Israel's, you can also have someone walk you through the process, pointing out items that you may not even think about but are necessary to start your Jewish home," she said.

Focus on items which will be used right away, but also consider long-term goals.

"While it is more immediately economical to look at purchasing items that may be less expensive, it is also very important to look at the long term and what your future needs will be," said Zeldman-Novak.

"Couples should stick to the basics – you don't need to register for five different challah covers, but you may want to register for a silver Kiddush cup which will last forever," she said.

Diamond hopes to revolutionize the gift registry industry and make it as easy as possible for people to get the gifts they actually want. For example, The Gift Network's "chip-in" feature allows guests to contribute a portion of the price of a more expensive gift.

Guests can also purchase a gift card to use at one of the many stores registered with the Gift Network, including Israel's. "I have a lot of friends who started their married lives living in an apartment. They knew they were going to move into a home eventually, but they didn't know when that would be and what type of furniture they would need in their homes," said Diamond.

"They would just register for a bunch of things they didn't need, and return them for store credit. Instead of doing that, we offer gift cards to the Gift Network which can be redeemed at any time."

Israel's registry is user-friendly and easy to navigate.

The Gift Network has a wide range of options.

While today's couples may be steering away from registering for fine china, traditional Judaica is still a must for every Jewish home, said Zeldman-Novak. "We have a lot of couples who register for sterling silver kiddush cups, seder plates, and lots of Judaica books and religious texts."

"While couples may not be hosting seders in their homes for a few years, they might want to register for a nice seder plate so they have a good quality piece they like and won't have to scramble around at the last minute," she said.

Young couples coming into Israel's are looking for items that are more modern looking, affordable, and of high enough quality to last for years without requiring much maintenance. "We recommend a 999 silver cup which is a good-quality item, less expensive and doesn't require as much cleaning as a sterling silver one," said Zeldman-Novak.

Most of all, choosing the gifts that will enhance your home together should not be stressful or challenging. "Take your time and have fun," said Zeldman-Novak.

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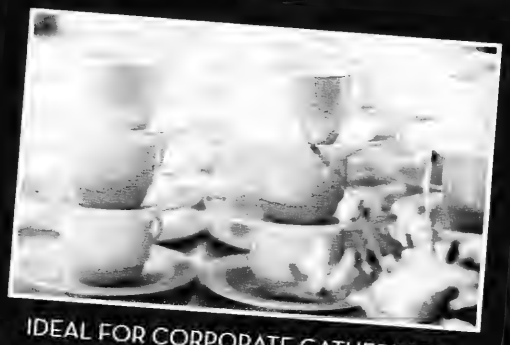

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A party at Airborne Trampoline Club may be just what you're looking for.

# A fun place to party

**Laura Fixman**
Special to the CJN

There's lots to think about when you're planning a simchah, but one of the main things you need to figure out is where you're going to have it. There are a lot of fun locations in Toronto that you may have never considered.

Breakout Studios, 1541 Bayview Ave. (416-787-5668, www.breakoutstudios.ca), a kids entertainment company, was started about a year ago by the owner of Loots Lounge, David Leese. He said it's an all-new concept, and one of the biggest advantages is that his party package is very economical.

"It's an all-inclusive bar or bat mitzvah concept where we include everything for half the price you'd pay somewhere else," Leese said. "It's a cool club venue, five-star service and outstanding value."

Breakout Studios offers professional DJ services, catering, experience staffing, room décor, event production and co-ordination, soda fountains and more. Leese said the most exciting offering in the package is a stretch limo to take the guest of honour and 10 of his or her friends to the event.

"You get all the bells and whistles," Leese said. "We offer the best kids party in the city."

Leese added that they've gotten a very enthusiastic response so far. He said that people know him from Loots Lounge and Factory Lounge, which he owns with his wife, Teri, so they've come to Breakout Studios. He added that there isn't an open spot at Breakout on a Thursday to Sunday night until late June.

Not only does Breakout do kids parties but it also does special-event parties, engagements and sweet sixteens.

Leese said that his kids parties are fun for everyone. "We cater to the kids, but we make sure to host the adults as well," Leese said. "It's a win-win situation."

If you'd like a unique party where you could try something new, Airborne Trampoline Club (905-850-8477, www.airbornetrampolineclub.ca) may be just what you're looking for. Owner Steve Martin said that it's such a great place to have a party because jumping on a trampoline is not something you'd normally expect to do at a party.

"This is actually getting people out there to do a physical activity, which isn't what you'd expect to see from a party," Martin said.

The club generally does parties for four- to 16-year-olds, but it also does parties for adults, such as a recent party for a wedding anniversary. Parties are two hours long and include a party room, can include pizza, and have four coaches teaching simple moves on the trampoline and ending with a big demonstration. Martin said the demonstration is the most popular part of a party.

"They love to watch when the coaches get up there," Martin said. "It's incredibly exciting for them to see what the coaches can do when they get up there."

In addition to parties, the Airborne Trampoline Club offers a competitive program, lessons, group bookings and day camps.

At parties, basic trampoline moves are taught, including how to jump and how to land safely.

Martin said the response so far has been great.

"We offer something very different," he said. "People love that about us."

# All your jewelry needs satisfied

Laura Fixman
Special to The CJN

You can't go wrong by seeking an expert opinion when you are looking for the perfect piece of jewelry for your special event, especially your wedding and engagement rings. Several jewelry stores in the GTA offer help making those important decisions.

Lou Goldberg Jewellers, 416-901-0080, www.lougoldberg.com, Ste. 209, 446 Spadina Rd., Toronto, has been in business in Montreal since 1946, and its Toronto location, which has only been open for a few months, offers the same high quality jewelry and service.

Daniel Goldberg, owner of the Toronto location, whose grandfather started the business selling jewelry out of his jacket, said the most important part of the business is developing relationships with the clients.

"You need to be able to trust your jeweller," Goldberg said. "It's kind of like with a mechanic. People don't know much about diamonds or coloured stones, and they don't know much about what's under the hood of a car."

One of the things Goldberg tells people to focus on is the cut, which he said is 40 per cent of the price of the stone. He also suggests that people get something bright that has a good colour.

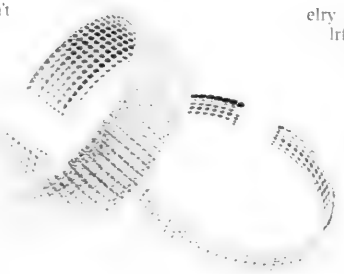
Goldberg worked in the company's wholesale department for several years, and he said he prefers his new position because he gets to deal with the satisfied customers.

"The best part is seeing the expression on people's faces when they find what they were looking for."

Lou Goldberg Jewellers is now open in Toronto.

He added that although the Toronto location hasn't been open for long, they're already getting a great response. He guessed that was because they'd already been around for so long in Montreal, and also because they have a reputation for quality.

"Anyone can buy a diamond anywhere," Goldberg said. "But our passion is beauty and our promise is quality."



Lou Goldberg offers high-quality jewelry.

Lilliane and Robin's Fine Jewelry (416-920-7676, www.lrfjewels.com) is also well established in the community, as it has been around for more than 20 years, since the Hotel Intercontinental where it's located has been in existence.

Lilliane Moses, who has been with the company from the beginning, said that they specialize in one-of-a kind pieces, which they often get from estate sales. She added that they try to help their customers find exactly what they're looking for.

"We listen to each individual so that we can find out what they want," Moses said. "We offer great service and our price is more than extremely competitive."

She added that in addition to estate sales, they cater to what young people are looking for by constantly getting new pieces. Moses said the best part of her job is dealing with different people on a daily basis, but that they also get a lot of repeat customers.

"They keep coming back because they're satisfied with what we give them," Moses said. "We're already on the second generation of customers."

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# Korry's Clothiers celebrates 60th anniversary

**Barbara Silverstein**
Special to The CJN

Korry's Clothiers to Gentlemen was the place to be last month when celebrities, dignitaries and the media gathered to celebrate the store's diamond jubilee.

Korry's 416-463-1115 60th anniversary shindig on May 3 was an opportunity for people to salute Saul Korman, president of Korry's 569 Danforth Ave. for 52 years. He is often referred to as the Duke of the Danforth.

"They used to call me the mayor of the Danforth," Korman recounted. "The mayor Mel Lastman came out to The Taste of the Danforth, one year.

"He said, 'There can only be one mayor in this city. I hereby dub you Duke of the Danforth.'"

Even Tim Hortons and Cold Stone Creamery honoured Korman. Cold Stone – it's located in a number of Tim Hortons stores – created the signature Korry's sundae. This cold treat, a mixture of vanilla and chocolate ice cream, Kit Kat bar pieces and butterscotch sauce, will be sold at 100 Cold Stone kiosks by the summer.

The Zubrowka vodka flowed and the hors d'oeuvres from Terra Restaurant were devoured as well-wishers made speeches and presented Korman with plaques.

Saul Korman, second from right, with his family at the 60th anniversary

On hand were local Toronto city councillors Paula Fletcher and Mary Fragedakis. They honoured him for his tireless promotion of what's known as Greektown.

This stretch of the Danforth between Broadview and Jones avenues is known for its trendy restaurants and cafés and upscale clothing boutiques.

The plaque from Toronto City Council also included congratulations from Mayor Rob Ford.

"I have never stopped shaking hands and promoting the Danforth," said Korman. "It's part of my life."

Indeed, Korry's (Korrys.com) has been a fixture on the Danforth since 1952, when Korman and his father first opened Korry's.

Other dignitaries on hand for the festivities included MP Craig Scott and MPP Peter Tabuns. They both represent the Toronto-Danforth riding at the federal and provincial levels respectively.

MP Julian Fantino, former Toronto police chief, sent two plaques to mark Korrys' 60th.

So what did Korman think of these honours?

"I heard my eulogy," he joked.

He attributed his success to "hard work, good press, combined with charm, personality and empathy."

As well, he stressed the importance of providing impeccable service. "If you take care of your customers, they'll take care of you."

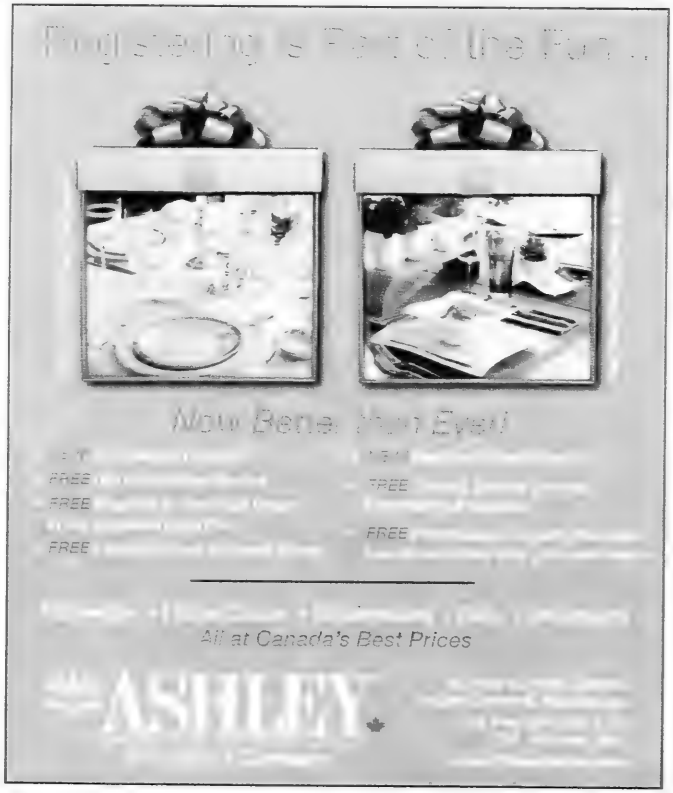
Many people may recognize Korman's gravelly voice on various local radio stations. The store has spots on Talk 640, The Fan (590), CFRB (1010), Q107.1 and The Edge (102.1). These days, however, you can also hear the next generation of Kormans on the air.

Korman's son, Michael, does the spots on The Edge and his younger brother, Shawn, is on Talk 640.

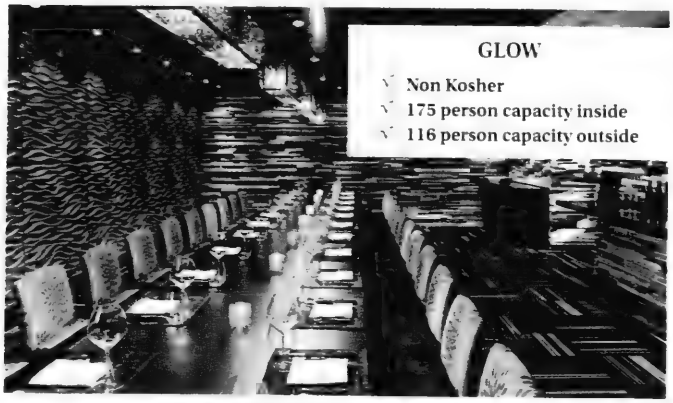
Along with service, it's the quality clothing that draws the customers, said Korman. "We have a great selection of suits, shirts, pants and ties."

And he now sells Cole Haan shoes, so he can provide a one-stop shopping experience. "For the guy that's buying the suit, we have shoes to fit him."

**Continued on page B31**



# Two intimate venues to host your next party




Glow private dining room

Michelle Bitran
Intern

If you are looking to hold a simchah or family gathering but traditional banquet halls are simply too big for your needs, look no further than two of the city's trendiest and most intimate private dining halls. Glow Fresh Grill and Wine Bar (416-364-1233) and Trapper's Restaurant (416-482-8211) each offers a refined dining and party experience complete with a delicious menu.

Located at the newly built outdoor mall Shops at Don Mills, Glow is the brainchild of healthy-living entrepreneur Rose Reisman. "Rose's philosophy of healthy lifestyle is incorporated throughout the menu," said Jennifer Droznika, the vice-president of sales at Rose Reisman Catering and Glow's event specialist. "We use no creams, no butters, and we are one of the restaurants of this size across Canada who doesn't have a deep fryer," she added.

The many menu packages at Glow are full of healthy choices such as seared ahi tuna, sirloin beef kebobs and warm mushroom salad. They even provide healthy "dessert shooters," which are only between 120 and 160 calories each. "One gives you all the sweetness you need for the rest of the day," said Droznika.

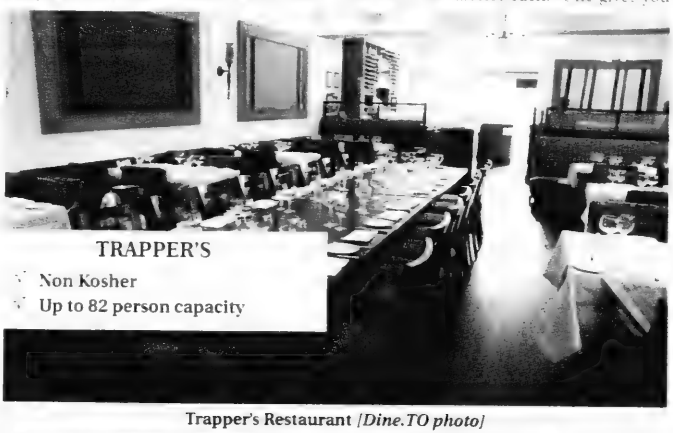
Glow's wheelchair accessible and beautifully decorated private dining room seats 36, and can also host standup cocktail receptions.

For those looking for a bigger space without sacrificing delicious menu options, Trapper's Restaurant may be the right choice. Though Trapper's has been around since 1985, the North York staple has just been revamped. The newly renovated Trapper's dining room can seat 82, and, excluding the washrooms, is wheelchair accessible.

The brand-new décor at Trapper's features vintage Canadian artifacts, including antique blankets traded in the 1800s. Chef and owner Vishal Ramsuchit, a veteran of Toronto's culinary scene, offers an enticing mix of what he calls "Canadian continental cuisine." The menu features fresh Canadian ingredients, including organic chicken from Ontario, veal chops from Alberta, Atlantic salmon, Niagara wine and, of course, pure maple syrup from Quebec.

"At Trapper's, we stand for service and quality – you are able to get professional service and quality food that's reasonably priced," said Ramsuchit. He added that the restaurant's steaks and fish are his recommendations to diners.

For more information on Trapper's Restaurant, visit trappersrestaurant.ca and for Glow Fresh Grill and Wine Bar, visit glowfreshgrill.ca.




Trapper's Restaurant *[Dine.TO photo]*

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# The ultimate rockin' venue

**Barbara Silverstein**
Special to The CJN

There's nothing like a party that rocks. And the ultimate rockin' venue for bar and bat mitzvahs is the Hard Rock Cafe (416-362-3636), in the heart of downtown Toronto at Yonge and Dundas streets (279 Yonge St.) next door to Yonge-Dundas Square.

The storied Hard Rock Cafe, known for its rock 'n' roll ambience, revels in music history. The international chain has about 170 restaurants worldwide, but "no two restaurants are the same," says Marcelo DeOliveira (marcelo_deoliveira @hardrock.com), sales and marketing manager of the Toronto Hard Rock Cafe.

"Each restaurant has different memorabilia from rock 'n' roll history, which makes each restaurant unique."

He notes that the Toronto Hard Rock Café (www.hardrock.com/toronto) is the chain's second-oldest restaurant. "We've been at the same location for 34 years." The original flagship restaurant is in London.

Parties and events at the Toronto location are held in a second-floor multi- functional room that can be used for corporate events or as a private party room or nightclub, says DeOliveira, adding that the room has a private entrance and it's wheelchair accessible.

As for parking, there are three lots within walking distance.

He notes that there is a stage as well as audiovisual, sound and lighting equipment, which is convenient for the client and it can also be cost-saving.

The capacity for a sit-down dinner with a dance-floor area is 70 to 150 people, but the room can accommodate as many as 300 people for a standup cocktail reception.

"We do a lot of corporate events for the parents who hold bar mitzvahs here.

"We do corporate events during the daytime – breakfasts, press releases, training as well as a lot of evening receptions for staff appreciation and holiday events.

"We have all the audiovisual equipment corporations need in-house."

The Hard Rock Café is also a venue for wedding receptions, he says. "It's for a very specific client who is not traditional. It's for people looking for a non-traditional style."

The restaurant has a themed décor built around music, he says. "There's no need to go crazy with decorations for an event here. Music memorabilia is a décor theme concept. Familes can incorporate that theme into their events and that makes it easy."

It's one less thing they have to worry about, he adds.

The private party room overlooks Dundas Square, which is sometimes referred to as "Canada's Times Square," and this is a bonus for Hard Rock Cafe clients, says DeOliveira.

He explains that the excitement and energy generated by the events and concerts held in the square often adds to the ambience of parties because guests get a full view of the outdoor event.

He says Hard Rock is also very experienced in working with the various DJ companies. "We have established a good relationship with the largest DJ companies that do these events. For them, it's essentially plug in and play."

The private lounge has its own bar, for adults and children. There is usually an all-inclusive price for non-alcoholic beverages, while alcohol charges are based on consumption.

There are no set menu packages. People can mix and match various items to customize their meals, says DeOliveira. "We can do anything. We have very talented people working in the kitchen.

"We like to work with each family to customize a meal so that it's unique to their event."

**The Hard Rock Cafe is known for its rockin' ambience.**

Most people choose buffet dinners for the bar or bat mitzvahs with different buffet choices for adults and children, says DeOliveira, noting that two different buffet tables make the most sense because most children do not enjoy the more gourmet adult fare.

However, he adds that you do see a few adults at the kids table helping themselves to fries and chicken tenders. "They're enjoying themselves. It's a party."

Sometimes people choose a plated service for the adults and a buffet dinner for the children, but two buffets are the most common, he says.

The events usually begin with such popular appetizers as mini hamburgers on baguettes, vegetarian California rolls, potato-skin bruschetta or smoked salmon on English cucumbers, says DeOliveira. "We try to offer a lot of healthy options to our customers. The lighter food is for the adults. They don't want to be inundated greasy food."

Other popular appetizers include jumbo soft pretzels with a three-mustard dip and a Mediterranean dip station with hummus and babaganoush.

Choices for the children's buffet include Caesar or Greek salad, sweet potato and/or regular fries, fish and chips, pasta with tomato sauce, chicken tenders and plum sauce and twisted macaroni and cheese.

Adults can choose from such gourmet fare as beef tenderloin, poached wild Alaskan salmon and grilled chicken supreme. Their meals would include Caesar or house salad, vegetable and a side dish like risotto.

There are many options for the adults, and DeOliveira says he plans the menu with each client. "There are no preset packages. We list all items, and I work with the family to guide them through the options."

The family is also invited to taste the meals they've ordered, he says. "Sometimes something on paper sounds great, but it's not what the family had in mind. The meal tastings gives them an opportunity to make adjustments.

"Not all families take us up on this offer, but the ones that do find it useful."

Dessert at the Hard Rock event is served at about 10 p.m. so a sweet table is not necessary, says DeOliveira.

The most popular item is the make-your-own sundae, he says. "We serve vanilla ice cream with six to 10 toppings like M&Ms, gummies, and all kinds of sauces. It's all the stuff that kids love."

The chocolate fountain with fresh fruit is another popular option, he says.

For adults, he recommends plated desserts like the dark chocolate mousse topped with Grand Marnier and Kahlua, a decadent treat made on the premises.

Some families do have a candlelighting ceremony and they bring a smash cake, and DeOliveira makes sure it all runs smoothly. "That's why I'm here."

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# Capturing milestones with timeless photography

Michelle Bitran
Intern

Wedding photography has changed dramatically in recent years, and that's a good thing for two Toronto photographers who are working hard to capture the special moments in people's lives in updated and unique ways.

"What the younger generation would like to see is more fun, more casual, more interactive shots," said Matt Zielinski of Lifetime Moments Photography (647-993-0555, lifetimemomentsphotography.ca), especially referring to wedding photography. He explained that, while he will usually still take a few traditional wedding portrait shots for clients, most couples want photos with a bit more personality, often in an artistic or photojournalistic style.

For Sam Sciarrino of Horvath Photography (905-707-5770, horvathphoto.com), who lectures internationally on photography, the emphasis is on modernized, fashion-style posing to replace more traditional portrait shots. "What I see and what we're speaking on is more along the lines of what's called contemporary bridal portraits," he said, adding that he focuses on "glamour, good lighting and good composition."

Photo provided by Horvath Photography

Both photographers do their best to help clients feel comfortable and relaxed during the shoots, which can last full days in some cases and may involve several wardrobe and location changes. "Don't just let the photographer take the photos – interact with them," said Zielinski, adding that he will often pause sessions to show the couple some of the shots, encouraging input, and explaining why certain poses and angles may or may not work.

"It's all about trust," said Sciarrino, explaining that once clients put their faith in the photographer's professional ability, their nerves will disappear and the shots will turn out better.

Zielinski said, "a little bit more passionate, a little bit more intimate shots," are the result of good relationship between the clients and the photographer. He will usually shoot both engagement and wedding photos for a couple, giving him a chance to get to know their dynamic.

Photo provided by Lifetime Moments Photography

Couples want photos they and their families can look at for years to come, said Sciarrino, so it's important to keep the photographic style modern, but not too trendy. "If it's done with a modern flare today, it is a timeless piece."

# Finding the perfect gift

Stephen Sweet
Specially The CJN

Picking out the ideal gift can often be difficult, but there are several places that can make it easier.

Shaynee's and the Petroff Gallery are two that provide plenty of beautiful, quality options for any special occasion.

"We represent artists across Canada, the U.S. and Israel, with pieces that are nowhere else to be found in Toronto," said Steven Petroff, who, with his wife, Sara runs the Petroff Gallery.

"We have unique pieces with a wide range of price points for one-of-a-kind pieces of art and a lot of functional display pieces."

They also carry one of the most important items needed to start up a Jewish home.

"We have the largest on-site collection of ketubahs, in a variety of texts," Petroff said. "People can see them online, and then come in and actually hold their ketubah before they buy it.

"As well, we can provide exceptional custom picture framing for the ketubah, so people are able to work with us from start to finish regarding, in some cases, the first piece of art that the couple may choose," Petroff added.

Artsy gifts are available at Shaynee's.

They aren't just for newlyweds, either.

"What's wonderful is that people can choose to do an anniversary text," Petroff said. "It's a modification of the text that doesn't necessarily need to be signed by the rabbi or witnesses, meaning that it can be a surprise gift for anniversaries, which is very special too."

They have items for a wide range of occasions, both functional and artsy, and if necessary, you can take them back.

"We have what's called the approval policy," Petroff said. "People can choose something for themselves, a wall piece or a dining table piece, and they can try it out for three to five days – no obligation."

What they have on display for sale changes frequently.

"Every time somebody comes into our gallery, they notice that it looks different," Petroff said. "Every few weeks, something new is coming in and our gallery is beautifully curated in order for people to enjoy each and every visit here."

And while a number of their pieces are up online, the best place to make a decision is at the gallery.

**Continued on page B21**

Petroff Gallery has the largest on-site collection of ketubahs, in a variety of texts.

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# Stores make gift-shopping a lot easier

Continued from page B20

"Our website is a very good brochure as well, with very good visuals, but really, it's an invitation to come into the gallery," Petroff said. "It really is a feast for the eyes."

Like the Petroff Gallery, Shaynee's is a staple of the Jewish community.

"People come from all over the city for us because our stuff is a little more artsy," said Shaynee's Schwartz.

She brings in high-end merchandise, including a popular line from Michael Aram.

"He has fantastic tableware as well as a fantastic Judaica collection," Schwartz said. "His table-top collection is unbelievable."

There are different items to be found in the north and south locations – for example, in their one-of-a-kind jewelry.

"Even though we have two stores, we don't put the same thing in each store," Schwartz said.

With the variety of items that Shaynee's carries, Schwartz is confident the customer will leave happy.

"I have a unique selection," she said. "I find that if you walk into the store and you're looking for something and don't see it, you will find something else you like – guaranteed.

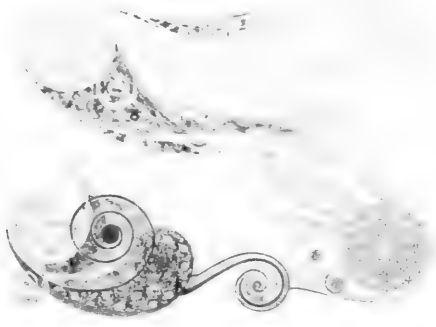
"You will always find the latest in high style and functionality at Shaynee's."

That certainly is the case with its stainless steel products.

"We stock a lot of those, and that's our focus," Schwartz said. "We find they're functional, don't require polish, and they're upscale, sought-after gifts."

She's found that the younger generation seems to prefer this kind of item.

A unique selection is available at Shaynee's.



Petroff Gallery has one-of-a-kind items.

"Young couples aren't really looking for anything that's work-intensive or high maintenance," Schwartz said. "They're getting away from silver and going more toward stainless steel, where they don't have to polish and require minimal care."

But as always, Shaynee's sticks to what it does best.

"We don't try to be everything to everybody," Schwartz said. "We just focus on what's important to us.

"I think we have a fantastic assortment of merchandise, and there's nobody out there like us."

The Petroff Gallery can be found online at petroffgallery.com, and is located at 1016 Eglinton Ave. W., near the Allen Expressway. Phone: 416-782-1696.

Shaynee's has two stores, at 3501 Bathurst St. in Toronto, just south of Baycrest, 416-787-4497, and at 441 Clark Ave. in Thornhill, in the Sobey's Plaza, 905-709-0430.

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# Consultants can take care of everything

Laura Fixman
Special to the CJN

Planning your wedding or your child's bar or bat mitzvah can be a stressful experience. But if you find the right party planner, they can take care of everything and make your simchah a much more enjoyable experience.

Sharlene Wilder (416-712-9790, www.awilderparty.com) got interested in event planning after seeing her mother work as a wedding planner. She said that she's effective as a party planner because she offers her clients a wide range of contacts and gives them a choice of how much or how little they want to use her skills.

"People can use as much of my time as they need. I'm very flexible," Wilder said. "Where you really want me is on the night of your party, so you can be a guest at your own party."

Wilder offers hourly rates, flat rates and has a full-service package that includes an unlimited use of her time.

She said she offers clients ideas, peace of mind and an extra set of hands.

"I do things like putting together candy tables, which is more of a hands-on approach, and I think people like that," Wilder said.

She added that her favourite part is seeing people enjoy themselves when a party comes to life. She also loves the ability to be creative with them and see it all come together on the night of the party itself.

"I make their party unique to them, how something feels to them is the most important," she said. "I am there to make sure their evening flows from start to finish."

Cherry and Baker and Associates (905-771-1121 tries to customize their service to each individual client by listening to what they need. Sarah Cherry got interested in event planning because her family was in the bridal-wear business, and she said that she and her business partner, Marsha Baker, a makeup artist Cherry once used for an event, make a great team.

Cherry said that they get a lot of repeat customers because they're very honest with clients. For instance, they will tell people if they don't need everything they say they want.

"We want clients to feel that they can rely on us," Cherry said. "We meet with clients multiple times, and we really do our homework for them."

She added that one of the unique things they offer is having a bag full of supplies so that they're prepared if anything were to go wrong.

For example, Cherry had a veil prepared for a bride who forgot hers, and she had extra socks for a groom who forgot that crucial wardrobe item.

She said creating a stress-free atmosphere for the hosts can be very important.

"The day of your event, you don't want to wonder if you did everything," Cherry said. "The night of your event, we solve everything that could go wrong."

She said that they have never let anyone down and that their clients see they arrive early and stay until the end of the event, which is what makes people want to use their services again and again.

"At the end of the night, when they see that everything is just perfect and they can't wait to work with you again, to me that's saying something," Cherry said.

"I'm now doing weddings for people who used my services for their bar mitzvahs."

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# A bite of delight: chocolate and sushi

Stephen Sweet
Special to The CJN

It's hard to think of a Jewish function without the food. That's why what you serve is so important.

Both Umami Sushi and Chocolate Moose focus on quality and service, whether in day-to-day sales or preparing items for a big event.

"We're a chocolate and candy store, and we do as much in chocolate and candy as we possibly can," said Bev Kruger of Chocolate Moose.

That includes all kinds of nut brittles, caramels, nougat, almond bark and Rice Krispie bark (both quite popular items), as well as chocolate, of course, both in solid and liquid form.

"We have all sorts of chocolate-covered things," said Kruger, listing fruit, pretzels and marshmallows as just a few choices. "Whatever food you can cover in chocolate, we do.

"Everything is strictly kosher," Kruger said. "We do both pareve and Cholov Yisroel. It's all 100 per cent kosher and there's nothing in between."

That allows Chocolate Moose's chocolate and candy goods to show up at many simchahs.

"We cater to bar and bat mitzvahs, offrufs, Shabbos kallahs – any kind of celebration," Kruger said.

And that's because chocolate is synonymous with a pleasant feeling.

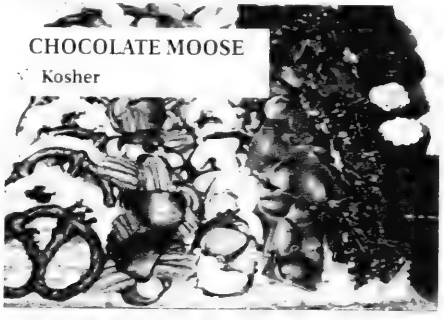
"It makes you happy," Kruger said. "At a simchah, people really look forward to the dessert, to the chocolate.

"It gives a lift to the sweet table, or as a giveaway, and people get really excited about that kind of thing."

The employees at Chocolate Moose understand that.

"Our staff is excellent, as is our product's quality," Kruger said. "We try to keep the customer satisfied, and we bend over backwards to accommodate people."

While chocolate has been a staple at simchahs for a long time, it's only been over the past 10 years or so that sushi has made a meaningful foray into the mainstream North American and kosher markets.



**CHOCOLATE MOOSE**

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**UMAMI SUSHI**

- Kosher
- Catering up to 1,000 people or more

"There's no question that sushi has become a staple in Jewish homes over the last decade," said Andrew Novak, who purchased Umami Sushi in 2007 with his wife, Sarah.

"I think sushi at the Shabbos table has probably surpassed gefilte fish as the typical starter to any Shabbos or holiday meal, and it's also looked upon as a healthy meal option."

Those who come looking for nigiri, rolls and noodles from the longest-standing kosher sushi outlet in Toronto range from adventurous to inexperienced, and Umami Sushi can handle the needs of both.

"Our customers are always our top priority," Novak said. "We are always there to answer their question.

"If someone has never had sushi before, we can walk them through all of the options, and based on their specific tastes, recommend to them something that would be a hit."

Novak believes Umami Sushi has some of the best sushi anywhere.

"We have become the primary source for the kosher consumer," he said. "We have raised the bar on quality to a point where our product can compare with any sushi out there, kosher or not kosher."

The dairy-free and nut-free restaurant has a successful noodle menu as well, as the Novaks continue to try to satisfy all of their customers.

"We listen to our customers needs, and have created a new carb-less product called Senken Cups," Novak said.

You can bring Umami Sushi to your event, given that they specialize in party trays for anywhere from 10 people to 1,000 or more.

"Our sushi station can add a level of elegance to any formal affair or a fun, interactive food station at a casual corporate event," Novak said.

Chocolate Moose is located at 2839 Bathurst St., between Finch and Steeles avenues. Its phone number is 416-784-9092.

Umami Sushi can be found online at www.umamisushi.ca and is available by phone at 416-782-3375. It's located in the Toronto Kosher Plaza at 3459 Bathurst St.

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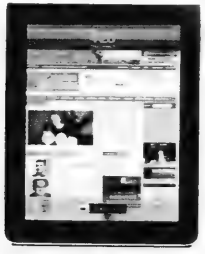

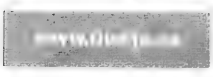

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# Exciting contemporary choices from new kosher caterers

Jennifer M. MacLeod
Special to The CJN

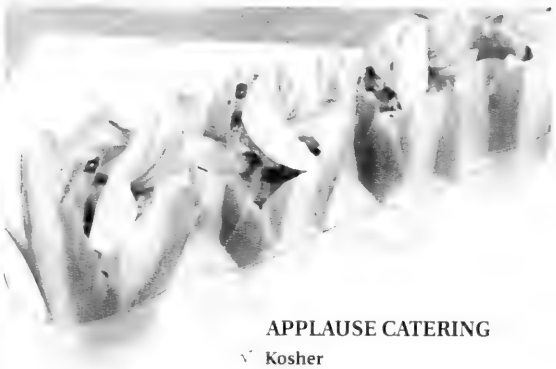
Two new kosher catering options in the Toronto area offer solid proof that the kosher world really is expanding its horizons far beyond meat and potatoes. Applause Catering with its pareve and meat choices and Kosher Trends which features dairy and pareve dishes.

"One of the things we're trying to do," says Cary Silber of Applause Catering (416-628-9196), is bring the kosher catering level up to restaurant-quality, restaurant-style food people are used to... but doing it kosher."

Applause, recently appointed exclusive in-house caterer to Beth Tzedec Congregation, is leading the way with dishes that are both creative and au courant. Today's diners expect flavourful, exciting dishes like blackened Ahi tuna salad with bibb lettuce and orange and grapefruit sections, honey vinaigrette dressing and Chinese noodles.

"We'll do a dried fruit and smoked salmon salad... it's the presentation that makes them drool. People should look at the food and say, 'Is this kosher?'"

All prep work is done at the main Beth Tzedec location, but from there, the food can go just about anywhere in the GTA. "We work out of The Warehouse, Ontario Science Centre, Bluma Appel Salon, Toronto Botanical Gardens, St. Lawrence Centre and several night clubs, along with the Hilton Garden Inn and Spring Hill Marriott in Vaughan. Applause also caters home, backyard and tent parties."




**Applause Catering brings kosher catering to restaurant level.**

All food is plated immediately before it's served. "It's not made and held," Silber says. "A lot of kitchens will make up 100 plates, put them in an oven [that] can hold 100 plates at a shot... you're not really getting a fresh-made plate. Everything we do is plated à la minute."

Even though Applause is a new company, the partnership group controlling it brings more than 50 years of experience in the food and catering business. They've branched out into kosher because of what Silber calls "a lack of availability for kosher that people were looking for."

Between the in-house pastry department and the fact that all wait staff are employed directly by Applause – "they're quite familiar with the way we do things" – Applause can take full responsibility for your menu from start to finish. "We still treat it as a hands-on business... we take care of each client with kid gloves."

Applause's strength is in finding what's new in the world of food and then bringing it back to its clients. "We're constantly researching, going on trips to find new things we can turn into kosher."

Dishes like a chicken sandwich served on savoury waffles, or a frozen cocoa butter ball that cracks open to reveal a fresh burst of gazpacho soup, complemented with a mango salsa, show the true range of inventiveness.

"We... doubt the ordinary and create the exceptional," Silber says.

Mona Pasternak of Kosher Trends (416-665-6662) explains that the trend toward fun, casual foods may be in part due to the fact that today's brides and grooms are a bit older. "They're moving away from the typical, 'Let's get married, have hors d'oeuvres and eat a sit-down meal,'" type of simchah. With dairy, she says, "you can be a little bit more creative, have a bit more fun."

Her goal is "to adapt the food to what the client's taste is like." At one function, "everything had to be Asian... everything we did had an Asian flair to it, even to the plating of the cupcakes that were put on dry rice." Other Asian-inspired choices might include Thai salad rolls or stuffed risotto balls.

Another couple wanted an all-hors d'oeuvres meal, so Kosher Trends offered up "stuffed croissants, quinoa in take-out boxes, chickpea salad, fish and chips in takeaway boxes." Kosher Trends also offers a Louisiana "crab" cake entrée.

**Continued on page B25**

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# Kosher caterers expand their horizons

Kosher Trends adapts to the clients' tastes.

Kosher Trends sees a trend towards casual foods.

Continued from page B24

Classic favourites like pasta and lasagna are always available, and Pasternak says soup shooters continue to be a favourite. Macaroni and cheese is one "fun kid-friendly treat adults still love to eat," she adds.

With a background in kosher catering with Zuchter Bery and other local food companies, Pasternak decided on dairy in part because she wasn't aware of "any catering companies that just do dairy and vegetarian," although there are restaurants in the community that will do catering on request.

When it comes to creativity, desserts are where dairy can really shine. "There is no one out there that just does dairy, beyond some cheese danishes," Pasternak says, but with in-house baking at its Canarctic Drive location near Dufferin Street and Steeles Avenue, Kosher Trends can delight guests with delicious creamy offerings like cheesecake and cheesecake pops.

In business just over a year, Kosher Trends aims to be a "one-stop shop" for everything from florals to linens. "Clients come to me with their idea, their date... I will be at the function facilitating it for them."

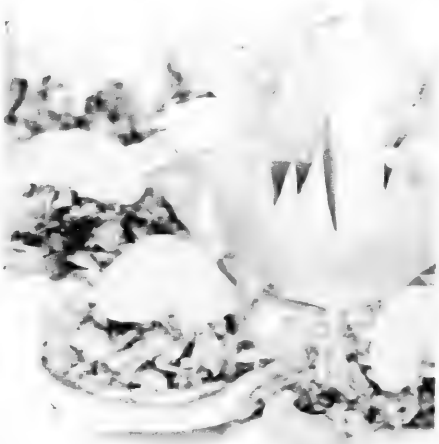
Most events are held in people's homes, and Pasternak will either consult over the phone or come in person to decide how best to set the scene.

And when it comes to food, she says, she's a stickler for presentation and freshness. "Our stuff is very, very fresh. I don't allow anything... out of our place that I wouldn't feed to my family. If I wouldn't eat it, I won't send it out."

So far, that dedication is paying off. "I've built my business all on referrals," Pasternak says. "We make every effort to exceed your highest expectations with the best-tasting kosher food, creativity and flair in presentation."

**KOSHER TRENDS**

- Kosher



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# Traditions come first when choosing a date

Elaine Cohen
Supplements Coordinator

When it comes to planning weddings, modern couples are fortunate to have such a wide choice of venues and vendors, with no shortage of banquet halls, caterers, entertainers and rentals of clothing and accessories. However, one decision still comes first, even before making any of these decisions: today's couples – just like every couple who came before – still needs to choose a wedding date.

Picking a date has always involved a lot of consideration, but now that many family members live out of town and both partners probably work full-time, accommodating relatives and close friends is tricky.

Jewish couples must also ensure that the date they select is permissible according to the Jewish calendar. The safest strategy is for the couple to consult their rabbi first and pencil in a few appropriate dates. Then, they can come up with a date that will suit the principals and enable them to book the venue and vendors.

"Jewish weddings may be held anywhere, but not at anytime," writes educator/author Barbara Binder Kadden in *Teaching Jewish Life Cycle: Insights and Activities*. For much of Jewish history, the third day of work – Tuesday – was considered an auspicious day for a wedding, based on its connection to Creation in Genesis 1:10-12.

On Shabbat, work and travel are not permitted and a new contract, like the wedding ketubah, may not be entered into. Weddings are also not held on High Holidays and major festivals. However, they can take place on Chanukah and Purim, both minor festivals.

Furthermore, weddings are not traditionally held on days of public mourning, including Tisha b'Av, the fast of Gedaliah, the 10th of Tevet, the Fast of Esther, and the 17th of Tammuz, the period between Pesach and Shavuot, and the three weeks from the 17th of Tammuz until Tisha b'Av.

One exception may be certain periods between Pesach and Shavuot during which weddings are permitted. However, it is best to speak with a rabbi to find out the exact dates. This restriction also often applies to arranging engagement and other prenuptial functions.

It is important to note that conventions vary according to Ashkenazi and Sephardi customs and ceremonies.

Jewish weddings are allowed on Rosh Chodesh, the new moon and first day of the new Hebrew month, but check with the officiating rabbi to ensure that the date is clear. Remember, your rabbi also has other commitments and must be free to provide guidance, good wishes and to officiate at the ceremony.

Although weddings may be held almost anywhere, Maurice Lamm notes in *The Jewish Way in Love and Marriage* that in ancient times, weddings were often held on the synagogue grounds or in the courtyard. Of course, at that time, he notes, it was also customary for the groom's father to build special quarters in the family home for the married couple – a wedding tradition today's couples will probably be thankful is no longer in effect.

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# Dressing boys without the headache

Lauren Kramer
Special to The CJN

Dressing your son for a party can be a headache, depending on where you decide to shop.

But it's unlikely to hurt at Crawford Boys (416-782-8137), where Paul Spear and his team specialize exclusively in boys' clothing.

Crawford Boys

"We devote 25 per cent of our floor space to husky sizes for boys," he says, referring to clothing cuts for boys who are "a little shorter and a little heavier."

"Parents have tremendous difficulty finding clothing in these cuts, because most stores carry few, if any husky sizes," he adds. "Not being able to find clothes that fit can be devastating to a guy's feelings of self-worth, but at Crawford Boys you're likely to find something that fits and makes him feel great."

The 60-year-old business carries one of the largest and most varied inventories of boys' clothing anywhere, with more stock, styles and colours than most other stores.

These days Spear is seeing a lot of second-generation clients coming into the store, and it's the service that really keeps them coming back, he says.

"We all know that when the customer walks through the door, they're the most important, whether they're buying a pair of socks or an entire wardrobe. They're the ones who keep us in business. Our service goes above and beyond the call of duty, and we receive so many compliments on our staff. I'm tremendously proud of our reputation for great service."

Knowing that men of all ages, with few exceptions, are notoriously poor clothing shoppers, he's developed a monthly newsletter for customers, proposing solutions to make the shopping experience easier.

Crawford's website also contains advice, including ground rules on fitting your son for a wardrobe.

"Avoid shopping when your son is hungry and tired," he cautions. "Do some advance scouting before you take your son with you, and don't discount his choices. If he's allowed to make his own decisions about his clothes, he will be happier and feel better about himself." For more information visit www.crawfordboysclothing.com or stop into the store at 508A Lawrence Ave. W., in Lawrence Plaza.

Another store with a large inventory of mid- to higher-end kids' party clothes is Beatties (416-481-4459) at 453 Eglinton Ave. W.

Beatties has been in the boys' suit business for more than 60 years, and the store has an expert on-site tailor to take care of professional alterations.

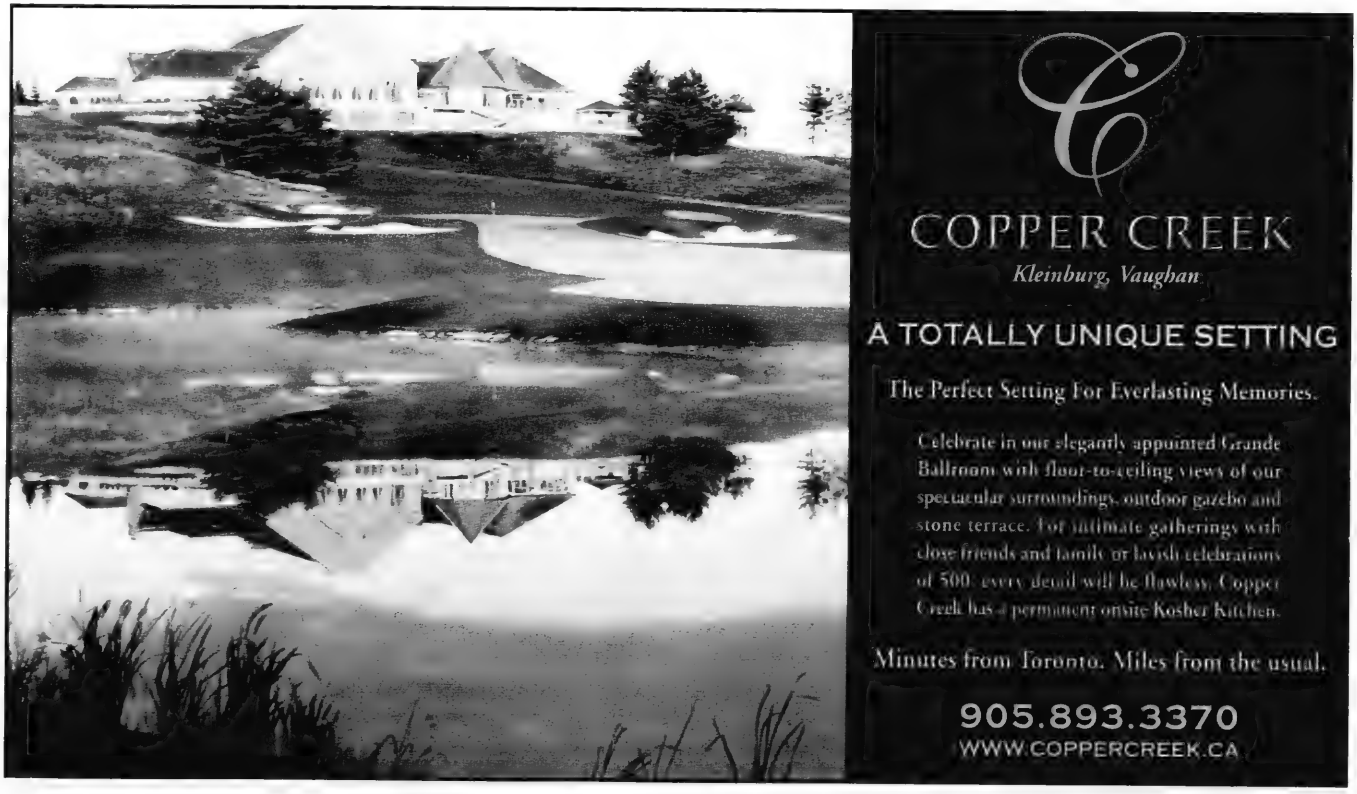
"It's very hard to find a boys' suit in Toronto," says Matt Mayr, marketing and merchandising manager for Beatties' parent company, the RHB Group.

The Eglinton Avenue store carries clothes for kids from ages five through 20, with brands such as Fred Perry, QuickSilver, Roxy, Billabong and Ben Sherman. For boys' suits, you'll find distinctive formalwear by Joseph Aboud, Elie Tahari and Calvin Klein.

"This year we've found that the bar mitzvah look is still on the traditional side. Boys are choosing traditional cuts and dark colours, like black, navy and charcoal," Mayr says. He suggests a white shirt for a morning event and a striped shirt and fancy tie for the evening.

"If your invitation calls for chic attire, we may suggest a Joseph Abboud dress pant and classy sport shirt, a look that doesn't require a jacket," he says.

Beatties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# Magen Boys bring the complete package

Stephen Sweet
Special to The CJN

When it comes to a party, it's all about having an amazing time.

And one company is better equipped than anyone else to provide that.

Magen Boys Entertainment continues to grow and get better as the company caters to every kind of simchah.

"It's the full experience," said Page Magen, who, along with brother, Jian, have built up the Magen Boys brand to where it is today.

"Being the most sought-after company in Canada for providing entertainment for weddings and bar mitzvahs, we have to constantly reinvent ourselves and provide more than just entertainment."

And thanks to the opening of Uptown Loft, located at Yonge and Eglinton, they've got the setting, too.

"Uptown Loft is a creative and custom space that we've kind of created on our own," Page said.

"We identified that there was a need for spaces with more intimate settings, where clients can come in and have a great party at a great price point, and have all of the things they need at the tip of their fingers in one room."

The facility can hold up to 175 people and is as versatile as Jian and Page are themselves.

"It's a beautiful yet elegant and exquisite place for a bar mitzvah, wedding, and other events," Page said. "We have the best caterers on staff to support the place, and it's an amazing environment."

"Jian and I are well respected in this industry, and we've been all over [the continent] in the past few months," said Page, citing the Grammys, the MTV Awards and the Much-Music Video Awards (MMVA) as just a few of the big-ticket events they were part of.

Having that kind of contact list can help bring a special surprise to some events.

"The key to a great party is to customize things for the needs of the kids or the family," Page said.

"We did a bar mitzvah where the kid loved Justin Bieber, so we had Justin Bieber send him a personalized message because we're connected with him."

Just because the Magen Boys can provide everything doesn't mean that you have to spend a ton on their services.

"We're now fully in the wedding business, to the point where we have a wedding band," Page said. "We're doing weddings about as much as bar mitzvahs."

Regardless of the event, Jian and Page truly love what they do.

"Every day of our lives, we work for someone who is celebrating an important milestone in their lives," Page said. "We are blessed upon blessed to be part of those moments.

"We're addicted to partying. We're addicted to helping create that magical moment."

And because it's so important, they take their work seriously.

"We hold such a major responsibility for clients in our hands," Page said.

"We know we have to over-deliver and create that moment, and that's the biggest rush, the most fulfilling feeling you'll ever get.

"We care beyond care, and we love what we do," he added. "We understand how important it is to the family celebrating, and we will stop at nothing to make that feeling come to life."

You can find the Magen Boys online at www.magenboys.com, or reach them by phone at 905-513-6464. For inquiries about booking the Uptown Loft, e-mail info@uptownloft.com or call 416-489-1105.

Page Magen (left) and Jian Magen (right) with their friend, actor Will Ferrell

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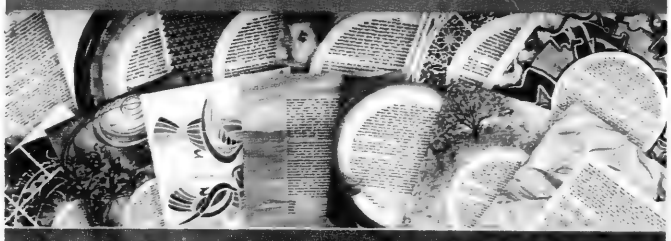
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# Hire a videographer for your special moments

Compiled by CJN Staff

Videographers give you the ability to experience your party over and over again.

Which is why choosing the right one is very important.

Laura Weinstein (www.lauraweinstein.com; 647-880-6992) has worked as a videographer and video editor for eight years. Originally from Montreal, she has been in Toronto since 2004, when she moved here to study radio and television at Ryerson University.

Her favourite kinds of parties to film are the ones that have a lot of energy and excitement.

"I love running around with the kids and filming fun stuff with them," she says. "I'm always completely open to any idea anyone has."

She listens to what the client wants, she says, and will goes above and beyond to make their vision a reality.

"I shoot on an HD SLR camera, and I have the opportunity with different lenses to get really close crisp detailed shots. I have a range of really portable equipment so it's easy to blend in at synagogues especially," Weinstein says.

"I also have a portable dolly which allows me to get really smooth Hollywood-style sweeping camera movements. I film parties such as bar and bat mitzvahs, birthday parties from kids to adults, Purim parties, etc."

She said that what sets her apart from other production companies is that her first passion is video editing.

"I edit for work and I edit for fun. I love it. Therefore, I put a lot of effort into videos while shooting, but also in the editing room. You will never see people dancing at a rhythm that doesn't match the beat or shots that don't transition well into each other. I only deliver extremely polished videos."

Lisa Feinstein and her son, Matt, a photographer

Laura Weinstein enjoys filming parties with energy and excitement

She says editing gives her the opportunity to be very creative.

"I can also put finished videos online so you can show them to friends and family," she adds.

"Because parties can be anything from a bat mitzvah to a one-year-old's birthday, I am really open and flexible to work with different budgets and come up with prices that are fair to both parties."

She especially likes birthdays.

"I love shooting birthday parties. There's so much excitement and vibrant colours that are a pleasure to capture on film."

Lisa Feinstein (905-764-1033, lisaproductions.ca) says that content is as important as quality when recording events on video.

"It is important that a couple or bar mitzvah family hire someone who can capture the moments that are heartfelt, emotional and fun. It's also important to be unobstrusive [when capturing these moments.]"

As a mother of five children, she says she can relate to these special times and can understand the needs of her clients.

Her son, Matt, is a photographer, and when "we work together at a simchah, clients love the ease [with which we work].

"It's a double bonus that it is a family coming together at [another] family simchah."

Feinstein realizes that every event is different "and I make sure I do what is right for each client.

"I strive to make every family happy. I'm flexible to work within a budget."

*With files from Vicky Tobianah*

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# Glittering, unforgettable kosher venues

Jennifer M. MacLeod
Special to The CJN

Still hunting for an unforgettable venue for your kosher simchah? Check out Dynamic Hospitality and Entertainment Group and Trump International Hotel and Tower.

Dynamic Hospitality and Entertainment Group offers not one but three unique locations around the city where you can feel comfortable hosting knowing that you are meeting not only the highest standards of kashrut, but also offering your guests a day or night they'll remember forever.

Atlantis (416-260-6000), formerly known as the Atlantis Pavilions, is located at Ontario Place right on Toronto's waterfront. Of this glass building raised on stilts at the edge of the lake, spokesperson Shelly Stamplecoskie says, "It's stunning at night... it's a really nice ambience for evening events."

All rooms feature glittering floor-to-ceiling windows, offering either an unobstructed view of either the water or the city skyline. Space is available for groups ranging all the way from 30 to 450, including cocktail and dance floor. With its "party vibe," says Stamplecoskie, Atlantis is very fitting for a fun event like a bar mitzvah.

The Eglinton Grand (416-485-5900), a landmark theatre located in midtown on Eglinton Avenue between Avenue Road and Bathurst Street, offers capacities for sit-down dining from 50 to 550 guests and receptions for up to 75, in an elegant, art-deco-themed location. With one ballroom, the space is exclusively yours for any event, which can also be "promoted" on the exterior marquee.

Finally, there's the newly renovated Grand Metropolitan (905-624-4009) at Dixie Road and Eglinton in Mississauga, Ont., offering two glittering ballrooms, a panoramic glass elevator, and all the glitz you'll need to offer guests an extraordinary experience. Various spaces can accommodate between 50 and 450 people.

**ALL VENUES**

- ☑ **Kosher Available**
- ☑ **Kosher Kitchen at Eglinton Grand**
- ☑ **Wheelchair accesible**

The Grand Metropolitan's Starlight Ballroom features a distinctive 19-foot chandelier with more than 40,000 crystals, which, according to marketing director Darren Bryant, "certainly creates the wow factor."

All three venues are great for any type of event, says Stamplecoskie, from birthday and anniversary parties to bar/bat mitzvahs, engagement parties, corporate events and trade shows, and – of course – weddings.

From her experience working with wedding planners organizing Jewish weddings, she says, "They are looking for something new... all three venues are unique, not your standard typical 'banquet hall,' by any means."

All offer on-site ceremony spaces. At Atlantis, there's an outdoor rooftop space available – though it can get windy, depending on weather conditions over the lake. Grand Metropolitan offers outdoor ceremonies on a brand-new 1,400-square-foot outdoor "patio oasis," while the Eglinton Grand features an indoor area upstairs for wedding ceremonies. Full bridal suites are also available at each location.

While only the Eglinton Grand has an on-site kosher kitchen, don't let that stop you. "Because we have a working, ongoing relationship with Zuchter Berk, clients have the peace of mind that comes with a kosher caterer who's very familiar with all three properties... how the properties work. You're not having a caterer come in working in the space who isn't really familiar with the territory."

Working exclusively with Zuchter Berk catering means the mashgiach and cooking staff are very familiar with the setup and can kosher the kitchen and bring in rented dishes to ensure a seamless simchah in every way.

Nine stories up in one of the city's most distinctive new buildings are the ballrooms and event spaces of Toronto's brand-new Trump International Hotel & Tower (416-637-5000, http://trumptoronto.ca), the city's latest venue to make all your kosher event fantasies come true.

The Eglinton Grand

Since Trump Toronto opened on Jan. 31, the spaces have been booked pretty much solidly, hosting everything from weddings and bar mitzvahs to corporate events in a fully equipped, state-of-the-art facility that glitters with breathtaking floor-to-ceiling city views. "It's opulent without being over-the-top," says spokesperson Naomi Strasser.

No expense was spared in creating the luxe space, with coffered ceilings, crown mouldings and a dramatic formal staircase that makes any bride's entrance heart-stoppingly memorable. The second international property in the Trump Hotels chain, nothing here was prefabricated: finishings and fixtures were imported from all over the world to create gleamingly sophisticated accents in granite, marble, metal, glass, draperies and the Trump family favourite – authentic Czech crystal.

The workmanship doesn't stop at the kitchen door – a fully equipped kosher kitchen hosts two exclusive caterers, Zuchter Berk and PR Creative Caterers, ready to serve the community's needs. "It's designed to be the most sophisticated kosher kitchen you could find," says Strasser. "Everything is completely dedicated to kosher needs. It is totally self-contained." Entire meals can be prepared on-site, including pastry, for the freshest, most delicious dining to match the city's newest exclusive venue.

With space for 150 guests seated, and additional areas outside the ballrooms for standup cocktails, plus ample bridal suites and amenities such as an on-site spa, Trump Hotel & Tower has truly thought of everything you and your party will need on the day of your event.

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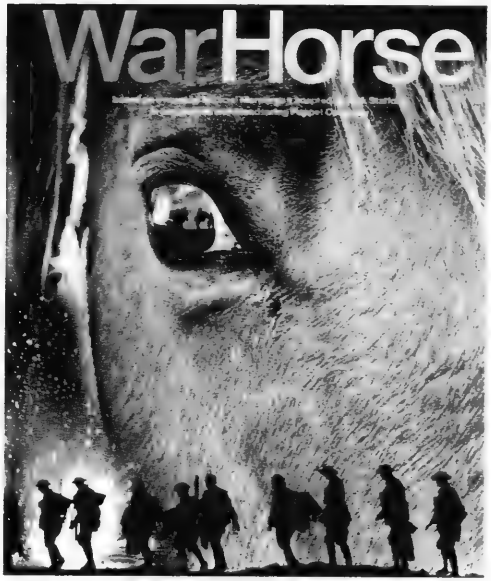
# Gift ideas




This summer, as party season kicks into full swing, chances are you'll be looking for that perfect gift. One popular option is a gift certificate to Mirvish Productions, which owns and operates the Royal Alexandra Theatre, the Princess of Wales Theatre, the Ed Mirvish Theatre and the Panasonic Theatre.

Summer productions include *BackBeat*, a musical about the origins of the Beatles, and *War Horse*, an all-Canadian production set in the battlefields of the First World War. *BackBeat* debuts July 21 at the Royal Alexandra Theatre and runs until Labour Day, while *War Horse* continues its run at The Princess of Wales Theatre. Wednesday matinee tickets start at $25, and evening performance tickets at $35. Gift certificates are available in any denomination and can be purchased in person at the box office or by calling 416-872-1212. For more information, visit www.mirvish.com.

# Korry's Clothiers

Continued from page B16

Korry's offers clothing geared to a range of budgets. For people beginning their careers, Korman recommends the Roberto line of clothing, his private label. The line includes suits, shirts, ties, pants and sport coats, all made in Canada.

"Roberto is good value. It's not made offshore. The product performs when the person starts out in their career."

Korry's also carries prestigious lines from European companies such as Canali and Hugo Boss, as well as from the Canadian company Coppley, which is based in Hamilton, Ont.

He said Korry's generates excitement by holding Canali seasonal trunk shows. All of Korry's customers are invited. "Our events are like bar mitzvahs. We feed people. We give them whatever they want to drink.

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No matter what price point his customers choose, Korman made it clear that all the suits must be adjusted by one of his on-site tailors. "If a suit is not fitted by a tailor, people are wasting their money."

Every suit needs some kind of adjustment, he explained. "Sometimes it's a low shoulder or a low arm that must be fixed.

"Great tailoring for our customers is done on the spot. We try as hard as we can to make every suit look right."

And sometimes it takes a couple of fittings, which is a reflection of good service, Korman said.

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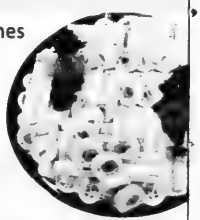

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# Yad Vashem vandalized

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**JERUSALEM** — Vandals spray-painted antisemitic slogans at the entrance to Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial centre.

At least 10 slogans were found Monday morning on the walls outside the museum, including: "Hitler, thank you for the Holocaust," "If Hitler did not exist, the Zionists would have invented him" and "Zionists! You declared war on Hitler in the name of the Jewish people, you brought upon the Holocaust."

Some of the slogans were signed with the words, "The World Zionist Judaism."

Jerusalem police suspect that those responsible for the graffiti are anti-Zionist haredi Jews, as was the case with the vandalism that was found at the city's Ammunition Hill memorial site earlier this year.

The slogans at Yad Vashem were written primarily in and around Warsaw Ghetto Square and the Deportees Memorial.

"I am shocked and horrified by this blatant act of hatred of Israel and Zionism," said Yad Vashem chair Avner Shalev, himself a Holocaust survivor. "This is a disconcerting act that crosses the line."

Israeli police were investigating security footage from Yad Vashem's cameras seeking clues to who perpetrated the crime.

Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar also expressed horror and dismay at the antisemitic vandalism.

"Whoever desecrated and tarnished Yad Vashem with these disturbed slogans did it in order to issue a blow to the emotions of the public," Sa'ar said. "I am counting on Israel Police to track the vandals and bring them to justice."

According to the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, as of 2010, there are some 167,000 survivors still alive in the Jewish state.

**Continued on page 29**

**Vandals defaced the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and museum in Jerusalem over the weekend. Graffiti were sprayed throughout the complex. In the upper photo, the walls surrounding the iconic sculpture honouring the fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto were defaced with multiple messages. The message to the right of the sculpture reads: "If Hitler had not existed, the Zionists would have invented him." In the lower photo, workers remove the graffiti. The spray-painted message read: "Thank you Hitler for the wonderful Holocaust. Thanks to you we got a country," signed "The international Jewish mafia."** *[Flash90 photos]*

**Shlach**
**Candlelighting: 8:43**
**Havdalah: 9:46**
*Greater Toronto Area*

**Annual Jewish book awards conferred – please see page 35**

## CANADA

### Ottawa Chides IOC

**OTTAWA** — Ottawa is urging the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to accept Israel's request for a moment of silence at the 2012 Olympic Games in honour of the 40th anniversary of the murder of 11 Israeli athletes and coaches at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Foreign Minister John Baird and Minister of State (Sport) Bal Gosal wrote to IOC chair Jacques Rogge June 7 to make the request. Meanwhile, Liberal justice and human rights critic Irwin Cotler last week called on all parties to adopt a motion he will soon introduce in the House of Commons in favour of a moment of silence. The IOC has consistently rejected calls for a moment of silence at the 2012 Games, as well at previous Games.

### Conditions Imposed

**MONTREAL** — One of two men who firebombed the chassidic Skver community's boys' school Toldos Yakov Yosef in September 2006 had strict conditions imposed on his release from jail when his seven-year term expired June 11. Omar Bulphred, 27, and his accomplice Azim Ibragimov were charged with hate crimes for throwing a Molotov cocktail into the entrance of the school. They also pleaded guilty to uttering threats in a letter in which they spoke of jihad and demanded the release of a group of men, linked to an Islamist cell, arrested on terror charges in Toronto in 2006 that included a plot to kill the prime minister. Among the conditions being imposed for two years is that Bulphred have no contact with or follow any correctional employees, because he made what were interpreted as indirect threats against corrections staff while in jail.

## WORLD

### Suspects Arrested

**PARIS** — Two suspects have been arrested in connection with an attack on three Jewish teens in Lyon, France. The pair turned themselves in June 6, Agence France Presse reported. The "main perpetrator" of the attack has not yet been apprehended, the local police chief Albert Doutre said The attack, which occurred June 2, took place in Villeurbanne, near Lyon. The attackers, who reportedly numbered about 10, injured two of the Jewish victims with a hammer and an iron bar, sending them to hospital. The attackers were described as "of North-African origin." In March, a rabbi and his two young sons and the daughter of the head of a Jewish school in Toulouse were shot and killed by a Muslim gunman who stormed the school.

### McGill Jewish Studies Gets $1M Bequest

**MONTREAL** — McGill University's department of Jewish studies has received a $1-million gift from the estate of Simon and Ethel Flegg.

The money will be used to help establish postdoctoral fellowships, as well as an educational partnership with McGill Hillel.

Simon Flegg escaped Nazi Germany in 1938 and became a successful businessman in Canada, later setting up a vocational school in Montreal. He and his wife, Ethel, who were childless, were strong supporters of Jewish culture and education in Canada and Israel.

The new partnership with McGill Hillel will give Jewish studies students the opportunity to enrich their studies through experiential learning opportunities offered by Hillel. The gift will help the department "attract leading young scholars and strengthen its ties to the community through a partnership with Hillel," said faculty of arts dean Christopher Manfredi. "It is a fitting gift as we approach the 45th anniversary of the department of Jewish studies."

The department offers an interdisciplinary approach to learning. Students can explore Jewish studies within seven broad areas: biblical studies, east European studies, Jewish history, Jewish thought, language and literature, modern Jewish studies, and rabbinic studies. The teacher training program is run in conjunction with the faculty of education.

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# COR unveils new vegetarian, vegan hechsher

**Jennifer M. MacLeod**
Special to the CJN

Vegetarians and vegans here have often wished for the same reliable supervision that kosher consumers take for granted.

"Other parts of the world have had certification systems going back 10, 15 years," says David Alexander, executive director of the Toronto Vegetarian Association (TVA). Now, at last, Canada has a vegetarian certification program run by COR, the kosher certifying agency of the Kashruth Council of Canada.

The Kashruth Council's VegeCert symbol is a "companion symbol" that would either stand alone or be accompanied by a COR symbol, says Richard Rabkin, VegeCert's managing director.

Several products already bear the logo, including Sweets from the Earth desserts and the Raw Foodz line of dressings and spreads.

Rabkin, who's been with the Kashruth Council for a year and a half, says when he first came on board, he was startled to learn that according to some estimates, only 15 to 20 per cent of consumers looking for a kosher symbol are actually Jewish. Others are vegetarians, vegans, individuals eating kosher for religious reasons, and those seeking an additional measure of food quality and safety.

Rabkin realized it was time to find out how the COR could better serve this constituency. He was surprised by how much TVA leaders knew about kashrut.

"They were asking about all the differences between dairy, pareve, even D-E [a designation meaning a product is pareve, but produced on lines that have been used for dairy foods]."

Ultimately, the TVA sent out a survey to its members to gauge how receptive they'd be to a certifying agency and what standards they'd like to see as part of that certification. From that feedback emerged the VegeCert certification.

While many vegetarians have relied for years on kosher symbols, "not every single vegetarian knows about kosher," Rabkin says.

Additionally, the new logo assures vegetarians that their unique needs – as identified by the survey – are being met.

Certifying vegetarian products is not exactly the same as kosher.

"Vegans may not necessarily be able to rely on [a kosher symbol] alone" because ingredients that are kosher, and even pareve, may not be suitable for those who avoid all animal products. Forbidden ingredients include eggs and, for many, honey.

Some vegetarians indicated that they rely on reading ingredient lists, yet Rabkin says that's not enough, because dairy, egg and even insect ingredients (though not kosher) lurk behind chemical-sounding names and abstractions like "artificial colour."

**Continued on page 14**

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# Idealists rebuild Jerusalem

*From the editor's desk...*

Political and social commentators Dan Senor and Saul Singer have tagged Israel as being the preeminent "startup" nation in the world. The tag has stuck. And deservedly so.

After their army service, large numbers of young Israelis – among them highly motivated, risk-taking, solution-seeking people who develop high tech and other electronic marvels – test themselves and their ideas in the wave and crash of the rough and tumble business world.

But not all young Israelis, after their tour of duty in the army, surf in the high waves of business trying to make their fortunes in the neon and stardom of the startup world.

Some, like Ben Erely, Dana Merzel and Omer Shafrir, test their mettle, their ideas and their ideals in the grimy, hard-scrabble streets of the poor and the needy. Social workers, counsellors, community organizers and activists, the three 30-something Israelis work in the close and cluttered neighbourhood of Kiryat Hayovel, one of the poorest in Jerusalem.

For millennia we have prayed for the rebuilding and restoration of Jerusalem. But it is the highly motivated solution seekers such as Erely, Merzel and Shafrir who actually do it. They strive to rebuild rough neighbourhoods even as they strive to "rebuild" the lives of the people who live in those neighbourhoods.

Kiryat Hayovel is in the southwest part of Jerusalem. Housing first appeared on this lovely hilltop after Israel's War of Independence in 1948. To provide new homes for the waves of refugees from Europe and the Arab world arriving daily to the newly sovereign Jewish state and even well into the 1960s, the authorities built large-scale, high-density housing projects, long, cinder-block rectangular structures of small apartment units. Nor did they use the iconic Jerusalem stone on the buildings' exteriors. They were unimaginative, heavy, squat, dull, colourless, "Soviet-style" dwellings. In those days, speed and efficiency were the rallying cry, not esthetics or charm.

Though there are indeed some very lovely parts to Kiryat Hayovel, it is described as primarily an impoverished, down-on-its-luck neighbourhood where thousands of people from diverse backgrounds live clustered and crowded lives.

That is why, some five years ago, City Hall decided to change things there.

Ben Erely

Omer Shafrir and Dana Merzel

Not surprisingly, the Jerusalem Foundation became involved immediately. The important task of restoring Kiryat Hayovel, fell fully within the foundation's mandate of "building" Jerusalem. The foundation sees its work in Kiryat Hayovel as creating "a massive, multi-disciplinary investment that will succeed in bringing about significant, visible change by bringing more young people to the area."

Erely is the manager of the foundation's ambitious Adopt-a-Neighbourhood program in Kiryat Hayovel.

He guides a visitor from *The CJN* on a walk through the neighbourhood, pointing out some of the sites and sores of the area, old broken-down grates and new improvement projects, too, earnestly greeting whomever he meets, smiling his own sunshine into their mornings.

On a different street in the neighbourhood, described to *The CJN* as the "Harlem of Jerusalem," the visitor from Canada walked with Merzel and Shafrir. Like Erely, they reach out to the Jerusalemites who live on the other side, so to speak, of Jerusalem's golden hills.

They described their mission as trying to "build the human tissue" of the neighbourhood. By that they meant fostering among the residents a sense of confidence and belief in their own skills and abilities, planting in them the notion of inter-connectedness among all the residents of the neighbourhood, strengthening the sense of common interests and a shared future.

The young idealists work in a place where the living conditions are substandard. The levels of income, the levels of self-confidence, the levels of neighbourhood resources are also substandard.

"How do we create a new social dynamic among people who are used to constantly hearing the same negative epithets spoken about themselves or the same excuses used to explain "their failures?" the young idealists asked *The CJN*. "It's quite a challenge," they said.

As long as these young idealists and the countless others like them are ready to struggle with that challenge in Jerusalem, the Jerusalem Foundation will be the wind at their backs. And perhaps one day, a new Kiryat Hayovel will sail forward. *–MBD*

*(Second in a series)*

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**CANADA'S BEST JEWISH AUTHORS**

**The winners of the 24th annual Helen and Stan Vine Jewish Book Awards were announced last week at a ceremony at the Toronto Reference Library. Pictured, from left, are Kalman Weiser, Rebecca Margolis, Richard Marceau, Eli Pfefferkorn, David Bezmozgis and Lesley Simpson. Please see the story on page 35.** ***[Nick Kozak photo]***

From left, Allen Azoulay, photographer Aaron Vincent Elkaim, Communauté Juive Marocaine de Toronto president Simon Keslassy, CJMT secretary Claire Benezra and artist Prosper Trojman *[Digital Joe Photography photo]*

# Judeo-Moroccan culture shared through art

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

An exhibition of Jewish Moroccan art and relics is part of Toronto's first-ever weeklong festival celebrating 2,000 years of Jewish life in Morocco and 50 years of Canadian-Moroccan diplomatic relations.

The exhibit, created by the Communauté Juive Marocaine de Toronto (CJMT), aims to preserve Jewish Moroccan culture as well as educate viewers.

"They'll learn about our culture, our heritage," said Claire Benezra, the chair of the exhibition and secretary of the CJMT. She hopes the greater community, as well as younger generations of Moroccan Jews, will visit and learn from the exhibit.

The opening of the art and artifact show was marked with a reception at Glendon College, where members of the community were invited to view the pieces, learn about Sephardi history in Morocco and enjoy refreshments.

The gallery room houses a collection of paintings by Jewish Moroccan artist Prosper Trojman and photographs of Jewish life in Morocco by Aaron Vincent Elkaim, as well as various family heirlooms and artifacts brought from Morocco, including traditional ceremonial clothing, a shofar, a *kiseh Eliyahu*, chanukiyot, jewelry, art and books.

The rich texture of Trojman's paintings of Moroccan Judaica and the lush emerald-green fabric of the outfit on display, worn by brides at the traditional henna party before the wedding, give a taste of the vibrant culture of Moroccan Jews.

Many of the artifacts were brought for display by families in Toronto. Benezra herself displayed drawings that her father had made in Morocco.

She said the cultural celebration, sponsored by the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the Canadian Sephardic Federation, Friends of the Simon Weisenthal Center and private donors, has brought together the 18,000-strong Moroccan-Jewish community in the city.

"[It's] very exciting," she said. "[I'm] very happy to have this contact with the whole community. You have a feeling of togetherness that you didn't have before."

Simon Keslassy, the president of the CJMT, added that he hopes the togetherness will extend beyond the Moroccan and Sephardi community. "We want the Ashkenazis and the students of the university to see the rich [Judeo Moroccan] patrimony," he said.

Keslassy, whose father was a jeweller in Mogador (now Essaouira), Morocco, proudly displayed a 120-year-old bracelet that has been in his family for generations. He also brought in a framed kabbalistic text given to him by the Moroccan Jewish community in Israel.

For Allen (Yehuda) Azoulay, a proponent of Sephardi heritage and education and a contributor to the artifacts exhibit, the importance of educating younger generations about their culture is vital. "It's something to be proud of and to share," he said.

He's "very concerned" that the ancient customs and the history of Moroccan Jews could be lost if future generations do not get interested and involved. Azoulay said that the CJMT celebration is an important step in sharing and passing on the culture. "The tradition is still going on," he said. "We just have to maintain it."

The exhibit will be on display at Glendon College until June 28. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.cjmt.org.

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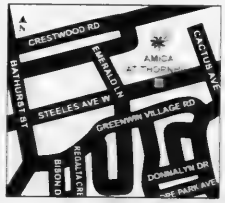


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# City council condemns term 'Israeli apartheid'

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Toronto has officially condemned the term "Israeli apartheid" as part of a compromise to fund the city's annual Pride festival.

City council last week voted unanimously to grant nearly $104,000 to Pride Toronto. It also voted to denounce the controversial term that forms part of the name of Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA), an anti-Zionist group that has been participating in Pride events since 2008.

QuAIA didn't take part in Toronto's 2011 Pride Week, bowing to pressure from Pride organizers and the city's gay community to ensure the city's grant flowed to the festival after an acrimonious public debate threatened to see the city cut its funding.

Pride Toronto also instituted a new dispute-resolution mechanism last year as a result of the controversy surrounding QuAIA's participation in prior parades.

Justine Apple, executive director of Kulanu Toronto, the city's main Jewish lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered organization, told *The CJN* she was happy with council's decision to condemn the term "Israeli apartheid," and that hers would be the first group to trigger Pride Toronto's dispute-resolution process regarding QuAIA.

Kulanu was scheduled to file its complain with Pride last Friday.

The dispute-resolution committee, made up of legal experts and community members, has been empowered by Pride Toronto to examine any complaints against parade applicants and decide whether they can officially participate.

Apple was hopeful her complaint would be reviewed before Pride Week, which this year begins on June 22 and culminates in the annual Pride Parade on July 1.

However, the committee has 30 days to review any complaint, which could mean QuAIA's status as a participant might not be decided until well after Pride Week this year, Apple said.

Some on council grudgingly accepted funding to Pride despite the possibility of QuAIA's participation this year.

For more on this evolving story, go to *The CJN*'s website at cjnews.com.

# Anti-hate law repealed

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

The House of Commons last week adopted a private members bill that will repeal the section of the Canadian Human Rights Act (CHRA) that addresses Internet and telephone hate speech.

In a free vote of 153 to 136 that largely followed party lines, the Commons supported a bill by Alberta Conservative backbencher Brian Storseth that will repeal Section 13 of the CHRA.

The bill still has to be approved by the Senate before it receives royal assent and becomes law.

Storseth said the repeal would be a "vote for freedom." He called Section 13 a "vague and highly subjective law" that "an overzealous bureaucracy" had been using to suppress Canadians' right to freedom of expression.

Storseth said the current human rights legislation allows too many frivolous cases to proceed against citizens and that hate-incitement provisions of the Criminal Code, as enforced by the courts, are the proper venue to deal with hate speech.

Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), said the repeal of Section 13 must be accompanied by greater reliance on the Criminal Code.

Section 13 as it stood was inadequate to the task of tackling hate speech, Fogel said, but unless there was greater use of the Criminal Code, "this would be replacing one problem with another."

Vulnerable minorities must be protected from hate speech, he said. "Ultimately, we are indifferent as to whether the Criminal Code becomes the instrument or a modified Section 13 continued to be the platform. One or the other would be fine.

"The problem has been the lack of will on behalf of attorneys-general and a lack of co-ordination between governments to ensure there is a single approach to the problem."

Though the Criminal Code is a national law, it is enforced provincially and in the case of hate-crime prosecutions, cases cannot proceed without the consent of the provincial attorney general.

Section 13 cases under the CHRA are adjudicated by civil servants sitting as a tribunal. The type of evidence that can be heard, the standard of proof and other legal safeguards are much stricter in criminal prosecutions.

Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Canada, agreed that "there are problems with the operation of Section 13." However, "the law must strike a balance between preventing the abuse of the Internet and protecting individual rights to privacy and free speech. In as much we all believe in absolute freedom, our freedom is in reality protected by laws and social safeguards that help shield us against harm from each other and from civil disobedience. Without guiding posts or red lines that protect us against hateful behaviour, inequity would result, leading to a loss of freedom and tolerance for all."

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# *Bashar Assad's heart of darkness*

The slaughter of innocents in Syria is escalating in a near frenzy of cruelty and sadism. Even women and children have become targets of government forces. International observers estimate that more than 8,000 people have been killed by President Bashar Assad since he began defending and reasserting his total control over his police state against the clamouring from some of his people for some measures of democratic reform 15 months ago. Syrian rebel groups fighting Assad say the death toll has passed 14,000.

Last Sunday alone Syrian troops used heavy weapons in Homs. At least 35 civilians were killed. Dozens were killed over the weekend.

Despite wielding so heavy a blood-stained hand, Assad may in fact be losing control of parts of the country. Last weekend, for example, according to an Al-Arabiya report, rebel forces took control of a Syrian air force base near the city of Homs and with it, of course, control of the surface-to-air-missiles on the base.

Thus, not surprisingly, the deepening chaos and anarchy are causing great consternation in Israel. At a memorial event Sunday in Jerusalem honouring soldiers who fell in the first war in Lebanon, the IDF's Deputy Chief of Staff, Maj.-Gen. Yair Naveh, warned against the possibility that Syria's chemical arsenal, the world's largest, might fall into the hands of Iran's surrogates in Lebanon, Hezbollah, or other terrorist organizations.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the situation in Syria as "a massacre of civilians, including of children and the elderly."

Deputy Prime Minister Shaul Mofaz said "a crime against humanity – genocide – is being conducted in Syria today. And the silence of the world powers is contrary to all human logic."

President Shimon Peres added that the world was not doing enough to stop the bloodshed in Syria.

Along with his utter lack of conscience and penchant for prevarication, Assad has now also put on full display his heart of darkness, a sinister, evil place where the lives of people, let alone his own people, are dismissed like detritus thrown onto the streets. Former UN secretary general Kofi Annan, who had tried to broker an end to the intra-Syrian fighting and who put his faith in the Syrian dictator, is only the most recent witness to Assad's smiling duplicity and murderous intentions.

Evan Zelikovitz, the Ottawa community activist writing this week in *The CJN* (See the Perspectives essay) is absolutely correct when he writes about the Assad regime, "We must take sides. The world simply has a moral obligation to do something."

What the world must do is remove Bashar Assad.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Opposition Liberal MP Herb Gray, the first Jew to sit in a federal cabinet, marked 25 years in the House of Commons. Gray was appointed to cabinet in 1969 by prime minister Pierre Trudeau as a minister without portfolio. He later served under Trudeau as minister of national revenue, minister of consumer and corporate affairs, and as industry minister until the Liberals' defeat in 1984.

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## Archeological dig at Masada

Alex Gropper's column on archeologist Yigael Yadin brought back memories ("Inspiration from Israel and Hollywood," May 31). I arrived in Israel in 1961 as a 20-year-old, and in 1963 I took a month's holiday from working at Amcor and signed up for Yadin's archeological dig team at Masada for four weeks. The dig was sponsored in part by the *London Observer*, which had some reporters there writing articles. One day, a British volunteer, a beautiful young non-Jewish girl whom I befriended on the dig, and who was working next to me, was asked by a reporter what brought her to Masada, a very specific Jewish site with absolutely no meaning for a non-Jew. She answered him by lifting a 10- to 15-kilogram rock and moving it a few feet. Then she pointed to it and said, "I am the first person in 2,000 years to move that rock – that is history, and history belongs to all." The *Observer* then did an article on this young lady.

**Isidore Baum**
**Chomedey, Laval, Que.**

* * *

## Saddened by columnist's statement

There is an old Yiddish expression, "*Es tsu schver tsu zan a Yid*," or in English, "It's tough to be a Jew." Nothing exemplifies that more than Gil Troy's column, "No, McGill is not antisemitic," May 31). How unfair! To quote him, "We need to set the highest standards for the pro-Israel community, demanding truth, consistency, nuance and accuracy." But, of course, our opponents, the Arabs and the antisemites, can demonize Israel using any tactic they see as successful. The unfortunate fact that I agree with Troy saddens me even more.

**Murray Rubin**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Objects to Tel Aviv U's Nakba Day

Bernard Katz completely misses the point of objections to the Nakba Day celebrations at Tel Aviv University (Letters, June 7). As Katz surely knows, Israeli Arabs have complete freedom to say whatever they want, and nobody is trying to "suppress their right to express their views." However, holding this dubious ceremony on the grounds of a publicly funded institution is clearly objectionable. In effect, the State of Israel and those who support Tel Aviv U financially found themselves paying to have the state demonized and delegitimized by those who seek to destroy it. If that isn't disgraceful and offensive, I don't know what is.

**Stephen Tannenbaum**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

* * *

## Remembering Rabbi Jonathan Plaut

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Rabbi Jonathan Plaut, on April 17. He was my family's spiritual leader at Congregation Temple Beth El, when we lived in Windsor, Ont., in the 1970s and 1980s.

Rabbi Plaut, who was well loved by the Jewish community, instilled the importance of our obligation to continue the rituals of our Jewish heritage, learn the Hebrew language and partake in community involvement. He demonstrated compassion and advocated intellectual pursuits. "Do you notice that in almost every Jewish household there are shelves of books?" he once asked. He had that quintessential Jewish-man humour and admonished one when circumstances merited, such as when our temple youth group purposely ordered an "unacceptable" pizza and he threw us all out! Rabbi Plaut understood the obstacles for Israel settling the West Bank and advocated, in the 1970s, achieving peace in the Middle East by establishing a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

During a children's service at Sunday morning Hebrew school, sitting up on the bimah and covering his eyes, Rabbi Plaut recited this prayer from the siddur, "Grant us peace, thy most precious gift, O Thou Eternal Source of Peace, and enable Israel to be its messenger unto all peoples of the Earth." Indeed, Rabbi Plaut was a precious gift to the Windsor Jewish community.

**Smadar Meiri**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

### *LET THEM GO...*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

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# The bloodshed in Syria must stop: we must take sides

Evan Zelikovitz

One month ago, I returned from the most uplifting two-week journey into humanity, chaperoning 16 Ottawa high school students on the March of the Living program.

The March, 25 years strong in existence, is an international educational experience that brings together young and old from all over the world, to Poland and then Israel.

Seven hundred Canadians and more than 10,000 people participated in the 2012 March, a two-week journey that pays tribute to Holocaust survivors and victims and to those brave individuals who fought for freedom and what was right, despite the risks in doing so. But in its purest form, the March is simply about embracing humanity, even during the darkest of times, when humanity seems all but lost.

After all the horror and suffering we witnessed during the Holocaust, and then afterwards in Cambodia, Croatia, Darfur, Sudan and now Syria, it is shameful that we still have not learned from our mistakes, and that we continue to allow global politics and diplomacy to trump humanity.

The world has become aware of the recent massacre in Houla, Syria, of more than 100 people, including nearly three dozen children under the age of 10. As a result, Canada and other nations have taken action to expel Syrian diplomats. Unfortunately this sort of diplomatic and political gesturing will do very little to stop Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his reign of terror.

I am not naïve. I understand the bigger picture in Syria and within the Middle East region. Indeed it is complicated. It always has been. But there is simply no excuse for the innocent slaughter of children – not in politics. Not anywhere. And I recognize that what comes after the fall of tyranny is not always rosy – it has its own uncertainties, consequences and problems. But the unknown is not an excuse to continue to allow such unthinkable and meaningless atrocities. We must take sides.

The world simply has a moral obligation to do something. The road may be long and hard and more lives will be lost but we can no longer sit in our ivory towers, thousands of miles away and watch as innocent bystanders, while one man's need for power destroys other innocent bystanders.

**At at recent protest rally, Israelis demonstrate against the regime of Bashar Assad. The sign asks the question: "Where is the United Nations?"** *[Flash90 photo]*

It is shameful. If Syria was rich in oil and gas resources, perhaps the world would care more. What an appalling statement and way to live. Sometimes things are worth fighting for. Not just oil or land or food. When we fail to understand that humanity is worth fighting for, then we have simply failed. We have failed our children and we have failed to teach them what is and can be good about this world we live in.

When we don't engage for the sake of something as simple as protecting humanity, then we have shown two things: we have lost our way as human beings, and we confirm that we have learned nothing from the past.

It is time for politics and diplomacy to take a back seat and let the chips fall where they may. I know that courageous soldiers from Canada, United States, England and elsewhere will die. But they will not die in vain. I don't say this easily. I am not a soldier, nor are my children. It is hard to put myself in the shoes of those I ask to risk their lives for freedom and humanity. But we must take sides.

The time has come to forget about the pending re-elections of our world leaders. The time has come to cast aside uncertainties of Middle East and geopolitical instability. Instability is already present.

It is time to stop thinking about what engagement in Syria might do and start thinking about what our lack of engagement is already doing. And we must stop thinking about why others should engage in a problem that is so far away from our everyday life. We must start realizing that the embracing of humanity is indeed our responsibility and that it impacts the way we live. We must take sides.

World renowned author and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, best captured the stark reality of what is happening today in Syria and in other unfortunate places around the world. Sitting on the proverbial sidelines is no longer acceptable, Wiesel said.

"We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must - at that moment - become the centre of the universe."

Simply put, we must take sides.

*Evan Zelikovitz is a public affairs and crisis communications consultant*

# Syrian forces shoot at UN monitors

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**TEL AVIV** — UN monitors seeking to reach the site of a new reported massacre of Syrian villagers by forces loyal to President Bashar Assad were shot at with small arms, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said last Thursday.

Ban, speaking at the start of a special UN General Assembly session on the Syrian crisis, condemned the reported massacre at Mazraat al-Qubeir and called again on Assad to immediately implement international mediator Kofi Annan's six-point peace plan.

"Today's news reports of another massacre ... are shocking and sickening," he told the 193-nation assembly. "A village apparently surrounded by Syrian forces. The bodies of innocent civilians lying where they were, shot. Some allegedly burned or slashed with knives."

"We condemn this unspeakable barbarity and renew our determination to bring those responsible to account," he said.

Ban said UN monitors were initially denied access to the site. "They are working now to get to the scene," he said. "And I just learned a few minutes ago that while trying to do so the UN monitors were shot at with small arms."

A short while afterward, a UN spokeswoman said that the United Nations monitors were unable to visit the village of Mazraat al-Qubeir on Thursday where activists say at least 78 people were massacred, and will continue efforts to reach the site on Friday in daylight hours.

"They are going back to their base in Hama and they will try again tomorrow morning," spokeswoman Sausan Ghosheh said. Chief observer General Robert Mood said earlier they had been turned back by Syrian soldiers and also stopped by civilians.

Ban was addressing the General Assembly on Thursday ahead of Annan's expected presentation to the UN Security Council on Thursday of a new proposal in a last-ditch effort to rescue his failing peace plan for Syria, where 15 months of violence have brought it to the brink of civil war.

Speaking to the General Assembly after Ban, Annan also condemned the new reported massacre and acknowledged that his peace plan was not working.

The U.S. administration also condemned the massacre in Hama.

"The United States strongly condemns the outrageous targeted killings of civilians including women and children in Al-Qubeir in Hama province as reported by multiple credible sources", the White House spokesman said in a statement.

"This, coupled with the Syrian regime's refusal to let UN observers into the area to verify these reports, is an affront to human dignity and justice."

Israel's ambassador to the UN, Ron Prosor, issued a statement to the Syrian people on behalf of Israel.

"We hear your cries. We are horrified by the crimes of the Assad regime," Prosor said. "We extend our hand to you. Assad is not the only one with the blood of the Syrian people on his hands. Iran and Hezbollah sit on his advisory board, offering guidance on how to butcher the Syrian people more efficiently. It is high time for the voices of the victims in Syria to finally unite the voices of the world against the tyrant of Damascus."

Diplomats said the West has been pushing Russia to abandon Assad.

Annan's peace efforts have failed to halt the violence, as demonstrated by a recent massacre in Houla that led to the deaths of at least 108 men, women and children, most likely by the army and allied militia, according the United Nations.

Opposition members said there was a similar massacre last week in Hama province, with at least 78 people killed. UN monitors were prevented from reaching it, though a pro-government Syrian television station said the unarmed monitoring force did reach the village of Mazraat al-Qubeir.

Human rights activists estimate that as many as 8,000 people have been killed in Syria by the government and its forces.

# That Ol' Lake of Fire has me in its spell

*Jean M. Gerber*

*in Vancouver*

When a Christian minister in Alberta who was running for office asserted that homosexuals would burn in a lake of fire, Christians got the reference, but it may have mystified Jews.

Was he threatening to dump them in one of the tar sands sludge pools or a similarly polluted river?

No, he was quoting a punishment promised by John of Patmos in his Book of Revelation, the last book in the Christian Bible and a source of similar apocalyptic threats for the last 2,000 years.

As the good pastor was fulminating against those he saw qualifying for this final swim, I was reading the new book by Elaine Pagels, *Revelations: Visions, Prophecy and Politics in the Book of Revelation.*

Why would Jews have any interest in a Christian apocalyptic book? If not for the fact the minister was mouthing a despicable threat, we could pretty much ignore him.

A word about the book of Revelation: it was written by a Jewish Christian (although the term Christian had yet to be used) after the 70 CE destruction of the Second Temple and was directed at churches being formed in Asia Minor.

The Evil Empire to the author was Rome. The second enemy was those churches that, he felt, had strayed from the true faith. In her book, Pagels argues that, just as in other apocalyptic literature, John's writings had political as well as theological overtones.

In his visions, while he is "in the spirit," he foresees a terrible end of days when Rome will be vanquished, the faithful will be saved by a warrior Christ, and only the righteous will finally enjoy eternal bliss. Along the way, he has terrible punishments in store for the faithless and wicked, including that lake of fire and a terrible final conflict.

It's this lake that some have reserved for the devil and all his angels, and to which the ministerial candidate would assign homosexuals.

Lest we think the author made this up out of whole cloth, we should note that John drew extensively on Jewish apocalyptic canonical sources such as Ezekiel and Daniel, and other Jewish writers not included in the Hebrew Bible, but well known in John's era. Indeed, on Shavuot when we read from Habakkuk, we found the prophet's vision of destruction and salvation in terms similar to John's:

"[God's] majesty covers the skies/ His splendour fills the earth.../ Pestilence marches before Him/ And plague comes forth at His heels/ When He stands, He makes the earth shake.../ You have come forth to deliver Your people/ To deliver Your anointed."

The prophet was referring to the kingdom of Babylon, not Rome, as the enemy, but the sense of a terrible "day of the Lord" is clear.

For Isaiah, the end of days would see every nation come to the mountain of the Lord and worship in a restored Temple.

Two thousand years ago, other Jewish writers expected a war to the end – see the writings of the Dead Sea sect, for example. The Bar Kochba revolt was replete with messianic theology supported by Rabbi Akiva, among many others. That war's terrible aftermath pretty much put an end to overt messianic fervour. Most rabbis who came to control the narrative were in no mood to condone further outbursts of apocalyptic fever.

However, according to Gershom Scholem, in *The Messianic Idea in Judaism*, messianic longings and a vision of an apocalyptic upheaval continued to be found in Judaism. "Jewish Messianism is in its origins and by its nature – this cannot be sufficiently emphasized – a theory of catastrophe," he writes.

Messianic longings, and false messiahs, continued in Judaism. Even today, the idea that some one person may be the promised Messiah lingers. Elements within Israel regard the establishment of the state, as well as the "miraculous" recovery of old Jerusalem in 1967 and the territories, as a sign that the promised age of the Messiah is at hand.

So when we hear Christian claims that portents of the end are near (see the *Left Behind* series), we should acknowledge that within our own tradition there exists both the hope for a messiah and a belief that political events carry a hidden message.

Sadly, messianic claims for Jews have always ended in disaster. Also, to act on the assumption that political events will produce a messianic end will only continue to doom us to unrealistic expectations and bad, bad political choices.

# The benefits of high school reunions

*Norma Baumel Joseph*

*in Montreal*

I recently attended the 50th reunion of my high school class. It was certainly fun to reminisce with old friends and to be reminded of youthful carefree days. But what's the purpose of such events?

In order to go to New York for the day, I had to make many preparations for my husband's care. I was also aware that some of my peers made a great effort to be present at our luncheon. What drove us to this celebration? What were we celebrating?

Reunions enable many people to gather together with diverse purposes who would ordinarily never find mutual interests. Simply because they were once in school together doesn't mean they currently have any common ground. Yet the opportunity to review the past and momentarily even relive it is enough to draw the group back together. So despite the difficulty of getting there, we gathered to see who would come, who would look the same and who would be unrecognizable.

Additionally, we linked up with our Israeli cohorts via Skype. Our school was an early Zionist establishment and 16 members of our grade (of 99 students) made aliyah. We had an opportunity to try to decipher the discussion going on in Israel as we communicated with friends and strangers in an apartment there. It was a noisy, fun-filled part of an amusing day. This part made us even more aware of our early education and its Israel connection. At that time, we weren't conscious of our school's early remarkable Zionist commitment. Now it became more obvious and noteworthy.

Thus a reunion can bring out unexpected patterns and themes from one's past. For some, they're obvious. For others, they're not worth mentioning. But sometimes the group experience highlights an element so clearly that even if it was acknowledged previously by individuals, the new group experience of knowing brings a heightened sense of identification.

But what can we understand of our varied purposes for a reunion? The school, of course, wanted to fundraise. That's the purpose of alumni organizations. But what did we, the alumni, want? Did we want to see old friends? I doubt that was the only reason, since we had not looked these people up before. Yet seeing old friends was fun and rewarding. More exciting was reviewing our youthful pranks and fun-filled days. We had good times at school, free from the heavy responsibilities we now face. It's a good ritual to remind you of that carefree feeling. So reunions are a good thing in and of themselves simply on that level.

Additionally, many people of a certain age long for their youth and in this form of remembrance can engage that lost youth. Certainly there was a lot of that going on. We went around the room recalling some of our precious memories. It was a group exercise – ritual-like – that seemed appropriate. It brought many smiles to our faces, as different reminiscences created a bag full of delight. What better way to celebrate getting older than to spend time with people who only knew you as being young. The vision shared is one of youth without any excuses or apologies.

It's true that some came to remake their image. They looked better or were smarter. Some had achieved more and were riding their success. But most were just happy to be there – happy to be alive. Given time, it was clear everyone had a story to tell. No one had escaped with a charmed life. Yet for that moment of re-connecting, we were back in our old classroom tormenting the teachers and principals – young and vibrant and eager, ready to face the world. In that context, we could now face each other as grownups.

Going back in time is useful if just for a moment, just for a celebration. The ritual of a reunion is helpful to remind us where we came from and what direction our lives have taken. It's constructive to meet old friends again and rehash those old stories. They set up a framework for understanding the present as we engage our stories and our identities and proceed to develop the map of expansion that builds upon the best of those old stories.

And perhaps we can re-engage some old friends.

# *Turkey's alliance with Israel crumbles*

Surveying the broken landscape of Israel's bilateral ties with Turkey since May 2010, when Israeli commandos killed nine Turks aboard the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara and Turkey responded by recalling its ambassador in Tel Aviv, an Israeli diplomat based in Istanbul struck an upbeat tone.

"Look, we've had our ups and downs," he said, implicitly referring to Turkey's decision in 1981 to downgrade relations with Israel after it formalized its annexation of eastern Jerusalem. "We're at a low point now, but we hope to come out of it and strengthen our relations."

*Sheldon Kirshner in Istanbul*

The diplomat added, "There is a strategic value in our relationship. As democracies, we have mutual interests and a shared desire for stability in this region. There is a will on both sides to resolve this issue. Where there is a will, there is a way."

In Ankara, a Turkish diplomat in charge of Turkey's relations with Israel sounded a hopeful note as well. "Our bilateral relations today are not what they once were. Turkey and Israel contributed to peace and stability in the Middle East, but when Israel's policies ran counter to these objectives, our relations deteriorated."

Turkey's political bonds with Israel, which morphed into something of an alliance in the wake of the 1990s Oslo peace process, have crumbled, having been sent into a downward spiral since Israel's invasion of the Gaza Strip in 2009. Israel's incursion was sharply condemned by Turkey's outspoken prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who likened it to "state terrorism."

He widened the rift by insulting Israeli President Shimon Peres at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, while Israel's deputy foreign minister, Danny Ayalon, stoked further tensions by publicly humiliating Turkey's envoy in Israel. In the wake of Israel's raid on the Mavi Marmara, Turkey demanded a formal apology, reparations for Turkish lives lost and a lifting of the blockade.

Last September, following the release of a United Nations fact-finding report on the Mavi Marmara, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu called the clash on the high seas "a crime against humanity." He proceeded to downgrade Turkey's relations with Israel to the second-secretary level and cancelled all military agreements with Israel.

Subsequently, in four rounds of talks held in Europe, Turkish and Israeli diplomats wrestled with the issue. Turkey claims an agreement was reached in which Israel would have accommodated Turkey's demands for an apology and compensation.

But due to "disagreements within the Israeli council of ministers, this agreement could not be implemented," Davutoglu said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, encouraged by Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, declared that an apology would not be forthcoming, even though Israel has issued four apologies to Turkey in the last five years.

In 2007, Israel apologized for having violated Turkish airspace in the bombing of Syria's nuclear reactor. In 2009, Israel issued an apology after Israeli Gen. Avi Mizrachi accused Turkey of murdering Armenians and suppressing its Kurdish citizens. In 2010, Israel apologized for the mistreatment of Turkey's ambassador and for the "misunderstanding" in Davos. Since then, the situation has gone from bad to worse.

Last month, Turkey's chief prosecutor charged several high-ranking Israeli military officials, including the former chief of staff, with ordering the intentional killing of Turks on the Mavi Marmara. Before this announcement, Turkey scrambled F-16 fighters to confront Israeli aircraft reportedly violating Turkish Cyprus' airspace and then summoned Israel's chargé d'affaires in Ankara, Yosef Levi Sfari, to explain the intrusion.

Turkey maintains that the Greek Cypriot government has no right to sign oil and gas drilling agreements with Israel to the detriment of the Turkish Cypriot government. Turkey, having been increasingly assertive in the Middle East of late, disputes Israeli and Greek Cypriot territorial claims to offshore resources.

Amid the rhetoric, the United States' ambassador to Turkey, Francis Ricciardone, recently called on both sides to cool passions and mend fences. It is a tall order, given Turkey's visceral reaction to the Mavi Marmara affair. Turkey, for example, has restricted the use of its airspace to Israeli cargo planes and cut back on cultural exchanges.

As far as Israel is concerned, Erdogan, the leader of a socially conservative Islamic government, is the real problem. He has embraced Hamas, urged the United Nations to impose sanctions on Israel, branded recent Israeli air strikes in Gaza as a "massacre," decried Netanyahu's government as the "worst" in Israel's history, lambasted Lieberman as a "despicable" person and described Israel's nuclear arsenal as a threat to the Middle East. Last week, he accused Israel of mistreating Palestinians, "our brothers," in Gaza.

Israel, nonetheless, wants to improve relations with Turkey, the only Muslim member of NATO. But Israel's refusal to issue an official apology for the Mavi Marmara incident looms as a formidable obstacle. When asked whether Israel is prepared to apologize, an Israeli diplomat in Istanbul replied, "That's for negotiations. A compromise could be the answer. Israel has never shied away from compromises."

Ahmet Davutoglu

In Ankara, a Turkish diplomat said, "We are offering Israel a way out of this crisis. Turkey will completely normalize its relations with Israel if Israel issues an apology. Turkey's demands are clear. The future of our relations depends on what steps Israel takes."

The Mavi Marmara affair, he observed, left an "indelible mark in the minds and hearts of the Turkish people, and the fact that it came from a friendly power increased the indignation." Reiterating the abiding principle of Turkish foreign policy, he said, "We want zero problems with our neighbours. Our motto is, 'Peace at home and peace abroad.'"

He dismissed the notion that Turkey has distanced itself from Israel to curry favour with Arab states and the Palestinians. As he put it, "We don't need to do this to strengthen Turkey's position as a champion of the Palestinian cause. We're trying to develop good relations with everyone. We don't design our policy at the expense of anyone."

Rifat Bali, a historian, claims that the honeymoon era in Israeli-Turkish relations has passed and that even an Israeli apology would not be enough for Turkey.

"The Turkish-Israeli alliance was an anomaly. Before the 1990s, it did not exist. Things are back to normal now. The Turkish military drove this alliance, and today, the generals don't have a say in it. Turkey needed Israel for two things: weapons and lobbying against the Armenian lobby in Washington. Today, Turkey is more interested in expanding its influence in the Middle East."

Sami Kohen, a foreign affairs columnist, believes that both sides share responsibility for the Mavi Marmara fiasco. "Israel made a mistake opening fire on the Mavi Marmara and using excessive force," said Kohen, who urges Israel to apologize. "Israel could have seized the ship instead. Turkey is to be blamed for not discouraging the Mavi Marmara to leave port."

Absent the Mavi Marmara incident, he noted, Israel's bilateral relations with Turkey could have been "quite normal." At the end of the day, the Mavi Marmara incident was a historic watershed, having been the first direct clash between Turkey and Israel.

Exuding pessimism, Kohen said, "Israel has lost Turkey for quite some time to come."

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# Group fundraises for orphans of IDF soldiers

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

An upcoming fundraiser in Toronto for an organization called Israel Defence Forces Widows and Orphans (IDFWO), will help fund a three-week vacation for 45 Israeli children who have suffered the loss of a parent who died serving the State of Israel.

IDFWO is a non-profit association that provides social, emotional and financial support to 8,000 widows and orphans of Israel's fallen soldiers.

Some of the programs offered by the organization include education scholarships for orphans, a special event honouring IDF orphans enlisting in the army, medical assistance, and financial aid.

IDFWO also organizes a bar and bat mitzvah program that includes a visit with Israeli President Shimon Peres, a ceremony at the Kotel in Jerusalem and a reception attended by the Minister of Defense and the Chief of Staff.

But perhaps the biggest undertaking is the free vacation that IDFWO children are treated to, during which they spend two weeks at Camp Chi in the Chicago area, and a week travelling along North America's east coast.

Last year was the first time the group included Toronto in its itinerary, and IDFWO volunteer Daniel Tuksar said that after receiving such a warm welcome, a new group of 45 kids and 10 supervisors will travel to Toronto this summer, too.

The trip is free for the participants, and although some of its funding comes from the Israeli government, IDFWO mostly relies on donations from outside sources in the Diaspora.

**Participants in IDFWO's bar mitzvah program celebrate at the Kotel in Jerusalem.**

Enter Toronto residents Stella and Peter Ekstein, who will host a fundraiser in their home on June 20.

Brig.-Gen (Res.) Eden Attias, Israel's Ministry of Defence attaché to Canada; Hadas Wittenberg Silberstein, deputy consul general of Israel in Toronto, and IDFWO chairperson Nava Shoham-Solan will attend the event and address the guests.

Peter Ekstein, a Jewish community leader, said that after meeting Shoham-Solan when she was here with the IDFWO kids in 2011, he was eager to lend a hand to further the cause.

"I don't have a role with the organization. I'm just very involved in the community, and I have a very strong affinity to Israel and the IDF. I'm involved with the Association of the Soldiers of Israel and a number of projects in Israel. I have a number of good friends in the IDF and very good friends who have sons in the IDF," Ekstein said.

"Soldiers are on a lot of people's radar screens, but not many people think about their widows or surviving children. When I met with Nava, I realized this was something worth supporting."

He said he's expecting more that 50 people at his home next week to raise funds for what he considers an important cause.

"As part of a personal philosophy, I believe we are only able to live the lives we live here as Jews and walk the streets with our heads held high because of the State of Israel. Without the IDF, there is no State of Israel, and that is why it is incumbent upon us to support the IDF," Ekstein said.

Tuksar said the trip, which is meant to give the children a break from reality and let them meet other kids who have also lost a parent, will begin July 12 when the kids head to camp in Illinois for two weeks. On July 26, the group will travel to New York City, then spend the weekend in Connecticut before arriving in Toronto on July 30.

He said volunteers, most of whom are members of Beit Avraham Yoseph Synagogue of Toronto, will host the group and organize fun activities such as a bowling night at the Bathurst Bowlerama, a day at Canada's Wonderland, a tour of Niagara Falls and an afternoon at Debbie and Warren Kimel's family cottage.

For more information, contact Tuksar at Daniel@idfwo.org.

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Advertising Feature

# The Jewish Messiah...and Why Jesus Doesn't Qualify

**Christian missionaries, like *Jews for Jesus*, claim that Jesus is the *Jewish* messiah! Why has Judaism rejected this assertion for 2,000 years?**

The concept of the Messiah has its foundation in our Jewish Bible, the *Tanach*, which teaches that all of the following criteria must be fulfilled before any person can be acknowledged as the Messiah:

### Ingathering of the Jewish Exiles

When the Messiah is reigning as King of Israel, the Jewish people will be ingathered from their exile and will return to Israel, their homeland (Deut. 30:3; Isaiah 11:11-12; Jeremiah 30:3, 32:37; Ezekiel 11:17, 36:24).

*Jesus never reigned as king and the Jewish people have not yet all returned to live in their promised homeland.*

### Rebuilding of the Holy Temple

The Temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt (Isaiah 2:2-3, 56:6-7, 60:7, 66:20; Ezekiel 37:26–27; Malachi 3:4; Zechariah 14:20-21).

*The Temple was still standing in Jesus' day. It was destroyed about 38 years after Jesus' crucifixion and it has not yet been rebuilt.*

### Worldwide Reign of Peace

There will be universal disarmament and world-wide peace with a complete end to war (Micah 4:1-4; Hoseah 2:20; Isaiah 2:1-4, 60:18).

*Wars have increased dramatically in the world since the advent of Christianity.*

### Embracing of Torah Observance by All Jews

The Messiah will reign as King at a time when all the Jewish people will observe G-d's commandments (Ezekiel 37:24; Deuteronomy 30:8,10; Jeremiah 31:32; Ezekiel 11:19-20, 36:26-27).

*All Jews are not yet following all the commandments of the Torah.*

### Universal Knowledge of G-d

The Messiah will rule at a time when all the people of the world will come to acknowledge and serve the one true G-d (Zech. 3:9, 8:23, 14:9,16; Isaiah 45:23, 66:23; Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 38:23; Psalm 86:9; Zeph. 3:9).

*This, as well, has not yet taken place and we await its fulfillment.*

### From the Tribe of Judah and a Descendant of King David and King Solomon

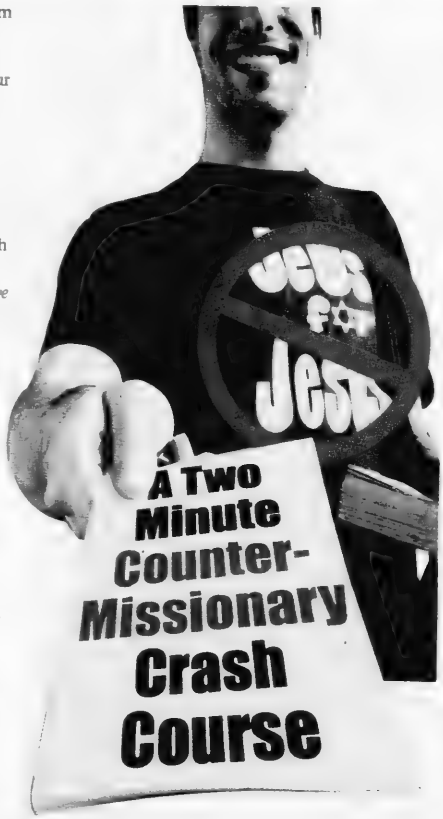
The Messiah must be a member of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10) and a direct descendant of King David and King Solomon (2 Samuel 7:12-14; I Chronicles 22:9-10). Genealogy in the Bible is only passed down from father to son (Numbers 1:1-18).

*There is no evidence that Jesus really had this pedigree, and the Christian Bible actually claims that he did not have a "birth-father" from the tribe of Judah descending from David and Solomon (Matthew 1:18-20).*

### A Biblical Portrait of the Messiah

All of these criteria for the Messiah are found in numerous places in the Jewish Bible. One foundational example is in the book of Ezekiel, Chapter 37:24-28:

*And My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd, and they will walk in My ordinances, and keep My statutes, and observe them and they shall live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers have lived; and they shall live there, they, and their children, and their children's children forever; and My servant David will be their prince for ever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant, which I will give them; and I will multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever and My tabernacle shall be with them, and I will be their God and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.*




Anyone can claim to be the Messiah or a group of people can claim that someone is the Messiah. However, if that person fails to fulfill all the criteria found in the Jewish Bible, he cannot be the Messiah. According to the Christian scriptures, Jesus seems to have understood this. As he was being crucified by the Romans, he cried out "My G-d, my G-d, why have You forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

### The Christian Rebuttal

In order to deal with Jesus' failure to fulfill the Biblical messianic prophecies, missionaries argue that he will accomplish them when he returns in the future.

It is important to understand that this doctrine of a "second coming" is an admission that Jesus did not fulfill the Messianic criteria. This rationalization for his failure certainly provides no reason for accepting him as the Messiah today. Furthermore, the Jewish Bible does not have a Messianic "installment plan" where the Messiah comes, fails in his mission, and then returns thousands of years later to finally succeed.

Missionaries will claim that because Jesus performed miracles, he must be the Messiah. We, however, have no real evidence that Jesus actually performed any miracles. More significantly, even if Jesus did perform miracles, they would not prove that he was the Messiah. Our Bible never says that we will be able to recognize the Messiah through the miracles that he will do. The Torah actually teaches that even false prophets can have the ability to perform supernatural miracles (Deuteronomy 13:2-6).

### The Real Messiah

As Jews, we prefer to wait for the *real thing* according to G-d's promises and guidelines. The Jewish Bible provides a clear and consistent description of what the world will look like when the Messiah comes – and this has clearly not yet transpired. So, we still await the coming of the real Messiah. May he and a true utopian world come soon! ■

*By **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, Director of Education and Counselling, JEWS FOR JUDAISM (Canada)*

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To learn more about the Jewish Messiah, visit our website www.jewsforjudaism.ca and listen to lectures #2 and #3 of our *Counter-Missionary Survival Seminar* on the Multimedia/Audio page or read *The Real Messiah* on our Publications/Books & Booklets page.

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# Several COR-certified companies embrace symbol

Continued from page 3

He hopes to maintain an ongoing relationship with the TVA to keep up with mainstream vegetarian and vegan standards.

Currently, several U.S organizations offer vegetarian certification, including the most widely recognized, Vegan Action (a heart with a V inside and the words "certified vegan"). But the VegeCert model differs in two major ways, Rabkin says.

"First, we give both certified vegetarian and certified vegan designations. Second, we make actual inspections, real-time in the facility."

He adds that other organizations simply give approval to a list of ingredients, with a yearly review. "Our experience with the Kashruth Council of Canada is that it's extremely important to make physical inspections of the facilities. You'll never know what's going on… unless there's some sort of control mechanism in place."

For vegetarians and those with food allergies, Alexander agrees that "an inspection process is a really helpful and reassuring thing… We have confidence [in the Kashruth Council] because of their track record."

Rabkin says certification will mainly appeal to companies who are already kosher-certified. While vegetarian certification on products that are not kosher may be possible – it's been approved in theory by a rabbinic advisory board – in practice, it's unlikely.

"Why wouldn't you want to open yourself up to the kosher market?" he asks.

Plus, the price might prove prohibitive. Once a business is kosher, "it's very easy for us to make VegeCert inspections… the costs aren't going to be that much more significant."

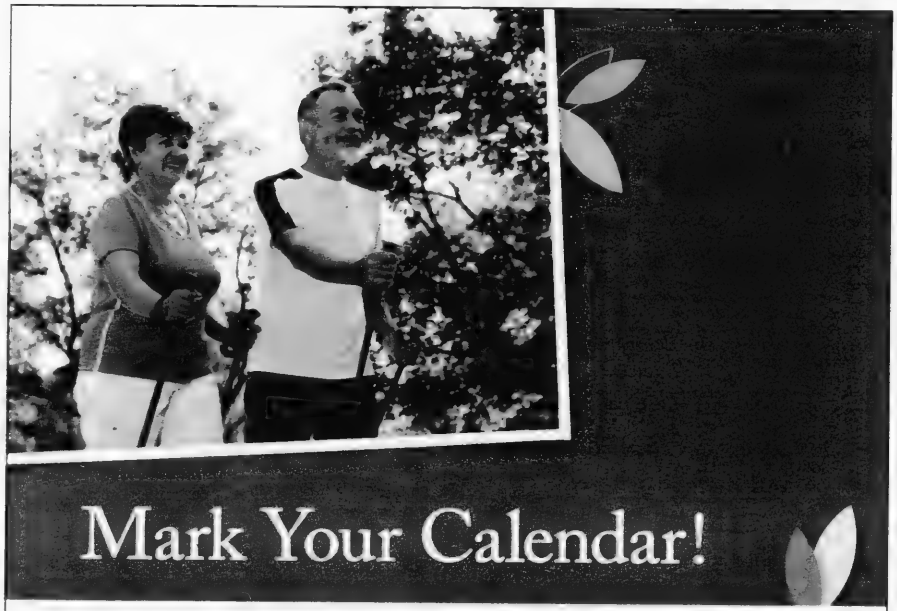
Raw Foodz' Sher Kopman is confident the new VegeCert Certified Vegan logo will extend her products' reach beyond the Jewish community.

"Not everyone in the general population will really understand what the COR [hechsher] is," she says, while the VegeCert logo, which joins existing COR and EcoCert (organic) symbols on her labels, reinforces "the thought and care about every ingredient that we put into our product line."

Several COR-certified companies have already embraced the new symbol, which Kopman says she received for the first year at no charge as part of her company's initial kosher certification.

TVA's Alexander is looking forward to seeing more companies embrace the new logo. "It is useful not to have to read all the ingredients… a symbol can be really time-saving."

While COR is the first kashrut organization in Canada offering vegetarian certification, Earth Kosher, a small New Jersey organization, does offer a joint kosher/vegan certification program. Another organization in L.A., Kosher Vegan Raw, certifies vegan raw and live foods.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# *Sotheby's official seeks Israeli art*

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Israeli art is on the ascendancy in the international marketplace, says a top-level Sotheby's official.

"There has been a tremendous growth in appreciation of contemporary Israeli art in the last few years," said Jennifer Roth, the auction house's senior vice-president.

Roth, who organizes the annual Israel art and Judaica sales in New York and serves on the board of Sotheby's Tel Aviv branch, will be in Toronto from June 19 to 21.

She will be here to find "hidden Israeli art treasures in Canadian collections" and, under the sponsorship of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, will give a talk on the development of Israeli art from the founding of the Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem in 1906 to the present day.

"In recent years, Israeli art has exploded on the global scene," said Roth, who was in Israel last week. "More and more young Israeli artists are appearing at biennials and curated exhibitions."

She added, "At the same time, there is growing competition for classic Israeli art of earlier periods, from the 1920s to the 1979s, both from Israelis and international collectors."

The boom began about a decade ago, she noted.

"Around this time, Israeli artists like Guy Ben Ner starting showing up in prestigious masters programs, and Bezalel launched its own masters program."

As well, she said, more Israeli galleries opened and some started taking booths in international fairs. At auctions today, the most popular Israeli works are by masters such as Reuven Rubin and Mordecai Ardon, whose paintings have fetched sums well over six figures. Meanwhile, the photographer Adi Nes sold a work, based on Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, for more than $250,000.

For more information, e-mail Jennifer.Roth@sotheby.com.

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# Eighth graders interview survivors for film

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

As Holocaust survivors age, the younger generations of the Jewish community are scrambling to hear and share as many of their stories as possible.

In 2003, Tova Rosenberg created a new and interactive way to teach middle and high school students about the Holocaust, and to have the students bond with survivors from their community. She dubbed her project Names, Not Numbers.

The program has students research, interview and film Holocaust survivors under the guidance of a professional team with the aim of creating a powerful full-length documentary film.

Several day schools in the United States have picked up the Names, Not Numbers program, but so far Netivot HaTorah Day School is the only one in Canada to do so. The third group of Grade 8 students at Netivot to go through the program presented its film on May 31.

"The Holocaust did not happen to numbers – it happened to people. Each one with a name, a face and history," Rosenberg told a crowd of students, families and Holocaust survivors who gathered at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation in Toronto at the premiere of this year's Names, Not Numbers film.

Rosenberg, the former principal of the now-closed Richmond Hill branch of what is now Robbins Hebrew Academy, is the director of the Hebrew language department at Yeshiva University High School in New York.

"Although it's a school project, it's not a school project," said Rosenberg, explaining that the hands-on nature of Names, Not Numbers is ideal for students who don't work as well in traditional classroom settings.

This year, the 57 Grade 8 students at Netivot were divided into groups to interview 11 Holocaust survivors. The project co-ordinator, Lesley Schwartz, taught the children the history of the Shoah, helped them do research on their survivors and brought in professionals to show the students how to carry out productive hour-long interviews and how to use the film equipment.

Schwartz also conducted reflection sessions with the students to help them process what they were learning throughout the project.

"It gave them an appreciation for how lucky they are today," Schwartz said of the students, who she said have been very enthusiastic about the program.

**Lesley Schwartz, left, and Tova Rosenberg**
*[Michelle Bitran photo]*

She added that, for most of the students, it's the first time they've had the opportunity to ask a survivor whatever they want.

Often, Schwartz finds students will ask about their daily life as Jewish children before the war, and many are surprised to find out how similar the survivors' experiences are to their own.

"All of a sudden they find they can relate to each other in a way that they never thought possible before," she said.

The culmination of the project is the production of two films. One is an amalgamation of the students' edited interviews with the survivors, and the second documents the process of Names, Not Numbers.

The latter shows the training the students received, clips from their interviews and personal reflections on the impact of the program. The DVDs are archived at the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem.

For Rosenberg, recording the memories and forging lasting bonds between the students and the survivors is an integral part of Holocaust remembrance and education.

"We continue to grow and build, but we do not forget."

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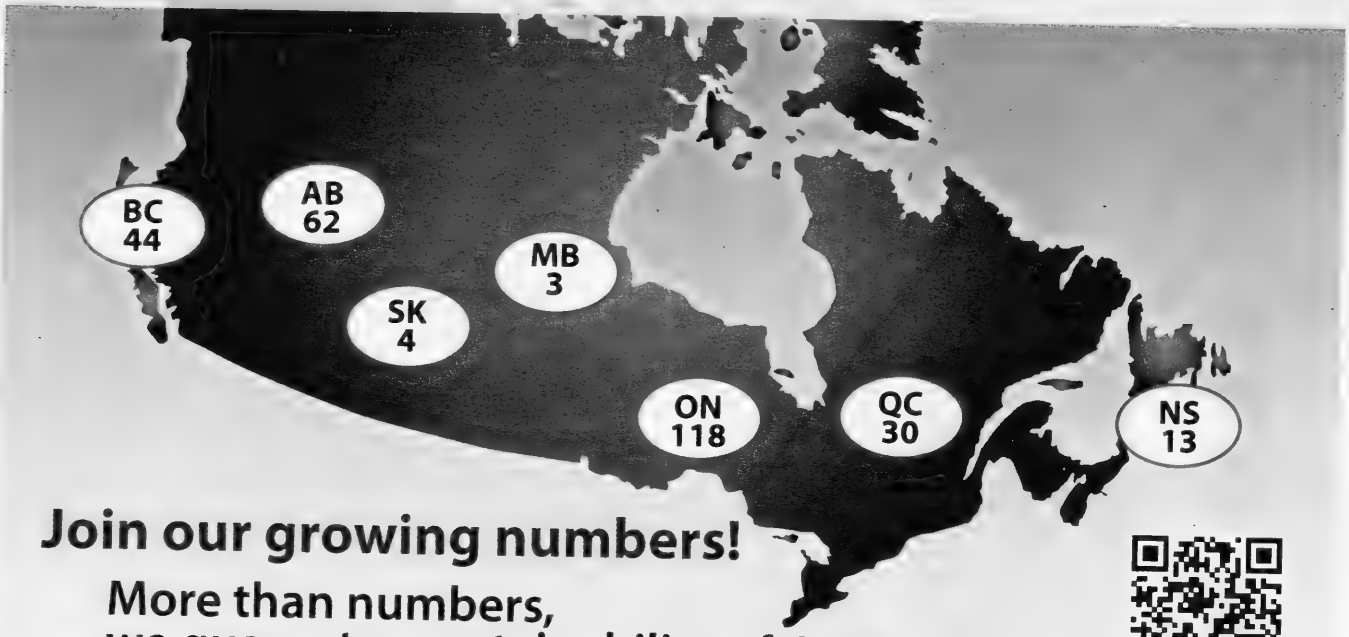


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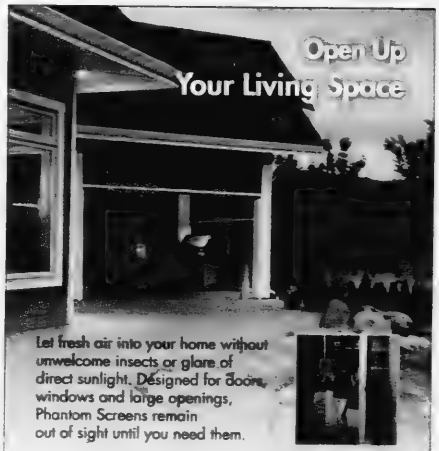
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# The goals of life

**Rabbi Meir Rosenberg**

***Rabbinic Reflections***

As summer approaches, many of us look toward a well-deserved vacation. But, summer or not, we are constantly faced with decisions that we prioritize according to a reward value.

Judaism teaches us, however, not to be judgmental about opportunities to do a good deed, since we don't know which will bring us the greatest reward. *Pirkei Avot, Ethics of our Fathers*, traditionally studied during the summer months, teaches that sometimes the smallest mitzvah challenges can bring us the greatest rewards.

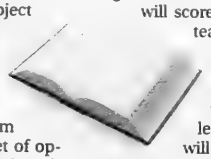
Rabbi Sholom Swadron, a charismatic rabbi whose stories have been told worldwide, once had an encounter with a student that illustrates this concept. Rabbi Swadron would befriend his students and listen to their concerns with genuine warmth. In response, most of them became devoted and attended his daily classes without fail.

At one class, Rabbi Swadron noticed the absence of a diligent student. The rabbi thought perhaps he was not feeling well. But when the boy failed to show up the following morning, and the next, he decided to pay the student a visit.

The student was visibly shocked to see his teacher. He thanked the rabbi and said he would return to school early the next week. The rabbi replied that he trusted the student's judgment but felt that there was something more, and asked him to come clean.

Embarrassed, the student said he was in a soccer league playoff that week. Not familiar with the game, the rabbi asked the student to explain. This must be very important since he was missing class.

The student explained that there are two teams and the object of the game is for one team to kick the ball into the net of opposing team. The rabbi didn't understand – anyone can kick a ball into a net. The student replied that there is a goalie.



How it is possible for anyone to kick the ball into the net with a goalie standing in front? the rabbi asked.

That's the whole point, the student exclaimed. And when they succeed, they feel a tremendous sense of satisfaction and the crowd gets up and cheers.

The rabbi offered this suggestion: why don't the players wait until the goalie gets tired and goes home?

Sighing, the student explained that the challenge is to kick the ball into the net when the goalie is there, when it's hard to do so. That's what makes it exciting.

At this point, the rabbi jumped up and exclaimed: "Exactly! The real challenge is to come to class this week, when the 'goalie,' the *yetzer hara* [evil inclination] is doing his best to get in your way and stop you. If you manage to kick the ball into the net, you will score points and lead your team to victory. But if you put off coming to class until next week, when the 'goalie' is gone, when it is not a challenge for you, then you will have missed the whole point of the game! You will be kicking a ball into an empty net!"

The student showed up for class the next day.

We, too, are challenged by what we sometimes feel are unimportant issues. But this is precisely the time to overcome those feelings because ultimately that is when the rewards are the greatest. And that my friends, should be one of our goals in life.

*Rabbi Meir Rosenberg is the executive director of Mizrachi Canada.*

# *The sad case of Lynden Dorval*

***Money Matters***

***Rabbi Jay Kelman CA***

There's no higher form of tzedakah than providing employment for others. Those who are under- or unemployed don't only lose the ability to be self-supporting. Even more devastating is the emotional and social toll that's likely to occur.

Firing someone is a step that must be undertaken with the utmost of gravity. This is especially true when dealing with long-term employees. It's for this reason that long-term employees are (and if they aren't, likely should be) given the option of resigning. Saving face can be a fine strategy when dealing with difficult situations.

In general, Jewish law accepts the notion that an employee does not have a right to "tenure," yet that doesn't mean they can be fired at will. Rabbi Moshe Feinstein went so far as to rule that a competent, but not spectacular, employee may not be dismissed in order to be replaced by a "superstar."

As a teacher, an article in the June 2 edition of the *National Post* caught my attention. The Edmonton school board has suspended, and is set to fire, a physics teacher with 35 years of experience. His offence? Giving marks of zero for assignments not handed in, tests skipped or exams missed, contravening his school's "no-zero policy."

In days gone by, it was self-evident that not doing work resulted in a zero – a policy still adhered to in the "real world" – but in recent years, there has been a trend to disallow zeros. Students are encouraged to hand in work even if it's months late, with few consequences. Giving zeros, it's argued, just discourages students and turns them off school. If scientific evidence to this theory has been conducted, I have not seen it. In any event, in the case of Lynden Dorval, the teacher on the firing block, evidence exists to the contrary. His zeros motivated students to actually do the assigned work.

As is often the case, the merits of an argument are given little weight, and questions of policy, procedure and employee-employer relations become the central issue in such disputes. And if that's the core issue, then it's obvious the school board has little choice but to discipline him. This might be sad, but it's legal.

While one must admire Dorval for acting with the courage of his convictions despite repeated warnings not to, a school board is well within its rights to dismiss a "defiant" employee.

An employee need not agree with company policy, but not unlike civil disobedience, one must understand that one must "suffer" the consequences of one's actions. It's sad that the net result in this case is likely one that does our students little good and may serve to foster the notion that if students don't work, the teachers will pay the price.

Initiating change in almost any field of human activity isn't easy. And ironically, it appears the more right the cause, the harder it is to initiate such change. Those at the forefront usually pay the highest price, paving the ways for others to reap the benefits of their efforts.

*Send comments to rabbijay@torahinmotion.org.*

# *Informative new publications push genre boundaries*

*Views & Reviews*

*Martin Lockshin*

Not that many years ago, it was impossible to read advanced discussions of issues in traditional Judaism unless you had solid knowledge of Hebrew and Aramaic. But in the last few decades, many of the classics of traditional Judaism have been translated into English, often very accurately. Besides translations, original works that describe, analyze or promote traditional Jewish observance and belief are now written in English all the time.

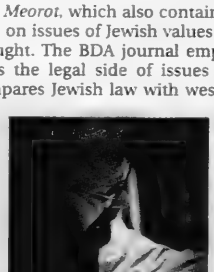
Some of these new English-language books fall into the standard genres of traditional Jewish writing (for example Bible commentaries or codes of law) in everything except for language. Others, though, represent attempts to expand genre boundaries and create new types of works that might appeal to modern sensibilities. Two such works have recently been published.

Rabbi Wayne Allen's latest book, *Further Perspectives on Jewish Law and Contemporary Issues*, defies easy categorization. It is organized in the style of a traditional book of rabbinic responsa, where each short chapter raises an issue in Halachah (Jewish law), outlines what the classical texts said directly or indirectly about the issue, and then rules on it. Rabbi Allen provides learned discussions about such disparate halachic issues as how many hours before sunset Shabbat prayers may be recited on Friday; whether a synagogue may congratulate in its public announcements a couple that intermarries; whether oral sex is permitted by Halachah; whether you may listen to a radio in your car in a cemetery as you await the beginning of a funeral or an unveiling; whether wedding guests should stand up when the bride or groom begins to walk down the aisle, and other interesting and relevant issues.

What makes this book different from most responsa literature is that Rabbi Allen does not restrict his analysis to works of Jewish law but makes liberal use of works of history and philosophy. With a PhD in philosophy from York University, Rabbi Allen has a gift for making that field understandable to the lay reader. I particularly enjoyed his discussion of the thinking of philosophers such as Hume, Hegel and Kant on the inappropriateness of subjective considerations when deciding issues of law. Rabbi Allen connects this to the oft-heard claim (which he roundly rejects) that people may decide what constitutes work and what constitutes rest on Shabbat on the basis of their own subjective judgements.

A second publication this spring that pushes the genre boundary is the inaugural issue of the *Journal of the Beit Din of America*. The Beit Din of America (BDA) describes itself as "the most active rabbinical court in North America, providing services to the Jewish community in the following areas: arbitration of commercial, communal and family disputes through the *din Torah* process;... arranging Jewish divorces through the *get* process;... resolution of contested *get* and *agunah* cases." The BDA should be given credit for its tireless efforts to promote halachic prenuptial agreements, which they use to ensure that recalcitrant husbands give a religious divorce (*get*) to their former wives.

The new journal is similar to other high-quality English-language modern Orthodox journals such as *Tradition*, *Conversations* and *Meorot*, which also contain essays on issues of Jewish values and thought. The BDA journal emphasizes the legal side of issues and compares Jewish law with western legal systems. Two of the more interesting articles in the first volume are entitled, "Jewish Law, Civil Procedure: A Comparative Study," and "Understanding Rights in Context: Freedom of Contract or Freedom from Contract." But its real innovation is the inclusion of summaries of real cases that were adjudicated by the BDA (disguising the identity of the litigants by using pseudonyms), along with the detailed decisions of the BDA and their rationales.




For example, the journal tells the curious story of a suit filed in the BDA rabbinic court by a kosher chocolate company alleging ruinous competition (*hasagat gevul*) by another such company that opened up right across the street. The suit was dismissed. The article explains at length the halachic issues involved, in a very readable manner.

While I enjoyed and learned from both these new publications, I could not help wondering how wide an audience exists for either of them, each for a different reason.

Rabbi Allen, who was ordained as a Conservative rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary, is a serious scholar of Halachah, but his Conservative background and his many years of service as the rabbi of a Toronto Conservative synagogue means, sadly, that in Orthodox circles, few will read his works. And while some Conservative Jews are interested in reading works of Jewish law, Rabbi Allen's book is to the right of most of the Conservative movement.

The book's longest chapter is a halachic analysis of why women should not count in a minyan. Rabbi Allen explains the faults that he finds in the halachic argumentation in recent Conservative rulings that permit counting them, including the ruling written by Rabbi David Golinkin, president and rector of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Israel. This puts Rabbi Allen to the right of the Schechter Institute, which is generally seen as the most traditional Conservative institution in the world. The Schechter Institute actually was the publisher of Rabbi Allen's first book, *Perspectives on Jewish Law and Contemporary Issues* (which I reviewed in these pages in 2010). For this book, he has moved to another publisher.

The new *Journal of the Beit Din of America* may have a slightly wider potential readership. But it, too, raises a question about audience. For 2,000 years, scholars of Jewish law have been writing, always in Hebrew, about such halachic issues as *hasagat gevul*. Today as well, the grand majority of Jews who are interested in new insights into the laws of *hasagat gevul* are found in Israel, and very few of them are capable of or interested in reading about such issues in English. If the BDA wants to become part of the ongoing halachic conversation, does it make sense to do so in English?

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# *Self-absorption, expediency give Turkey a free pass*

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

Last September, at the start of a regional "Arab Spring" tour, Turkey's prime minister, Recep Erdogan, spoke in Cairo to a gathering of Arab League foreign ministers.

Firing up his audience, he was met with much applause after declaring: "Israel must respect human rights and act as a normal country, and then it will be liberated from its isolation."

Erdogan's scolding of Israel was nearly matched by his condescension toward Egyptians, who he strongly advised should follow Turkey's lead by entrenching secularism in its yet-to-be-written constitution.

His advice angered religiously conservative Egyptians, in particular the Muslim Brotherhood. Essam el-Erian, deputy leader of the Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party, charged: "We welcome Turkey and we welcome Erdogan as a prominent leader, but we do not think that he or his country alone should be leading the region or drawing up its future."

Immediately following Erdogan's visit, the Turkish newspaper *Today's Zaman* acknowledged the Brotherhood's reaction, adding that "Erdogan's call for a secular order comes as a blow to those who were arguing for years that Erdogan was supporting Sunni elements in the region with the ultimate aim to create Islamist states."

However, critics have argued in recent months that – despite Erdogan's brazen statements – his pro-Islamist party has been moving in an increasingly illiberal direction.

Writing in the *Guardian* late last year, London-based Turkish academic and human rights activist Ayca Cubukcu pointed to "a growing disjuncture between those who promote modern-day Turkey as a democracy and those who experience Turkey as a land of arbitrary detentions, political repression and military destruction."

She asked why any other country in the region would want to model a state "that imprisons professors, journalists, translators, lawyers, workers, and students and treats as terrorists the members of a political party representing millions of citizens."

At the same time, the *Economist* magazine observed that the "West does not seem to notice the steady deterioration in human rights in Turkey, instead extolling it as a model for the Arab spring."

Among the signs of deterioration, it noted that hundreds of students had been arrested (and, in many cases, brutally treated) for protesting against Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP). Among other issues, the protesters advocated for the rights of Kurds to be educated in their own language. Sadly, the plight of the Kurdish minority is a massive but largely neglected subject in its own right.

As to illiberal moves under the AKP, consider also the following, just a small part of a growing list:

• The Jan. 2 *New York Times* reported: "There are now 97 members of the news media in jail in Turkey, including journalists, publishers and distributors, according to the Turkish Journalists' Union, a figure that rights groups say exceeds the number detained in China."

• More recently, the June 2 *Times* reported from Istanbul that a Turkish court "charged Fazil Say, a classical and jazz pianist with an international career, with insulting Islamic values in Twitter messages, the latest in a series of legal actions against Turkish artists, writers and intellectuals for statements they have made about religion and Turkish national identity."

• On June 4, the *Globe and Mail* carried an AP story about the anger among many females at what they consider to be Erdogan's retrogressive attitude on women's issues. This includes his view that abortions (which he wants to greatly restrict) and elective caesarean sections are nothing other than "secret plots" against Turkish growth.

What explains the West's avoidance of Turkey's assault on the rule of law? The *Economist* quoted a European ambassador in Ankara: "Europe is too mired in its own problems and America needs Turkey for regional security" – including its role as a bulwark against Iran's influence.

In short, self-absorption rules on one side of the Atlantic, and expediency on the other.

*Paul Michaels is director of research and media relations for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

**INTERGENERATIONAL VIDEOCONFERENCE: Elin Beaumont, of the Azrieli Foundation, and Holocaust survivor Felix Opatowski, focus on the screen during a videoconference with Grade 11 history students in Lloydminster, Alta. (inset)**
**To read story, please go to cjnews.com. [*Frances Kraft photo*]**


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Mon-Thurs: 10am - 7pm
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# Zareinu Moveathon

Thousands gathered at Downsview Park in Toronto last week for the annual Zareinu Moveathon Festival, a day of entertainment, games and marathons to raise money for children with special needs.

*[Vicky Tobianah photos]*

# Mazel Tov

מזל טוב

Mazel tov to Jordana Rosen who graduated this week from the ECE program at Sheridan College. Love, Mom & Dad.

Wishing Trudy & Paul Heimann a happy 55th anniversary, and our Dad/Papa a happy 88th birthday. Love, Elise, Michelle, Alan, Jesse, Eden, Marli and Ryan.

Mazel tov Barbara & Morris Oksenberg on your 60th anniversary June 22. A special occasion for a special couple. With much love, your children and grandchildren.

Congratulations to Phil Lapkovsky who celebrated his 90th birthday on June 1. With lots of love from his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Happy 90th birthday to Dr. Charles G. Baer from his family and good friends.

Congratulations to Mom & Dad, Nanny & Pappa, Winny & Phil Margles on your 60th wedding anniversary June 29. We love you very much.

Email your digital photos to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click the "Family Moments"

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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

Social Networking @ The Canadian Jewish News
for the :-) generation

**Deadline reminder: June 18 is the deadline for the issue of June 28. June 25 is the deadline for the issue of July 5. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, June 14

**NASH AND DRASH**
Enjoy lunch and a concert with **Cantor David Edwards** and **Paul Mathew**. Beth Emeth Synagogue, noon. Advance purchase only. 416-633-3838.

## Friday, June 15

**A CANTOR'S CABARET**
**Cantors Tamar Havilio** and **Katie Oringel** celebrate Jewish American composers from the stage and screen, Temple Sinai, 8 p.m., 210 Wilson Ave.

## Sunday, June 17

**TRIBUTE TO RABBI KERZNER**
A tribute to **Rabbi Yaakov** and **Lisa Kerzner** will be held 3- 6 p.m. For more information, e-mail info@mizrachibayit.ca.

**JAMAICAN FUNDRAISER**
A fundraiser for the synagogue in Jamaica will be held at Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres., 11 a.m. Adults $36, kids $18. RSVP 416-222-3432 or wilfred.lindo@sympatico.ca.

***THE FREE WORLD***
**David Bezmogis** discusses his novel, *The Free World*, 7:30 p.m. at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill.

## Tuesday, June 19

***THE HEART OF AUSCHWITZ***
The film *The Heart of Auschwitz* will be shown at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Minyan at 7:15 p.m.; movie to follow. **Fanya Fainer** (subject of the film) and **Sandy Fainer** will speak. $10. RSVP 416-783-6103.

**JEWS FOR JUDAISM**
**Rabbi Michael Skobac** discusses "Isaiah 53: God's Suffering Servant," 8 p.m., The Lodzer Congregation, 12 Heaton St. Contact 416-789-0020 or toronto@jews-forjudaism.

## Wednesday, June 20

**STARS OF STAGE & SCREEN**
**Iain Scott** discusses the music of **Jacques Offenbach** with the Temple Sinai Social Club, 1:30 p.m. $10/$12. 416-487-3281.

**SHOW, SHARE AND KVELL**
Members of the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles display and discuss pieces made during the year, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. New members welcome.

**JACS WORKSHOP**
A workshop on "What substance abuse did to our family and how we found recovery and support," will be held at Pride of Israel Synagogue, 7:30 p.m.

## Thursday, June 21

**THE STORY OF THE EXODUS**
**Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses "The Story of The Exodus – the Ship That Launched a Nation," 7:30 p.m., Temple Har Zion, 7360 Bayview Ave. $3/$5.

**Continued on page 23**

Baycrest

**Notice of Annual Meeting**

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care
The Baycrest Day Care Centre
Baycrest Hospital
The Jewish Home for the Aged
(collectively, "Baycrest")
and The Baycrest Centre Foundation

**Winter Garden, Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged**
**3560 Bathurst Street, Toronto**
**June 21, 2012** **RSVP:**
**3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** **416 785-2500, ext. 6303**

By-law changes for Baycrest:
By-law No. 6 - 2012 for each of the Baycrest corporations will be presented to Baycrest members for approval. Made in anticipation of the Not-For-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 coming into force later this year, By-law No. 6 reduces the corporate membership to one class: the elected directors. Currently, elected directors are the only members who may vote. The by-law ensures that this continues when the new legislation is in force.

By-law changes for The Baycrest Centre Foundation:
By-law No. 18 replaces the previous By-law No. 17 and includes the following changes. References to the Women's Auxiliary and the Vice-President of Finance are deleted. Inactive standing committees have been eliminated and the Finance and Audit committees have been merged. The Executive Committee membership has been revised accordingly. Minimum responsibilities are specified for Directors. The by-laws further provide that elected directors for 2012 will be elected for a one-year term in preparation for a governance review which may affect the board's structure.

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www.torahinmotion.org 416. 633.5770 info@torahinmotion.org

**Continued from page 22**

**FORGOTTEN SCRIPTURES**

Melton Mini School is offering a class on "Forgotten Scriptures: Books That Never Made It Into Anyone's Bible," taught by **Barrie Wilson**, Beth Emeth Synagogue,10 a.m. June 21-July 12. Call 416-789-7400.

## Other News

**YIDDISH PERFORMERS**

New Voices for Yiddish is looking for a female performer with some knowledge of Yiddish for an upcoming show. Call **Nathan Garnick**, 416-633-6755.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Am Shalom Synagogue in Barrie is holding its annual fundraising golf tournament in support of Gilda's Club, June 22, Innisbrook Golf Course. For information on registration or sponsorship, call 705-792-3949.

**PRE-PRIDE KARAOKE NIGHT**

Kulanu Toronto and Congregation Shir Libeynu hold a pre-Pride Karaoke Night, June 23, 9:30 p.m., Spirits Bar and Grill, 642 Church St. RSVP by June 21 to kulanutoronto@gmail.com.

**TORAH IN MOTION TOURS**

Torah in Motion presents "Journeys through Jewish History" with **Marc Shapiro,** Italy July 9-19; Central Europe Aug. 2-12. 416-633-5770.

**WOMEN AND KADDISH**

**Rabbi Gedalia Zweig** discusses "Women and Kaddish," June 27, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill.

**JUMPSTART HEBREW**

JumpStart Hebrew is a program for children entering JK to Grade 2, Aug. 27-31 at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Children will be introduced to Hebrew through art, music and play. E-mail **Karen Goodis**, karen@bethsholom.net or www.bethsholom.net.

**TORAH TOTS REGISTRATION**

Registration for Torah Tots, September 2012, at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham is now open. Call 905-886-0420, ext. 227.

**HOUSING REGISTRY**

List your basement apartment or extra room free with UJA Federation's Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto. If you're looking for a place to live, JIST can assist you as well. Visit JIST in the Lipa Green Centre, 416-635-5600 or e-mail: jinfo@ujafed.org.

## JF&CS GROUPS

All programs require pre-registration and are open to all members of the community. To register, call **Shawna Sidney,** 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or www.jfandcs.com. All classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St., unless otherwise noted.

Raising Your Child/Teen in an Age of Overindulgence: A workshop for parents wanting to learn more about overindulgence and its consequences, June 13, 7:30 p.m.

Dating in Midlife: A workshop for men and women over 40 who have been single for 2 or more years, June 14, 7 p.m.

When You're About to Separate, What to Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents in the early stages of separation. June 14, 6:30 p.m., Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

**BEREAVED PARENTS**

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Association of Jewish Seniors** holds a health seminar, June 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Earl Bales Community Centre. Audiologist **Marilyn Reed** discusses "Come Hear What You've Been Missing." RSVP required **Tammy,** 416-635-2860, ext. 458.

**Support group** for caregivers burned out caring for loved ones with dementia will be held June 27, 7 p.m. at L'Chaim Retirement Homes, 718 Sheppard Ave. W. 416-398-7898.

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. Kosher dairy lunch, June 14, $5. Dance with live music June 17, 7:30 p.m. Casino Niagara July 18. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts. Call **Morty**, 416-783-6078; 416-630-6487.

**The Bridge Club** at Forest Hill Library is seeking new members. Call **Lea** (evenings), 416-487-7630.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Bernard Betel Centre** 416-225-2112. June 19, **Robert Shechter** discusses "Crossing the Atlantic: From Miami to Barcelona," 10 a.m.; June 21, **Franz Hartmann** discusses "Green Energy in Toronto," 1:30 p.m.

**Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. June 28, enjoy light classical music performed by a string quartet, 1:30 p.m.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526, **Colin Blayney.** Ongoing yoga, dance fitness and aquafitness classes.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

**Kevin Courrier** teaches a course on "The man who would be king – John Huston," June 27-July 25, 1 p.m..

Register for bridge classes beginning June 18.

Save the date: Seniors art exhibit, June 25; Movie Monday *Waltz With Bashir*, June 25, 1 p.m.

Folk dance, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

**Adam Nayman** discusses the film *Full Metal Jacket*, June 18, 7 p.m.

A reading of the play *The Kalamazoo Diaries*, a comedy in development by **Natalie Fingerhut**, will be held June 26, 7 p.m.

Toronto IsReal Dance Festival June 29-July 1. Pre-registration required. 416-221-6280 or www.israelidancetoronto.com.

Summer Institute for Creative Adults offers adult vocal/choir camp, July 16-20. Ext. 250.

Call for submissions to the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition. Deadline July 3, 2012. For submission guidelines, esthera@mnjcc.org or ext. 606.

The adult daytime choir runs all summer, Tuesdays 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

*Aging is Living: Myth-breaking Stories from Long-term Care*, photography by **Irene Borins,** is on display in the gallery, June 13-July 22.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein** 416-968-0200.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD INTERFAITH EVENING: The 26th annual Neighbourhood Interfaith Group (NIG) event took place recently at Beth Torah Congregation. Rabbi Dow Marmur, rabbi emeritus of Holy Blossom Temple, spoke about "Truth or Certainty: The Challenge of Being Religious and Open-minded." Seven synagogues, eight churches and a mosque were represented. Here, Toni Silberman of the NIG committee presents Rabbi Marmur with a picture created by Rabbi Yossi Sapirman of Beth Torah.** ***[Mollie Rothman photo]***

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TODAY FREE!!! BRIDAL REGISTRY

***SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 16***

# Pencer Brain Trust gala features Joan Jett

Susan Minuk
Special to The CJN

Guests partied to the sounds of Joan Jett & The Blackhearts at the Brain Trust's Rock gala, which raised $400,000 for the Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Tumor Centre at Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital.

The trust's 12th annual gala held at the Liberty Grand on May 30 "let you embrace your inner rock star, while helping to raise much-needed funds to provide information, treatment and support for brain tumour patients and their families," said Nancy Pencer, president of the Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Trust.

Holly Pencer-Bellman, the Pencers' daughter and executive director of the Brain Trust, said that "Feb. 3, 2012, marked the 14th year since my dad, Gerry Pencer, passed away from glioblastoma multiforme – the most aggressive type of brain cancer. Gerry was diagnosed in May 1997 with a brain tumour. At that time there were neither support groups nor clinical trials available. There was no consolidation of care.

"His vision was to create a one-stop shop for brain tumour patients and their families: a treatment centre at Princess Margaret that would consolidate all of the treatments, have the best doctors and supportive care programs under one roof."

**From left, the executive director of the Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Trust, Holly Pencer-Bellman, president Nancy Pencer and gala co-chair Stacey Cynamon.** *(Susan Minuk photo)*

The Pencer Centre has an international reputation as a brain tumour treatment and research centre, not only for its state-of-the art medical treatments and enhanced patient-centred care, but also as a significant contributor to leading-edge research.

At the gala attended by 800 guests, Harley-Davidson motorcycles added to the rock atmosphere in the Viper Room. Guests who were decked out in rocker attire had the opportunity to purchase "rock box" prizes. For $100, you got a box and inside every box was a prize with a minimum value of $100, ranging from gift certificates to jewelry. There was also a $10,000 cash prize raffle.

The early part of the evening featured Supper Under the Stars for some 200 sponsors who contributed at least $14,000, a performance by Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Marc Cohn – who's known for his signature song *Walking in Memphis* – and a live auction.

Former Pencer Centre patients Lynne Terry and Yves Boucher both thanked the sponsors at the Supper Under the Stars, calling the Pencer Centre an exceptional place that allowed them to be normal and keep on living their lives. "Cancer is a word, not a sentence. The Pencer Centre makes that sentiment real. We're both living proof."

**WALK FOR ISRAEL: On June 3, more than 100 walkers raised over $10,000 for the Jewish Agency for Israel's Youth Futures program at the newly revived Walk for Israel in Kitchener. Once an annual event, this was the first time in more than 25 years that Jewish residents from the Kitchener-Waterloo and Guelph areas gathered to walk, eat and celebrate their local Jewish community with friends and family. Pictured are Morgan Norris, left and Ayla Zuckerman.**

# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

### BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kenneth Spiegel | May 23/12 | 11789 Rue Pasteur |
| Abie Al "Sonny" Gladman | May 26/12 | 3000 Bathurst Street |
| William Kemeny | May 24/12 | 155 Marlee Avenue |
| Elsie Papoff | May 24/12 | 1035 Eglinton Ave., W. |
| Florence Shecter | May 27/12 | 312 Hillhurst Blvd. |
| Marvin Holzman | May 29/12 | 37 McMurray Avenue |
| Herbert Beiles | May 26/12 | 43 Timberlane Drive |
| Arlene Steinberg | May 26/12 | 22 Clarissa Drive |
| Barry Berman | May 27/12 | 1066 Avenue Road |
| Linda Rosen | May 29/12 | 3800 Yonge Street |
| Charles Zwi | May 28/12 | 18 Lower Village Gate |
| Jeannette Cayne | May 30/12 | 784 Centre Street |
| Henry Basskin | May 30/12 | 12 Mango Drive |
| Rosemary Samuel | Jun 1/12 | 26 Brandy Crt. |
| Harold Weinrib | May 31/12 | 70 Prue Avenue |
| Sidney Feingold | Jun 1/12 | 49 Sullivan St. |
| Bob Sherman | Jun 2/12 | |

### Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kirschner, Clara | May 22/12 | |
| Katsnelson, David | May 23/12 | Private |
| Brandt, Larry | May 23/12 | 417 Patricia Ave |
| Griver, Elaine | May 23/12 | 3830 Bathurst St |
| Shekhtman, Efim | May 23/12 | 321 Killarney Crt |
| Gastman, Barbara | May 24/12 | 120 Promenade Circle |
| Shekhtman, Efim | May 23/12 | 321 Killarney Crt |
| Gastman, Barbara | May 24/12 | 120 Promenade Circle |
| Besserman, Irvin Israel | May 24/12 | |
| Stricker, Isaac | May 26/12 | 9 Codsell Ave |
| Caplin, Dorothy Esther | May 26/12 | 27 Page Ave |
| Grinberg, Iacov | May 28/12 | 109 Theodore Place |
| Braun, Miklos | May 28/12 | 10 Harlock Blvd |
| Domanski, Marian | May 27/12 | 112 George St |
| Zelding, Isadore | May 26/12 | 55 Axsmith Cres |
| Schvarcz, Leslie | May 29/12 | 3560 Bathurst St |
| Nosov, Steven | May 31/12 | 875 Lake Drive E. |
| Shulman, Pauline | May 31/12 | Private |

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Irwin Wolfe Pasternak | May 28/12 | 355 St. Clair Avenue, W. |
| Sylvia Bender | Jun 1/12 | 91 Townsgate Drive |


BAYCREST
gratefully acknowledges
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100% of your donation supports Baycrest's efforts to transform the journey of aging.

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The family of the late
**Gertrude Goldman** ז"ל
would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for the support of family and friends during their recent bereavement and to the many donations made in our mother's name.

***Debbie, Craig, Elaine, Mike and family.***

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**ANNA & ALEX MILHOFER** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 24th at 12:30 p.m.**
**Pardes Chaim Cemetery**
11818 Bathurst St., Maple
Row D, Section 1, Plot S35
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**ROSE PLENER** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 24th at 11:30 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Dufferin St. N. of Major Mackenzie
Grand Order of Israel Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**ALLAN MOLDAVER** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 17th at 11:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Community Section - EEEE
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument in loving memory of
**SID BUTOVSKY** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 24th at 11:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Darchei Noam Section, NN
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**HELEN TOKARZ** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 17th at 1:00 p.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Cemetery**
Bathurst South of Steeles
Stashover Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

# Montreal mayor to head Israel trade trip

Compiled by CJN Staff

**MONTREAL** — Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay will lead a trade mission to Israel this fall organized by the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal.

The goal of the trip, slated for Sept. 10 to 14, is to acquaint participants with business opportunities in the country.

The board cites several factors that make Israel a favourable place in which Quebecers can do business, in addition to being a gateway to the Middle East and Asia.

Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay

It indicates that "Israel is considered one of the most advanced Middle Eastern countries in terms of economic and industrial development…

"The country's economy is stable and mature, and is supported by a tremendous public sector, in addition to a high-technology sector that has kept growing for 10 years," and Israel has the second-largest number of start-ups in the world after the United States.

It's also noted that the rate of investment in research and development is among the highest in the world, and that Israel ranks third in the region according to the World Bank's "Ease of doing business" index.

The mission is recommended for businesses and institutions with innovative products and services.

The intinerary includes Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Be'er Sheva.

Founded 190 years ago, the board of trade claims some 7,000 members representing businesses of all sizes. The current chair is Andrew Molson of the brewing company.

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2012 Honorary Associate Award Dinner

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Please join us on October 25, 2012 as we celebrate Anne's lifetime of achievements that have so enriched the dialogue on public policy in Canada.

Reserve your table today!

To reserve a corporate table, please contact Jennifer Riopelle, Conference and Event Planner, at 613-526-3090 ext. 406 or riopelle@conferenceboard.ca. For more information and Anne's full biography, visit www.conferenceboard.ca/conf.

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# Archivists denounce federal budget

**Janice Arnold**
Staff Reporter

The scrapping of a federal program that supports small community archives and museums will have a serious impact on the preservation and dissemination of Canadian Jewish historical records, community archivists say.

The Association of Canadian Jewish Archives and Museums (ACJAM) wrote to Heritage Minister James Moore June 4 to protest the elimination of the National Archival Development Program (NADP), effective April 30.

The NADP provided grants of about $1.7 million annually, as well as consultation services, to historical archives and museums across the country, usually those run by ethnic, religious or First Nations groups.

"The NADP is essential to the preservation and accessibility of Canada's community heritage and is especially vital to the health of our country's smaller and cultural archives," the ACJAM members wrote to Moore.

The cut is part of the $9.6 million in reductions to Library and Archives Canada contained in the last federal budget. In early May, Moore defended the cut, saying, "All the services that we operate right now to Canadians will continue, but they'll be done differently."

Moore's press secretary, Sébastien Gariépy, told *The CJN* the decision to drop the NADP was made by Library and Archives Canada, an independent Crown corporation, and not by the government.

Without addressing the NADP issue directly, Gariépy wrote in an e-mail, "Library and archives has the money necessary to fulfil its mandate."

NADP assistance has allowed Jewish archives and museums to organize their collections, making them available and comprehensible to not only the Jewish community, but, in many cases, the public at large. In recent years, much material has been digitized and described, making it accessible to the world.

These grants have helped support oral history interviews, the preparation of archival material for provincial and national catalogues and databases, the creation of exhibits and educational materials, translations into English or French, as well as put in place the optimal conditions for keeping fragile papers and photographs, the ACJAM told Moore.

"In short, the NADP has opened the doors of our institutions, physically and virtually, to our communities and the general public beyond," thereby promoting understanding between the Jewish and other communities, the ACJAM says in the letter.

The ACJAM members are, in Montreal, the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives, the Jewish Public Library (JPL) archives, the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, and the Jewish General Hospital (the medical library and health sciences libraries); the Ottawa Jewish Archives; in Toronto, the Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA) and the Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum; the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada in Winnipeg; the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta in Calgary; the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, and the Jewish Museum and Archives of British Columbia/ Nemetz Jewish Community Archives in Vancouver.

To read full story, please go to cjnews.com


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| Samuel Beber | שְׁמוּאֵל אַהֲרוֹן |
| Joseph Borg | יוֹסֵף |
| Matthew Chris | מָרְדְּכַי |
| Loren Cohen | אֱלִישֶׁבַע |
| Lauren Elkada | אוֹשֶׁר |
| Alexandra Goldman | אֶלְכְּסַנְדְּרָה |
| Kaille Goldman | קַלִּילָה |
| Samantha Goldman | שְׁמַעוֹנָה |
| Joshua Granovsky | יְהוֹשֻׁעַ |
| Yehonathan Green | יוֹנָתָן |
| Noah Ifergan | יְהוּדָה |
| Brian Jadd | בְּעַז |
| Jaclyn Kahansky | נוֹמִי |
| Yonah Morrison | יוֹנָה |
| Matthew Pollock | יַעֲקֹב |
| Sarah Pollock | שָׂרָה |
| Halle Purther | הַדַּסָּה |
| Eva Rose Stein | חַוָּה |
| Jonah Steinberg | אַבְרָם |
| Ari Strub | אֲרִי |
| Leanna Trister | אֵילָנָה |
| Judith Walters | יְהוּדִית |
| Shon Ziner | שָׁאנָן |

The graduation ceremony will take place on
Wednesday, June 20, 2012
at 7:30 pm at Beth David Synagogue
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# דער יידיש ווינקל

## דזשערי קעין

די זון שיינט און די יונגע גיין אַרום לייכט
אָנגעטאָן— אַ מחיה פֿאַר אַלטע אויגן. לאָמיר אויך
זען וואָס טוט זיך אין דעם אַרומיקן נאַטור.

דער היינטיקער קאָלום באגריסט דעם זומער. פֿיל פון אונדזערע ליינער – ספּעציעל די יונגערע– שיקן אונדז בריוו מיט דער בקשה אַז מיר זאָלן אויסלייגן אויף יידיש און ענגליש די נעמען פֿון חיות, פֿייגל און די ביימער וואָס מיר טרעפֿן דען מיר גיין אויף וואַקאַציע, שפּאַציר אין אַ פּאַרק אָדער אין וואַלד. וועל איך פֿאַרשטעלן נעמען וואָס איך קען. אויב איר האָט אַנדערע נעמען פֿאַר די זעלבע ביימער, פֿייגל אָדער חיות, ביטע, שיקט זיי מיר צו.

### Trees–די ביימער

*der tsederboym* --the cedar–דער צעדערבוים
*di sosne*-- pine tree–די סאָסנע
the maple--*der nezboym* –דער נעזבוים
oak tree--*der demb* –דער דעמב
the poplar--*di topolye*–די טאָפּאָלײ
crab-apple–*eretz-ishroyel-epl*–ארץ-ישׂראל-עפל
the willow–*di verbe*–די ווערבע

### Animals–חיות

brown bear–*broyner bear*–ברוינער בער
wolf–*volf*–וואָלף
squirrel–*veverke*–וועווערקע
skunk–*der tkhoyer*–דער טכּורר
otter–*di vidre*–די ווידרע
red fox–*royter fuks*–רויטער פוקס
the frog–*di frosh*–די פראָש
the deer–*der hirsh*–דער הירש

### Birds–פֿייגל

blue heron–*bloye tsaplie*–בלויע צאַפּלײ
turkey vulture–*indikgrif*–אינדיקגריף
partridge–*di proste kuropate*–די פּראָסטע קוראָפּאַטע
bald eagle–*amerikaner odler*–אַמעריקאַנער אָדלער
dove–*toyb*–אַ טויב
hummingbird–*zhumfoygl*–זשומפֿויגל
spotted owl–*gepintlte sove*–געפּינטלטע סאָוע
the robin–*dos roytbristl*–דאָס רויטבריסטל
Canada goose–*kanader ganz*–קאַנאַדער גאַנז

### Flowers–בלומען

tulip–*tulplan*–טולפּלאַן
the rose–*di royz*–די רויז
dandelion–*dos luftl*–דאָס לופֿטל
the lily–*di lilye*–די לילית
the lilac–*der bez*–דער בעז
the grapevine–*der vaynshtok*–דער ווײַנשטאָק

*אויב איר האָט נעדאַנקען תענן אונדזער ווינקל שרײַבט דורך פּאָסט אָדער בלײַן- פּאָסט: info@cjnews.com*

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# Iran denies demolishing military base

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**TEHRAN** — Iran has denied claims by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it demolished buildings at a military base that the agency suspects was involved in nuclear testing.

The Monday report by the state-owned YJC.ir news website quotes Defence Minister Gen. Ahmad Vahidi as saying allegations that Iran was trying to erase evidence at the Parchin military base are "irrelevant and unwise."

The UN nuclear watchdog showed satellite images last month to board-member nations that indicated a clean-up of the site, saying the photos depicted water streaming out of one building, the razing of several other buildings and removal of earth at the facility.

**Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**

The activities in the site southeast of Tehran are a recent IAEA concern.

The IAEA presented an image that showed signs that "ground-scraping activities" had taken place at the Parchin facility as well as the presence of bulldozers, according to diplomats who attended a closed-door briefing by UN nuclear agency officials.

The Parchin complex is at the centre of western suspicions that Iran has been developing a nuclear weapons capability despite Tehran's repeated denials of any such ambition.

In related news, Iran said it will not allow the IAEA to visit Iran's Parchin military complex, accusing inspectors of being "western spies."

Iranian lawmaker Evaz Heidarpour told national media that the United States and western countries were trying to gain access to Iran's military secrets by sending representatives of the IAEA to inspect the complex.

"Parchin industries are non-nuclear military industries, and we will not allow western spies to inspect our military technology," he said Sunday, according to the *Tehran Times*.

The IAEA has insisted on visiting the site in advance of negotiations between the Islamic Republic and the six world powers – the United States, France, Russia, China, Britain and Germany – scheduled to take place in Moscow.

## *Tehran prohibits IAEA inspection of suspected Parchin site*

The IAEA said in a report last year that it believed Iran had built a containment chamber at Parchin in which to conduct high-explosives tests.

In March, satellite images obtained by the IAEA reportedly showed what appeared to be crews and vehicles cleaning up radioactive evidence of tests of a device used to create a nuclear explosion, the Associated Press reported.

*– With files from JTA*

Leo Baeck

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UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

# Tent cities to be built for Africans

Gili Cohen
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Refugees from east Africa relax in Levinski Park in south Tel Aviv. *[Israel Sun photo]*

**JERUSALEM** — Israel's Defence Ministry announced last Thursday that it will erect between 20,000 and 25,000 tents for African migrants at various detention centres by the end of the year.

According to an official statement, the Defence Ministry and the Israel Defence Forces will build the tent cities in five different detention centres within a matter of months. Once built, the centres will be run by the Israel Prison Service.

The objective of the plan, according to the ministry, is to ensure that all African migrants who enter Israel will be directly transferred to a detention centre to prevent their entry to Israeli cities.

The plan was presented to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after his bureau ordered a quick and efficient response to the migrant issue.

The announcement came hours after the Jerusalem's District Court ruled that Israel could deport South Sudanese nationals back to their county.

The court's decision was in response to an appeal by non-governmental organizations representing African migrants. The appeal was filed after Israel's Interior Minister Eli Yishai issued a decision to return the migrants.

Israel recognized South Sudan a day after it officially announced its independence from Sudan last July 9 and initiated formal ties three weeks later.

The decision paves the way for the deportation of about 1,500 South Sudanese who recently entered Israel illegally. Yishai said that he hoped the decision would be a precedent to allow the deportation of African nationals from other countries.

"This is not a war against infiltrators," Yishai said, according to the *Jerusalem Post*. "This is a war for the preservation of the Zionist and Jewish dream in the Land of Israel."

Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein said last month that South Sudanese could be repatriated to their country now that it has achieved independence and is deemed safe by the foreign ministry. Each asylum application must be considered individually, he added.

The Jerusalem court said that the deportations could commence since the appellants had not proven that the South Sudanese to be deported would face "risk to life or exposure to serious damage."

It is not known when the South Sudanese migrants will be deported. Major violence between Sudan and South Sudan has flared recently, pushing the region to the edge of all-out war, according to news reports.

Speaking in response to the court's ruling, Khaled, a South Sudanese national who has been residing in Israel with two of his children since 2007, said: "I really don't know what to do.

"It's sending people and families to a dangerous place. I'm afraid to go back there with the kids. Will they have a future in such place?" he added, saying that he didn't think he would hide from authorities. "It isn't practical. I have two underage kids. I don't want to do that to them."

The NGOs who had submitted the court appeal responded to the decision, saying they "regret the ruling" and "fear for the safety and well-being of the deportees, especially the children due to be sent to a dangerous place."

*– With files from JTA*

# Hungarians protest antisemitism

JTA

**BUDAPEST** — About 120 Hungarians donned paper yellow stars with the word "Jude" ("Jew" in German) written on them and lined up on the bank of the Danube in downtown Budapest to protest recent antisemitic and racist incidents in Hungary.

Local media said the June 7 demonstration was a flash mob organized on Facebook.

The protesters staged the demonstration outside the building containing offices of parliament members.

The state news agency MTI said several demonstrators told its correspondent that even though the Hungarian government had stated that it intends to protect Jewish Hungarians, concrete steps, rather than words, were needed.

One example, they were quoted as saying, would be for the government to back down on including openly antisemitic authors in the national school curriculum.

Earlier this week, the government pledged action after an unknown man swore at an elderly retired chief rabbi and shouted that he hated "all Jews."

The government said it would do "everything in its power to combat words and actions that are incompatible with European norms."

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## Israel Briefs

### *Lieberman warned*

Israel Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman has been told that he may soon be indicted on charges of fraud, money laundering and breach of trust. The punishment for money laundering alone could be up to a 10-year jail sentence. Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein told Lieberman of the possibility last week, *Ha'aretz* reported. Lieberman has the right to a hearing in an effort to persuade the attorney general not to move forward with charges. If he takes that option, he won't need to resign from cabinet. If he forsakes it, his political fate isn't clear.

### *Obama honours Peres*

U.S. President Barack Obama was slated to honour Israeli President Shimon Peres with a White House dinner after awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The dinner, which was to take place June 13, was to have 140 guests, including "former presidents of the United of States of America, secretaries of state, prime ministers and ministers, senior diplomats and senior figures from the arts, culture and economy in the United States," according to Peres' office. Peres was scheduled to spend most of this week in Washington, D.C., and was also slated to meet with Defence Secretary Leon Panetta, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

### *Abbas gives warning*

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas called on Israel to withdraw from all lands it occupied in 1967, warning a two-state solution may not be on the table for much longer. "I would like to address our Israeli neighbours and say we are seekers of peace and freedom and our people made a major sacrifice when they accepted establishing their state on less than a quarter of the area of historical Palestine," Abbas said in a speech in Istanbul to a conference of the World Economic Forum. "So do not turn your backs on this opportunity," he added. "This opportunity may not stay on the table for a long time, because the region is witnessing rapid developments." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has offered to restart peace talks, but Abbas has insisted on a full freeze on Jewish settlement construction in the West Bank as a precondition.

### *Knesset nixes legalization*

A bill to legalize West Bank outposts retroactively was voted down by the Knesset. The vote on a preliminary reading of the bill was 69 against and 22 in favour. The legislation would have retroactively legalized buildings built on contested land if the owner doesn't challenge the construction within four years. After the vote, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that "moving homes from their location, even if it is only five homes, is certainly not an action that this government rejoices in doing. But the court ruled as it did, and we honour the decisions of the judicial system."

*File from JTA*

# Vandals desecrate Yad Vashem

**Continued from page 1**

Representatives of the Canadian Jewish community also expressed outrage at the vandalism.

Fran Sonshine, chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, was jolted by the news from Israel on Monday morning.

"I, too, am shocked and horrified by this act of vandalism. To think that a place of remembrance and memory could elicit such hatred and ugliness is devastating," she said. "The mission for which Yad Vashem, Jerusalem and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem stand will continue with strength and vigour. We at the Canadian Society will not allow hatred to derail us from our mission to spread the legacy of the Holocaust, as we disseminate the message of tolerance and compassion for others worldwide."

David Koschitsky, chair of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, called the crime an offence.

"The first is against the victims of the Shoah, both those who perished as well as those who survived. But it is also an affront to the Jewish people and the Jewish state," Koschitsky said. "Only those whose views cannot be sustained or defended in the light of day could descend to so cowardly an act as defacing a monument that has become synonymous with the imperative to bear witness and remember the Holocaust."

A crew of workers had power-washed the graffiti off the memorials by Monday afternoon Israel time.

Meanwhile, a car in an Arab neighbourhood in Jerusalem was also vandalized on Monday with the word "Ulpana," referring to the controversial neighbourhood in the settlement of Beit El, which was built on privately owned Palestinian land.

Vandals also punctured the tires of seven cars owned by Israeli Arabs in the neighbourhood.

Jerusalem police said that according to an initial investigation, the graffitti at Yad Vashem and on the vandalized cars were unrelated.

*With files from Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf*

# French politician to sue Jewish philosopher

JTA

AMSTERDAM — A lawyer for Marine Le Pen said the leader of the French far right will sue French Jewish philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy for libel.

Wallerand de Saint-Just said he would submit a libel suit on behalf of Le Pen, president of the National Front party, to the Paris Magistrate's Court next week. Levy in an article originally published on the website La Regle du Jeu had suggested that Le Pen may bear some responsibility for attacks against Jews because of her alleged penchant for habitually mocking Jewish-sounding names in meetings.

Referring to a recent attack at Villeurbanne in which three young Jewish men wearing kippot were attacked by about 10 assailants, Levy asked, "Is it really a coincidence that this aggression follows a campaign in which one candidate, Ms. Le Pen, has systematically lampooned Jewish-sounding names in meetings?"

De Saint-Just told JTA that "there is no basis to the claim that Ms. Le Pen jeeringly uses names of Jewish people in meetings and speeches or any other fora. Mr. Levy is simply inventing it." He added: "Suggesting Ms. Le Pen bears responsibility for the attacks in Villeurbanne is particularly ignoble."

The article by Levy, which promises to offer "the key to understanding the new antisemitism," was disseminated by CRIF, the umbrella organization of France's Jewish communities.

Marine Le Pen

# Mubarak reported to be in a coma

© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

CAIRO — Former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak has slipped into a "full coma," CNN reported the Egyptian Interior Ministry as saying on Monday.

Egyptian security officials said that Mubarak's health has deteriorated, with doctors having to use a defibrillator twice on the weekend and feed him liquids intravenously.

Agence France Press also quoted a ministry source as saying Mubarak's "heart stopped twice. Doctors had to use a defibrillator. He has been in and out of consciousness and has been refusing food."

Hosni Mubarak

The officials said Mubarak's two sons, one-time heir apparent Gamal and wealthy businessman Alaa, were at his side in the intensive care ward of Tora Prison hospital south of Cairo, where the 84-year-old former president is serving a life sentence.

The officials, who are at Tora, did not confirm whether the defibrillator was used because Mubarak's heart had stopped or to remedy irregular heartbeats. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

# Kosher slaughter tiff in Holland

JTA

AMSTERDAM — Dutch Agriculture Minister Hans Bleker signed an agreement with Jewish and Muslim religious leaders and slaughterhouses that will prevent a ban on ritual slaughter.

Under the agreement signed last week, animals can continue to be ritually slaughtered as long as they lose consciousness within 40 seconds of their throats being cut. After 40 seconds they must be stunned, which is prohibited under Jewish and Islamic law. A Dutch rabbi, however, criticized the covenant as "unacceptable."

"The government is concerning itself with issues such as how to perform the cut. That is the domain of rabbis and the Jewish community," Lody van de Kamp, a rabbi and politician, told the daily *Reformatorisch Dagblad*.

The agreement comes following Animal Rights Party leader Marianne Thieme's withdrawal in December of a bill that would have required stunning of all animals before slaughtering.

Van de Kamp represents the Council for Ritual Slaughter, a small haredi group. His organization was not involved in signing the covenant. The Jewish community was represented there by NIK, the Organization of Jewish Communities in the Netherlands. NIK said the agreement is satisfactory to virtually all parts of the Jewish community.

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# 'Dismal scientists' see an economy under pressure

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

If the 400 supporters of Jewish Vocational Services Toronto (JVS) were hoping to hear a stirring, optimistic forecast about Ontario's economic prospects, they may have left the organization's "strictly business" luncheon a little disappointed.

Thanks to a crisis in the Eurozone and muted job recovery in the United States, Canada's economy is facing "uncertainty and headwinds," said Sherry Cooper, executive vice-president and chief economist at BMO Financial Group.

Cooper, winner of the 2010 Lawrence Klein Award for U.S. forecasting and accuracy, said that while Canada is considered a safe haven for foreign investors, Ontario and Toronto are facing "tremendous challenges within the global economy."

The global economy is fragile and uncertain, she said. Speaking the day after a huge sell-off in global markets, Cooper said the U.S. economy remains unstable with "muted" job creation.

The Canadian dollar had slipped to around 96.5 cents, a development that is "negative for our stock markets and macro-economy," she said.

"That means employers will be more hesitant in hiring new workers."

Unemployment in Toronto sits at 8.4 per cent, while in the rest of Canada the rate is 7.3 per cent.

Turning to Europe, she said that continent is being buffeted by troubling developments – Spanish banks are insolvent and the country's housing sector is facing a crisis whose impact will be double that of the housing crash in the United States.

Canadian banks, in contrast, have prospered and are seen as the strongest regulated banking sector in the world, she said.

Speaking directly following Cooper, Avery Shenfeld, managing director and chief economist of CIBC World Markets, asked the audience, "Did Sherry scare you?

"Economics is called the dismal science, so it's our nature to be worried," he said.

Channelling Charles Dickens, Shenfeld said it was neither the best of times, nor the worst of times, but rather it's now "the mushy middle."

Economists are justly concerned about a European bank crisis and over a slowdown in the Chinese economy. China is an important market for our raw materials, so a slowdown there would affect Canada, he suggested.

Concerns that the United States may raise taxes and cut spending are keeping him awake at night, he said.

**JVS Toronto's annual "strictly business" luncheon featured keynote speakers Avery Shenfeld, centre, and Sherry Cooper, second from right. Also pictured, from left, are Paul Habert, luncheon co-chair, Amanda Lang, moderator, and Victoria Amaral, luncheon co-chair.**

While both he and Cooper agreed that Canada weathered the recent economic storm better than most countries, unemployment for those under 25 remains stubbornly high, Shenfeld said.

Those 20-to-23-year-olds are not "lazy good-for-nothings." They're finding it hard to get jobs, he said.

The Bank of Canada has been keeping interest rates low in a bid to entice Canadians to borrow and spend, but Canadian banks have been careful to lend to those who are able to pay back the loans – a reference to U.S. banks who gave money to borrowers who were not credit-worthy.

Canada is doing better than Europe in bringing down its deficit, but within our borders, Ontario is running large deficit-to-GDP ratios, Shenfeld said.

That means the provincial government is constrained in what it can spend – "the cupboard is bare" – and "expect government restraint to be a bit of a drag on growth."

During a question-and-answer period, Cooper was asked about youth unemployment. She's not as pessimistic as others, Cooper said. Canada will experience a labour shortage in hot sectors of the economy, particularly in resources and technology.

Canadian young people need to be more mobile and move to where the jobs are. And they need to acquire the skills that are in demand. Both she and Shenfeld complimented JVS for helping prepare young people for the job market.

Asked about the "shrinking middle class," Cooper said growth and innovation are the answer. She predicted job growth in health care and in caring for the elderly. "The possibilities for new businesses in those areas are tremendous," she said.

Responding to another question about protecting failing industries, Cooper said, "I don't think we should protect companies that can't compete."

Instead, Canada should focus on innovation, research and development, and investments in value-added businesses, "and that means training people."

Asked about Ontario's prospects, Shenfeld noted that the construction industry in Toronto is booming. The city will continue to be a destination for corporate head offices. To make senior executives comfortable, funds have to be invested in infrastructure, he said.

Amanda Lang, senior business reporter for CBC News and co-host of *The Lang & O'Leary Exchange*, MCed the event.

The program included the presentation of awards to D + H Limited Partnership, Tina Green, Jonathan Joblonowski, Eddie Lee, and to Brad Shaw and Hugo Pereira on behalf of Winners Store 226 and Winners/HomeSense 203/010.

JVS Toronto is a non-profit organization that helps people develop skills and achieve their employment and education goals. Since its inception in 1947, it has helped more than 500,000 people, including 23,000 in 2010-11.

**Tina Green received JVS Toronto's Youth Award while Jonathan Joblonowski was given the Inspirational Award.**

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# *Young-adult novel set during the Inquisition*

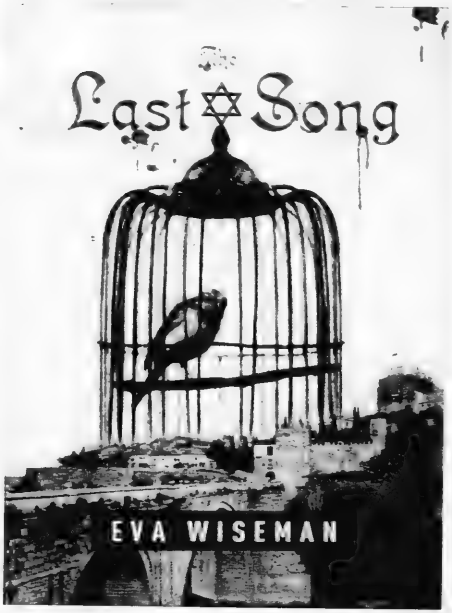
**Joseph Serge**
Arts Editor

In *The Last Song* (Tundra Books), Eva Wiseman's latest novel for young adults, the reader is taken to mid-15th century Spain at the height of the Inquisition.

Isabel is a 14-year-old girl, the daughter of the physician to Queen Isabella.

She arrives home one day to find out her parents want her to meet a prominent Spaniard man, Alfonso, and his son, Luis, whom they want her to marry.

Isabel is horrified. She was always told she'd be allowed to pick her husband and wasn't expecting to be engaged for at least another year. In addition, we learn that Luis is rude, dismissive and cruel "with roving hands."




Isabel begs, cajoles and rages, but her father remains deaf to her pleas. "There is no doubt about his lineage," her father says mysteriously.

The Hungarian-born author, who now lives in Winnipeg, is very economical with her words, and it doesn't take her long to get to the crux (pun intended) of her story.

Right within the first few pages, just after Isabel gets her palm read predicting "unhappiness and hard times," as she is walking home through the crowded market square, the Grand Inquisitor himself leads a procession through the crowd.

Wiseman describes this scene vividly. Torquemeda is followed by four solemnly chanting monks holding crucifixes and then by a long row of dirty prisoners. First a group of women dressed in ragged yellow sackcloth tunics – *sambenitos*. Then another group of women, these in black *sambenitos* with tall mitres on their heads.

Behind them were men also dressed in yellow or black *sambenitos*.

As they walked along, people yelled insults and threw animal blood and other rubbish at them.

Isabel is horrified by the scene in front of her and feels sorry for the victims. But her slave, Sophia, admonishes her, telling her that these people were Marranos, Conversos who practiced Judaism in secret and deserved to be punished.

The stage is thus set. When we learn in the first chapter that her mother never cooks pork or that Isabel has to take her bath on Fridays before sundown, the reader should not be too surprised with the big revelation in the third chapter, especially after she overhears Luis' slave telling Sophia that the "Inquisition will come for your mistress one day."

After her engagement party, her parents reluctantly explain that their parents were Jews forcibly converted to Christianity, but they still practise the old ways in secret. "In our hearts we are still Jewish."

Isabel, who goes to church and prays as much as any devout Christian, is horrified that she belongs to an accursed, greedy race, such "loathsome creatures" who are forced to wear special badges to identify them in public.

Just 14, she is betrothed to a boy she detests and doomed to burn in hell for all eternity. And teenagers today think *they* have issues.

Wiseman, a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for *Kanada* and the winner of the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction, does a decent job of introducing young readers to the tumultuous world of 15th-century Spain. She describes the *auto-de-fés*, the public burning of heretics, and touches on important historical events such as the Expulsion and the Reconquista.

The fast pace of the narrative is excellent, advancing the plot rapidly with no digression.

But it's not without some clichés. Isabel's fiancé, Luis, is somewhat of a caricature of a villain.

Most characters are either black or white, either very good or downright evil. While the character of Isabel is well written as a confused teenager, praying to the Virgin on one hand, while learning Torah on the other, there is otherwise little depth and readers may not easily identify with her.

But despite these minor flaws, there is much to recommend. Teenagers will learn a lot about this period in history from *The Last Song*, and learn that the Holocaust was not an isolated event and had its roots in centuries of European antisemitism.

**QUEEN STREET IN WORDS AND PICTURES**

**Photographer George Fischer has teamed up with Pascal Arseneau and writer Christopher Hume to produce *Queen St.: Toronto's Urban Treasure*, a pictoral homage to the city's most diverse street. The photo album takes the reader for a leisurely stroll down one of Toronto's main arteries, from Neville Park in the city's east end to its western edge, passing through quiet residential neighbourhoods, historic districts, highrise enclaves and one of the most exciting shopping areas in the country.**

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# Film sheds light on Johnny Cash's Jewish manager

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

It was never easy managing Johnny Cash, but it was even harder for a Jew from London, Ont.

The story of the country music legend's rise, fall and resurrection as a born-again Christian while being managed by his increasingly reluctant Canadian Jewish manager, Saul Holiff, will première as a feature-length documentary film this weekend.

*My Father and the Man in Black* makes its Canadian première on June 15 at the Toronto Underground Cinema (186 Spadina Ave.) at the North by Northeast (NXNE) festival.

The documentary, directed by Holiff's eldest son, Jonathan, sheds a bright light on the events surrounding Cash's tempestuous early career, which was fuelled by alcoholism, womanizing and drug addiction.

Jonathan used never-before-heard audiotape recordings featuring interviews and dialogue between Cash and the elder Holiff – Saul kept a secret audio journal throughout his life – in the film. The existence of the journal was revealed by Saul's wife, Barbara, to her children only after his death. In the documentary, Jonathan paints a picture of both a business relationship and a friendship that spanned a decade filled with strife.

More than that though, the documentary is Jonathan's quest to discover, understand and make peace with memories of an often absent and mostly abusive father. While Saul managed Cash, Saul spent most of his time on the road with Cash and other artists he was managing. As well, Jonathan was estranged from Saul during the last 20 years of his life.

Saul Holiff committed what the film describes as "rational suicide" in 2005. At the time, it had been more than 30 years since he resigned as Cash's manager and show business altogether.

Over the course of the 90-minute documentary, Jonathan paints a picture of his father as a man who was mis-

**Saul Holiff and Johnny Cash in a business discussion, circa 1968** ***(Photo courtesy of the Saul Holiff Collection)***

understood. But the film doesn't tone down or excuse the abuse Jonathan and his brother, Joshua, suffered at Saul's hands and the feelings of abandonment experienced as a child longing for his father.

While the film is a revealing look at the inner workings and concurrent turmoil experienced by both Cash and Saul Holiff during their years together as artist and manager, it is, at heart, a cathartic project for Jonathan.

Speaking to *The CJN* last week from his mother's home in Nanaimo, B.C., Jonathan said he was excited about the film's Canadian première and opened up about his childhood memories of his dad and Cash.

"Initially, I resented Johnny for taking my dad away all the time. But by the time I was 10 years old, I began to look at [Cash] as a real-life superhero," he said. "He had this magnetism to him."

Jonathan, 45, said that although his parents were Jewish, he grew up in an atheist household and one that was "archetypical" of families of the time: comprising a domineering, bread-winning father and a meek, subservient mother who "tried her hardest" but ultimately failed to stop Saul's abusive patterns toward her children.

In a key moment about his father's decision to leave Cash at the height of the musician's career, a question that hangs over the documentary for most of the film, Jonathan reveals that a rift about religion likely was the last straw.

By the early 1970s, Cash had kicked the drugs and booze and then promptly found a replacement for his addictions: faith.

Cash, a born-again Christian, became obsessed with Jesus and took the opportunity to visit Israel numerous times to walk in the Nazarene's path, record gospel tunes and even film a movie about Christ's life.

At one point, Cash asks Saul whether he believes Jesus is the arrival of the prophet spoken of in the Old Testament. Saul gives an evasive answer, and the relationship between the two is never the same.

To make matters worse, Cash's wife, June Carter-Cash, insinuates at one point that all Saul is concerned about is money. The implication, interpreted by Saul, is that he's become viewed as "the Jew."

He breaks from the Cash camp shortly thereafter and drops out of the Hollywood and music game for good.

Saul's audio diaries also reveal a man who was "more self-aware than I could have imagined," Jonathan said.

The audio diary reveals how Saul regretted his bad parenting and that his work with Cash was robbing him of his time with his family and how the singer's "fundamentalist, Christianity jazz" was eating away at his Jewish soul.

Jonathan said he spoke to Roseanne Cash, Johnny's eldest child, and son John Carter Cash, the sole heir to Cash's fortune, and "received their blessings" to make the film.

Jonathan Holiff will attend the Canadian première of *My Father and the Man in Black*.

It's a must-see for fans of Johnny Cash, country music historians and anyone interested in finding out just how a Canadian small-town Jewish man ended up managing one of the icons of American country music.

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# Batsheva troupe returns to Toronto

**Kathryn Kates**
Special to The CJN

Israel's celebrated Batsheva Dance Company, founded by modern dance legend Martha Graham and Baroness Batsheva De Rothschild, returns to Toronto after a long absence.

The company performs during the Luminato Festival for three shows from June 14 to 17, at 8 p.m. at the MacMillan Theatre, University of Toronto. The group will present the North American première of *Sadeh21*, which was co-commissioned by Luminato and choreographed by Batsheva's artistic director, Ohad Naharin.

*Sadeh21*, literally translated, means "Field21." It premièred at the Israel Festival in Jerusalem in 2011. A full-length work that runs an hour and 15 minutes without intermission, *Sadeh21* features a large company, including 18 dancers from around the world. It shows the complexity of human emotions through a unique movement language called "gaga," which Naharin created. He said gaga is connected to explosive power, strength and stretching.

"Gaga is the movement language that is our daily training and also has a lot to do with how and why we dance," said the Israeli-born artistic director, who came to dance late in life, starting formal training at the age of 22 after completing his army service. The experiences he brought to dance from his youth include sports, gymnastics and folk dancing.

Naharin joined the Batsheva Dance Company as a dancer in the 1970s – the company was founded in 1964 – and also spent 10 months dancing with Martha Graham's company in the United States.

"Gaga is a workout that allows us to identify places of atrophy in our body and change our moving habits and enable us to connect our efforts with pleasure," Naharin said. "It brings to people a new awareness about delicacy, form and helps to give us the ability to laugh at ourselves, because it is about the virtue of being silly and bringing you to a higher place."

Naharin is passionate both about his dancers and their interpretation of his works – wanting them to go beyond what is familiar.

"*Sadeh21* is a lot about the tension between elements, the explosive power, and the sublimation of sensuality, volumes, exaggerations and understatements," he said. "*Sadeh21* is, to me… the idea when watching a performance is a multi-layer task – it is not about isolating elements from the whole. If you pay attention to the details, you should always connect to the whole. And, that you don't let a point of reference, of what this piece reminds you of, disturb you from having a fresh moment," Naharin continued.

"I think it is a lot about delicacy, something that is not always in your face. It is the ability to see texture, flow of energy, and to identify something beyond the connotations. What I would like to communicate to someone is a very private experience that comes from my language, my passion, my imagination and my skills, and it is all put into what I think is a coherent offering. My wish is people will recognize it in order to feel what they can feel."

*The June 14 performance of* Sadeh21 *is a fundraising gala for the Koffler Centre of the Arts (www.kofflerarts.org). For information about Luminato, visit www.luminato.com. The Batsheva Dance Company's website is at www.batsheva.co.il.*

## EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

### NEW ANTHOLOGY LOOKS AT OLD ARTIFACTS THAT ARE PART OF THE JEWISH JOURNEY

A new book titled *Letters & Pictures from the Old Suitcase* presents an anthology of writing by 32 Canadian contributors about precious handed-down family items such as old letters and photographs that help tell the story of Jewish history, migration and survival.

The anthology is edited by **Ellen S. Jaffe** and **Lil Blume** and offers pieces by **Alvin Abram, Larry Anklewicz, Miriam Beckerman, Beth Kaplan, Seymour Mayne, Ken Sherman, J. J. Steinfeld** and many others. The publisher is Pinking Shears Publication of Hamilton.

The book was launched in Hamilton earlier this month. A Toronto launch, hosted by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto), takes place at Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Ave. W., on Thursday, June 28, 7 to 9 p.m.

* * *

**Judea and Samaria:** *The Spring of Judea and Samaria* is a feature documentary film by **Ezra B. Ridgley** about the rise of Jewish cultural life in the historic and deeply contested areas that were the "cradle of Jewish civilization." The film tells the stories of the people who have struggled to build fine communities on the beautiful landscapes and hilltops of the so-called West Bank.

A screening takes place at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, 10268 Yonge St. (north of Major Mackenzie, Richmond Hill). Monday, July 2, 7 p.m. All proceeds go to Bnei Chayil Yeshiva in Kedumim of the Shomron region and Tzvia Girls High School in Kochov Ya'akov of the Binyamin region. Tickets $18. judeaandsamaria@gmail.com, 647-774-1038.

* * *

**TD Jazz Festival:** This year's festival presents a fantastic roster of performers around town. Performers include **Jaffa Road**, who give a free concert at the Shops at Don Mills, 1090 Don Mills Rd. on Monday, June 25, 7 p.m. **Fern Lindzon** and her quartet perform for free in the same venue on June 23, 2 p.m. The **Lemon Bucket Orchestra**, specializing in Balkan, Gypsy and klezmer, also perform for free in the same place on Sunday, July 1, 3 p.m. **Sophia Perlman** is at Pure Spirits Patio, 55 Mill St., on June 23, 3 p.m., while the **George Grosman Trio** are at the same same on June 30, 12 noon. For the full schedule, visit torontojazz.com

* * *

**Between Stages:** Between Stages presents a reading of the play *The Kalamazoo Diaries*, a new comedy in development by **Natalie Fingerhut**. Set at a medieval studies conference, the play is an absurd comedy that asks a serious question: what can you really know about the past? The reading is directed by **Esther Arbeid** and features **Gregory Atkins, Becky Bays, Darryl Dandrich, Natalie Fingerhut, Howard Pressburger, Shana Sandler** and **Caroline Toal**. Suggested donation at the door: $10. Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, Tuesday, June 26, 7 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 606, esthera@mnjcc.org

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• **Brian Katz** (guitar), **Martin van de Ven** (clarinet) and **Anne Lederman** (fiddle) perform an evening of traditional klezmer. Mezzetta, 681 St. Clair Ave. W. Wednesday, June 13, 9 p.m. Katz also plays solo at Mezzetta as part of the Toronto Jazz Festival, June 25, 9 p.m. Reservations, 416-658-5687.

• Film critic **Adam Nayman** continues his series of talks with film clips on the films of **Stanley Kubrick** with a discussion of *Full Metal Jacket*. $12 drop-in, students $6. Miles Nadal JCC, Monday, June 18, 7 to 9 p.m. www.mnjcc.org, 416-924-6211, ext. 606.

• Active Seniors presents light classical music performed by string quartet. Miles Nadal JCC, Thursday, June 28, 1:30 p.m.

• Presented by Israeli Folk Dance Toronto with the MNJCC, the **Toronto IsReal Dance Festival** offers a weekend of Israel dancing with top international choreographers, the latest moves in Israeli folk dance, plus a mini Karmiel Dance Competition. Pre-registration required. Miles Nadal JCC, June 29 to July 1. www.israelidancetoronto.com, 416-221- 6280.

* * *

**At the Galleries:** *Aging Is Living*, a photography exhibit by **Irene Borins Ash**, MSW, RSW, presents myth-breaking stories from long-term care and seeks to challenge or shatter our previous conceptions about life in long-term care homes. Miles Nadal JCC Gallery, June 13 to July 22. deannad@mnjcc.org.

# *Emerging writer featured in new publication*

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

About four years ago, Irving Ellman's wife, Peggy, surprised him with a gift that would change his life. She signed him up for a writing workshop.

Ellman, now 63, is an award-winning interior designer. He has been writing poetry intermittently since he was in university, but he has never made his writing a priority.

"It was something that had always been a really important thing to her – she's a fan of my writing," Ellman said of his wife's support.

His enthusiasm for writing renewed, Ellman began penning short stories in addition to his poetry. He continued to go to writing workshops and readings in the Toronto area, until he eventually decided to submit one of his stories for a chance at publication.

Ellman submitted his short story, *The Poet's Voice*, to Diaspora Dialogues, a Toronto-based organization that supports the development and presentation of literature about the city in an attempt to capture and share the diverse voices that Toronto has to offer. Ellman did not expect his piece to be chosen.

Irving Ellman

"The e-mail started off, 'Thank you for your submission,' and I thought, 'Oh, here's the polite rejection,'" he said with a laugh. The next sentence in the e-mail, however, congratulated Ellman on his acceptance to the 2011 mentoring program.

The program paired him with a professional author and led to the publication of his work as an emerging writer in the seventh edition of Diaspora Dialogues' annual anthology, *TOK: Writing the New Toronto*. ("TOK" is not an acronym, but a play on words that combines the short form for Toronto, "T.O.," and the word "talk.")

Ellman was paired with Andrew Pyper, an acclaimed author some of whose books have gone on to be national bestsellers in Canada. "That was a great experience," Ellman said of the mentorship, adding that Pyper helped improve his writing without influencing his unique creative voice.

*The Poet's Voice* tells the story of a teenage boy who, after visiting his ill parents at a downtown Toronto hospital, finds himself drawn to Sam the Record Man, a now closed landmark music store. There, he discovers Leonard Cohen's music, which affects him profoundly.

Ellman said that his stories usually deal with more mystic elements, but that regardless of the storyline, they frequently involve Jewish themes in a subtle way.

"Even the ones like *The Poet's Voice*, which are a little more concrete, deal with themes that I think come from that heritage – they are themes of struggle," Ellman said, elaborating that the struggles he writes about are often for dignity, identity and even survival.

"The earliest stories I remember, obviously, were the stories from things like the seder," he said, recalling the times he asked the Four Questions as the youngest son in his family.

*The Poet's Voice* is Ellman's first published work. It was released in May in *TOK: Writing the New Toronto – Book 7*. "I have to admit that when I [went to the launch], one of the first things I did when I picked up a copy was to look at the preface," said Ellman, explaining that he was hoping to find his story mentioned along with some of the others that might have been considered more powerful. He was stunned to see his short story quoted in the preface.

"It's a very satisfying feeling," he said of seeing his words in print, adding that he is still getting used to the idea. His second published story will shortly appear in the *Canadian Writer's Journal Choice Works* collection.

Though Ellman is still at the helm of his interior design firm, he is hoping to find more time for writing in the years to come. "My ultimate goal is to spend more time writing than working."

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**AN EVENING WITH DAVID BEZMOZGIS**

Award-winning writer and filmmaker, David Bezmozgis, will discuss his new novel, **The Free World**, winner of the Amazon.ca First Novel Award and the Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Award for Fiction. Set in Rome in 1978, this book explores the immigration of Russian Jews to the West through the adventures of one family.

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# Island Yacht Club celebrates 60th anniversary

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

A couple of weekends ago, Commodore David Baskin anchored his boat in Toronto's inner harbor, sat back and watched other boats sail by. As they did, they dipped their sails in salute.

The Sail Past is an annual event at the Island Yacht Club (IYC), but this year it had added significance. Not only does it mark the official start of the boating season, but this year it was part of the celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the Island Yacht Club.

The Sail Past was followed by a reception at the club, located on Mugg's Island, attended by numerous dignitaries. MPP Monte Kwinter, himself a member of the club, brought greetings from Premier Dalton McGuinty, while the club's two surviving original members, Cecil Yolles and Richard Lorie, hoisted the Canadian flag on the club's premises.

As part of the celebrations, longstanding member Hartley Robins and his wife, Brooky, prepared a historical exhibit for members, reflecting the club's storied past.

Members gathered for a commodore's ball, part of the official launch of the season, and they watched historic videos of the club's early days on the Toronto waterfront.

Rounding out the celebrations was the creation of a "burgee flag" that each boat will fly, noting the club's "60 years on the lake."

Robins, a member since 1956, recalled that the IYC was started because Jews at the time were not accepted as members by other sailing clubs. A small number of sailing enthusiasts, and others who were looking for a country club experience, launched the club in 1951.

Their first year on the water was 1952, hence the 60th anniversary.

There were about 15 to 20 members at first, but it quickly grew. A membership drive attracted many "social members" who didn't know a bow line from a bagel.

**With jib and mainsail unfurled this boat plies the waters of Lake Ontario.**

Families enjoyed the swimming pool and tennis courts in a beautiful setting, Robins said.

At the time it cost only about $50 to join and a few years later the price was still an affordable $75 to $125.

The club quickly grew to 300 members and then 350.

The established clubs didn't know what to make of the Jewish sailors.

"We were still looked upon in a different light – they didn't think we knew how to sail," Robins said.

"It was decided to go into racing classes. We had a very active racing group at that time," he continued.

Sailing 5.5-metre boats and Olympic class vessels, the IYC sailors "concentrated on racing fleets and did very well in them."

IYC sailors Mel Gould and Jerry Conway teamed up with a friend who sailed at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club to represent Canada at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, though they didn't do too well, Robins said.

Back in those days, the club was the place to be. The Murray Alter Orchestra was the house band, playing twice a week. There were fashion shows, a thriving children's playground, a "tweener" group for kids in their early teens. "It was always a family club," he said.

The IYC has had its ups and downs over its 60-year history, but it remains a going concern, said Baskin.

In June 2004, the IYC suffered a major setback when its clubhouse caught fire and burned down.

"The fire was a devastating blow for the club," acknowledged Baskin. "We lost the historic clubhouse and memorabilia, and some members did not come back."

With no locker room or dining facility, the club operated out of tents and many members who used to take advantage of the fine dining, Friday-night dinners and other activities looked elsewhere.

Some older members simply gave up sailing, some joined other yacht clubs and others became cottagers.

"We lost members who never came back," Baskin said, even after the IYC constructed an award-winning clubhouse. "The club has not achieved the membership levels it had before the fire."

Prior to the fire, IYC boasted 110 boating members and 40 social members (memberships are based on family units). That worked out to about 300 to 400 people. Currently, the club has 80 boating members and 25 social members.

In many respects, the IYC offers the same sort of premium qualities it once did, with a beautiful clubhouse in a gorgeous setting, as well as a renovated pool, tennis courts and a strong kitchen.

"We think it's a great, undiscovered jewel, but we're not successful in getting the news out," Baskin conceded.

The club has hired a public relations firm to help it make a pitch for new members. Fees are competitive, Baskin said, with social memberships running at $2,100 per year and boating memberships costing $3,495 per year. In addition, a $4,000 initiation fee is payable over four years, he said.

"We'd love to have more members. We think we offer a tremendous experience for a very reasonable price," Baskin said.

**Commodore David Baskin**

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# *Book awards honour nine authors*

**Bill Gladstone**
Special to The CJN

Eli Pfefferkorn says he was walking in the park one day, thinking about the story he had been longing to tell, when suddenly he experienced a rare and startling revelation.

"I found the voice," he said. "One day, one morning, I heard the voice from inside coming… a voice I had not heard before." That moment, he knew he could write the story – and he did. On June 7, the Toronto author won a Canadian Jewish Book Award for the result, a Holocaust memoir titled *The Muselmann at the Water Cooler*.

Nine authors in all were honoured last week at the 24th annual Helen and Stan Vine Jewish Book Awards ceremony, which drew a near-capacity crowd to a handsome hall at the Toronto Reference Library.

Prize recipients included David Bezmozgis, whose novel *The Free World* took the fiction prize; Fraidie Martz and Andrew Wilson, joint authors of *A Fiery Soul: The Life and Theatrical Times of John Hirsch* (biography prize), and Rebecca Margolis for *Jewish Roots, Canadian Soil: Yiddish Culture in Montreal, 1905-1945* (Yiddish literature prize).

While most of the proceedings were in English, the linguistic flavour of the nation's Jewish community was given full range during the evening. Margolis and others dipped into Yiddish, and recipients of awards for two French-language books made some remarks in French. As the evening's host, CBC Radio personality Michael Enright observed, it was the first time the awards committee had bestowed a prize on a book written in French.

Author Denis Vaugeois won the history prize for *Les Premiers Juifs D'Amérique, 1760-1860*, a richly illustrated book that chronicles the history of the legendary Hart family of Quebec. The other French-language winner was Richard Marceau's *Juif, Une histoire québécoise*, a book that shatters many common myths held by the Quebec public about Jews. (Both books are now also available in English translation.)

"My book is an attempt to explain one people I joined – the Jewish people – to the people I was born into, the Québécois," said Marceau, a lawyer and former Bloc Québécois MP.

"You can't help but be amazed by the breadth and the depth of the growth of Canadian literature in general, and Jewish writing in particular," said Enright.

"What is even more exciting than the exponential growth of North American Jewish writing is the generational aspect of it all. The epic era of Bellow and Malamud, Singer and Mordechai Richler is giving way to a new wave of young talents rising to take their place."

Other winners were Lesley Simpson, who received the youth literature prize for *Yuvi's Candy Tree*; Kalman Weiser, for *Jewish People, Yiddish Nation – Noah Prylucki and the Folkists in Poland* (scholarship prize); and S. Weilbach for *Singing from the Darktime: A Childhood Memoir in Poetry and Prose* (poetry).

A special lifetime achievement award went to the Azrieli Foundation for its publication of hundreds of memoirs by Canadian Holocaust survivors. Accepting the award on behalf of her father, David Azrieli, Naomi Azrieli observed that of the more than 35,000 survivors who came to Canada, only about 4,000 are still alive, and the number is dwindling with each passing year.

Lori Starr, executive director of the Koffler Centre of the Arts, which hosted the event, paid special tribute to Helen Redner, who has been director of the Toronto Jewish Book Festival and its predecessor, the Jewish Book Fair, for the past 32 years. For the first time this year, the festival was realigned on the calendar to begin three days before, and culminate with, the book awards.

The festival opened June 4 at the reference library with a $25-a-head evening featuring Shalom Auslander, author of *Hope: A Tragedy*, being interviewed by local wag and author Michael Wex.

. Nearly two-dozen programs took place over the three days, including several that drew hundreds of schoolchildren.

# Pitch for Israel

**The rain held off for the fifth annual Scotiabank Pitch for Israel on June 3, when 200 people and 18 teams gathered at the Richmond Green Sports Complex for the charity softball tournament. This year's event, which raised more than $60,000, was organized in partnership with the Jewish National Fund and One Family Fund Canada. Proceeds will go to JNF's educational scholarships for the children of the prison wardens killed in the 2010 Carmel forest fire, as well as One Family Fund's summer camp program for young Israeli victims of terror. Pictured are the top fundraisers for the event, from left, Lisa Boltman, Hailey Goldberg, Marc Berger, Michael Grossman, Justin Shulman, Joel Goldberg and Aaron Rosenthal, with Pitch for Israel's communications director Kortney Shapiro and Pitch for Israel founder Daniel Warner.**

CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

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10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE
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25 HOUSES WANTED TO RENT
30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE
35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT
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I would greatly appreciate any assistance and can be reached at **judd.18@osu.edu** or **614-292-9313.**

*For my information about me or my work, please see* **http://history.osu.edu/directory/Judd18**

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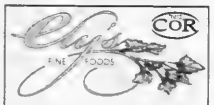


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# Ryerson U grad interns on *Jimmy Fallon* show

**Dustin Pollack**
Special to The CJN

Bram Gonshor's reaction to meeting for the first time was probably the same as it would be for any fan of the comedian turned talk-show host – nervous and maybe a little bit star struck.

Gonshor, 22, admits he watched Fallon on *Saturday Night Live* for years and then on *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, when the show debuted in 2009.

As the music intern for *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, Gonshor spent the past four months working with one of his childhood idols.

He recalled the surreal moment when he met Fallon during a rehearsal for a game-show bit that often airs on the show.

"All of a sudden its rehearsal time, and he comes in and says, 'What's your name and where are you from?'... Someone I've watched on TV for so many years is just there right beside me, and it was such a bizarre moment."

**'I've had these two ideas in my head – you can go into television [or] you can go into music'**

Gonshor's role as a music intern included anything from standing in during rehearsals and preparing contracts for bands that appear on the show to working closely with the music co-ordinator on the set doing sound checks.

It's not exactly a glamorous job, but Gonshor says people's eyes open a little wider when he tells them where he's been working.

The Toronto native knows opportunities like that don't come often, so he hasn't taken any part of the experience for granted.

The recent Ryerson University grad spent the last four years studying radio and television arts, and he's always wanted to find a way to mix his love for television and music into a career.

"I've had these two ideas in my head – you can go into television [or] you can go into music," he said.

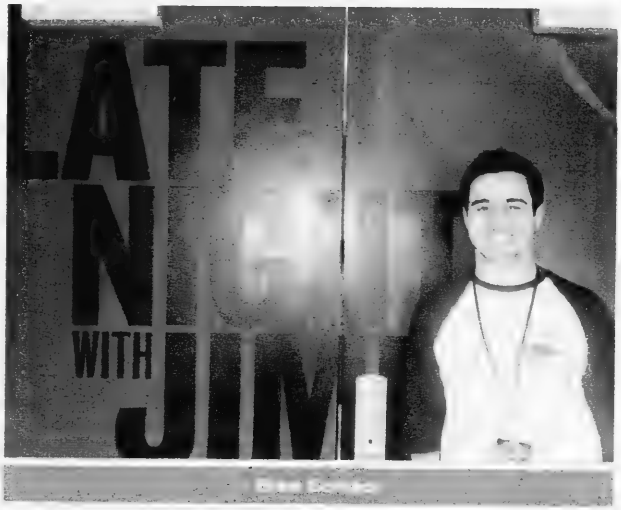
He said at Ryerson he was taught that you couldn't really do both at the same time. But one night, as Gonshor was surfing the Internet, he came across a band that had appeared on *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*.

"I said to myself, 'Someone must book these bands that come on the late-night shows.' So I started looking around at who books the music for *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, and I found this guy named Jonathan Cohen who is the music booker for the show."

Gonshor said he Googled Cohen's name, found his e-mail address and sent him a note saying he was interested in interning for the show.

"I heard back from him a month later, and he said he had forwarded my e-mail to the internship co-ordinator. I kept in touch with him for about a year, applied for the internship in November and here I am now."

As a music buff, Gonshor says the entire experience has been invaluable and is something he'll always remember. About two months ago, the show had a Bruce Springsteen week, which included performances from Springsteen




himself, as well as other artists doing covers of his songs.

At the end of the week, Springsteen came back on the show to do a finale performance with *The Roots*, the show's in-house band.

"You know they call [Springsteen] the boss, but I actually got to see him be the boss," Gonshor boasted.

"When they were rehearsing [for that finale performance], he was telling the band... 'This is what we're doing and I'm going to jump off the stage at this time, and then we're all going to move here, and then the crowds are going to come down,' and if you watched the performance, that's exactly what happened.

"It was really a spontaneous moment that I got to witness, and it was one of the best music performances in television history I'd say."

Gonshor, who headed back home to Toronto earlier this month, said he's hoping to use some of the contacts he's made to find a job where he can again combine his love for television and music.

Reflecting on the entire experience, he now laughs about the nerves he was feeling the first time he met Fallon during the game-show rehearsal.

Though he has never had the chance to sit down and have a one-on-one conversation with Fallon, Gonshor says he was always "super nice" and made sure to say 'hello' if he passed you in the hallways.

"He's just another employee [to me] now. You can't really think of him as a celebrity. If you're star struck all the time, you can't really do your job."

*More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca*

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# אז אני צפונית

נינה שנהב
nina.shenhav@gmail.com

"מתי מתחיל הסרט?" טלי שואלת אותי. "בעוד חצי שעה. יש זמן לקפה קצר." אני מרגיעה אותה, כשאנו מתיישבות. "אגב, תודה שאת מזמינה. מזמן רציתי לראות את הסרט הזה. זה מעניין שאת תמיד מאוד נדיבה בימי שלישי." אני אומרת בתמימות לא מסווית
טלי: כן, לא יודעת, אני אוהבת את ימי שלישי בקניון.
אני: בגלל שאז הסרטים זה חצי מחיר? אל תעני. תגידי, מה זו השמלה הזאת?
טלי: יפה? משוגעת קצת, נכון. לא ידעתי איזה צבע מתחשק לי ללבוש היום...
אני: אז החלטת ללבוש את כל הצבעים יחד?
טלי (כועסת): זה רק מראה כמה את לא בקיאה בענייני אופנה. שתדעי לך,
שסיגי אמרה לי שאני נראית כמו דוגמנית צילום עם השמלה הזאת.
אני (מביטה בה בהרהור): באמת יכולת להיות דוגמנית צילום, טלי.
טלי: את מרגישה טוב? מה זה הפרגון הזה? לקחת את הכדורים הבוקר?
אני: לא, ברצינות. את יכולה להיות דוגמנית ה-לפני. התמונות של הבחורות (בהדגשה) לפני שירדו 70 קילו, לפני תיקוני השיניים, לפני ניתוח האף, לפני הטיפולים בעור, לפני ההחלקה וההבהרה. לפני...לאן את הולכת?
טלי (בעודה קמה): לא מתחשק לי כבר לראות איתך סרט. ואגב, הקפה עלייך.
תגידי תודה שהוא לא באמת עלייך, שאני לא שופכת אותו עלייך.
אני: טלי התבדחתי! סתם, תסכולים שלי מעצמי. סליחה, ממי. שבי. התבדחתי!
טלי (מתיישבת בחוסר רצון): בלי קשר, אני שונאת לראות איתך סרטים.
אני: כי אני מרעישה עם הפופקורן? כי אני צועקת על אנשים שישתקו כבר?
טלי: כי כבר בסצנה הראשונה, את מגלה לי ולכל האולם הממורמר מי הרוצח!
אני: אשמתי שאני הכמה? אני רואה בלונדינית מתוקה שאוהבת חיות ותינוקות, שמתנדבת לאירגוני הומלס, ומייד אני מזהה בה את הרוצחת הפסיכופטית.
טלי: ואם אנחנו לא הולכות לסרט מתח, נגיד לקומדיה? את כל הזמן מתלוננת - זו שחקנית איומה, זה תסריטאי עלוב. משום בדיחה את לא צוחקת. תמיד צינית. לפעמים אני מתה לצחוק משטויות, אבל את מעבירה לי את החשק.
אני: טוב, אז לא נלך לסרט. הלכו הכרטיסים. אז מה התוכניות שלך להערב?
טלי: לשבת בבית מול המראה, לבכות, ולספור את הקמטים. מקנאה?
אני: למי את מחייגת, לסיגי? אני יותר מאתגרת אותך מהדבילית החנפנית הזו.
טלי (מנתקת): לא זמינה. מאז שהיא נפרדה מבעלה, הם כל הזמן ביחד.
אני: אז אולי כדאי שהם יחזרו, ככה הם שוב כמעט לא יתראו...
טלי (מחייכת): טוב, בואי נלך לסרט. מה אני אעשה, את באמת מאתגרת אותי.

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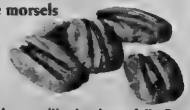
1 – 4.5 oz bar (approx.) of chocolate (60% cocoa)
1 c semi-sweet chocolate morsels
½ c chopped pecans
Sea salt



Cover a cookie sheet or sheet pan with aluminum foil. Break chocolate into heat proof bowl over pot of boiling water (or use double boiler). Top with chocolate morsels. When all of the chocolate is melted, add ¼ c pecans. Stir to combine. Remove from heat and pour onto aluminum foil and spread with a spatula to desired thickness.
Top with remaining pecans. Press pecans gently into chocolate if needed. Let the chocolate cool about 5 min., then sprinkle generously with sea salt. Let cool completely. Break into pieces.

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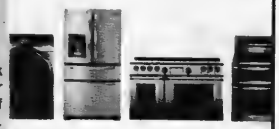

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## On cjnews.com

*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

Herzliah High School students and students from two schools in Haiti who worked together to publish a book about the ways the Canadian Jewish community and Haiti have supported each other.

***Exclusive to cjnews.com***

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa says that the story of Ilan Ramon is also the story of a nation.

Members of the national assembly from Quebec's three main political parties turned out in large numbers for a wine and cheese reception hosted by the Quebec office of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) at the legislature. CIJA also commended the Quebec national assembly for commemorating the 180th anniversary of the political emancipation of Quebec Jewry in a unanimous all-party motion.

After building an impressive network of institutions and establishing the State of Israel, the time has come for the Jewish People to focus on embracing God, something Jews can "authentically wrap their arms around," says Rabbi David Wolpe, one of America's most prominent Conservative rabbis.

The small but growing Jewish Quebec community of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region shared its musical tradition with its neighbours at a concert.

# *One Step Ahead:* David Azrieli's story

The book *One Step Ahead* is about the Canadian philanthropist and developer David Azrieli. It was written by his daughter, Danna, and published by the Azrieli Foundation as part of a program that produces books on survivors.

***Urban Writer***

***Avrum Rosensweig***

*One Step Ahead* takes the reader through David's life, from the beginning of the Holocaust until shortly after the establishment of the State of Israel. We learn that David was born in 1922 in Poland and that his family stayed in their home even as the Nazis invaded. David, however, did the opposite and crossed into Russia and later Central Asia, constantly strategizing on ways to stay one step ahead of the Nazis

At one point on David's journey, he took a train to Bagdad, where he was to meet a Jewish operative who would help him get to Palestine (the Haganah soldier he linked up with was Israeli military hero, Moshe Dayan). To get to Bagdad, David had to dress up as an Arab. The local security apparatus entered his cabin asking passengers for their passports, a document David did not have. The young Jewish boy had to scramble from car to car to stay ahead of the guards. Eventually, he reached the end of the train, opened the door and scurried up on the roof of the moving train. David crawled along the cars to the front of the train and slipped into the first car. He was safe and soon enough arrived at his destination.

At another point along David's perilous escape, he ended up at a co-operative in the Soviet Union, where he helped, among other things, tend to the horses. One day he caught word that a child was sick and needed medicine. David jumped on a horse, rode it hard to the nearby town and returned with medicines.

On David's return, one of the co-operative's workers told him to leave quickly, as he had run the horse ragged and the members were going to kill him. David exclaimed that he did so to save the little girl's life, but it didn't matter. His life was in danger, and sure enough, as he scrambled to leave the co-operative, he saw members who were carrying axes looking for him. In the book, David says he was disappointed that a culture could put the health of a horse before a child's.

In 1942, David arrived in Israel. After spending time on a kibbutz, he learned his parents, younger brother and sister had been murdered in the Shoah. An older brother survived. On getting the news, he got into bed and stayed there for weeks, tired and feeling very much alone. Eventually, David crawled out of bed. He was healing. He attended the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and fought in the War of Independence. In 1954, David settled in Canada and became one of its wealthiest and most generous citizens.

*One Step Ahead* is about a young Jewish man who never gave up on life and who fought like hell to beat the Nazis. A remarkable Jewish man, David figured out, when he was poor and destitute, how to buy the most expensive thing on the market – his freedom and his life.

David just turned 90, and continues to show this tenacity and verve to this day. Happy Birthday, David, until 120. Well done!

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## This Week

National

**Enrolment at CHAT** declines. *Page 6*

**North York General** gets $12M gift. *Page 12*

**Kiever Shul** celebrates 100 years. *Page 17*

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Tribute to Israel

**The wonders** of the Holy Land explored. *Section B*

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# *Peres receives Medal of Freedom*

**In a special ceremony last week at the White House, U.S. President Barack Obama presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Israeli President Shimon Peres. In receiving the award, Peres said, "It is a testament to the historic friendship between our two nations. I receive this honour today on behalf of the people of Israel. They are the true recipients of this honour. With this moving gesture, you are paying tribute to generations upon generations of Jews who dreamed of, and fought for, a state of their own. A state that would give them shelter. A state that they could defend. Mr. President, you are honouring the pioneers who built homes on barren mountains, on shifting sands. Fighters who sacrificed their lives for their country. On their behalf, I thank America for days of concern, for sleepless nights, caring for our safety, for our future."** *[Ben Gershom/ GPO/Flash90 photo]*

# Mein Kampf to be taught in Germany

**Toby Axelrod**
JTA

**BERLIN** — Does *Mein Kampf* belong in German high schools?

With Adolf Hitler's book due to come out of wraps here in 2015, after decades under copyright protection that prevented its publication in Germany, it's a question that is being debated in classrooms and on German TV talk shows.

The discussion has not eased since the Ministry of Finance in Bavaria, which owns the rights, announced plans earlier this year to prepare annotated excerpts for German schools. Scholars at Munich's Institute for Contemporary History are working on the official annotated edition of the approximately 900-page book. Critics say it's better not to play with fire: some youth already have an unhealthy fascination with this chapter of history and don't need further fuel.

But most observers agree that excerpts with expert commentary could help demystify the taboo tome.

Germany's Jewish community has no problem with plans for the new edition. Stephan Kramer, general secretary of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, has said it makes sense to publish the book "to prevent neo-Nazis from profiting from it" and to "remove many of its false, persistent myths."

The move "is absolutely right and overdue," said Julian Barlen, co-founder of the anti-Nazi website Endstation Rechts and a Social Democrat legislator in the former East German state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

**Continued on page 32**

## *The CJN wins award*

***The CJN* won a Simon Rockower Award, second place for excellence in editorial writing, at the annual American Jewish Press Association Conference in Philadelphia last week.**

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**Israel moves tanks to Sinai border – please see page 31**

## CANADA

### Honorary Degrees

**TORONTO** — Hebrew University of Jerusalem awarded honorary doctorates on June 10 to Canadian wheelchair athlete Rick Hansen and University of Toronto political science professor Janice Stein, the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University said. Hansen also delivered the convocation address to 2012 PhD graduates. Last year, Hansen signed an agreement with Hebrew U's Institute for Medical Research Israel to broaden its Rick Hansen Spinal Cord Injury Registry, an international database that collects and analyzes information on such injuries and clinical treatments. Stein, founding director of U of T's Munk School for Global Affairs, was cited for forging strong ties between U of T and Hebrew U.

### Disability Prize

**TORONTO** — A project supported by Canadian Friends of AKIM that lets Israelis with intellectual disabilities serve in the Israel Defence Forces has been awarded one of the first $20,000 Ruderman Prizes in Disability by the Boston-based Ruderman Family Foundation. AKIM trains people with disabilities for various roles, and successful participants serve in the IDF. Last year, the Canadian group, established by Toronto's Alex and Olga Eisen, helped AKIM Israel mark 60 years of serving Israelis citizens with intellectual disabilities. AKIM helps more than 34,000 people and their 136,000 family members.

## WORLD

### Killer's Family Sues

**PARIS** — The family of radical Islamist Toulouse gunman Mohamed Merah, who killed three Jewish children and a rabbi at a school in Toulouse, France, in March, is alleging French police murdered Merah. On June 11, the family filed a lawsuit accusing police of intentionally killing Merah, rather than capturing him alive and letting him speak. Police shot Merah following a 32-hour standoff at his Toulouse apartment.

### Railway Signs Deal

**PARIS** — The French railway system, SNCF, has signed an agreement with the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum in Jerusalem to increase research into the role the company played in deporting Jews to concentration camps. SNCF will provide the museum with testimonies and documentation on some 80 mass transports of Jews from France. This "strengthens SNCF's commitment to complete transparency, acknowledgment of the past and commitment to remembrance of the victims," said SNCF senior vice-president Bernard Emsellem.

### IOC Warns Against Boycotting Athletes

Rachid Hanifi

**LAUSANNE, Switzerland** — The International Olympic Committee warned that a refusal by any participant in next month's Games to compete against an athlete from a particular country violates its code of ethics.

The warning came June 14 in response to an Algerian kayaker who withdrew last month from a World Cup event after learning that he would be competing against an Israeli.

"Refusing to participate in an Olympic event because of a fellow athlete/team's religion or nationality would not only be unsporting behaviour, but a serious breach of the IOC's Code of Ethics, the principles of the Olympic Charter and the Athletes Oath," IOC spokesperson Emanuelle Moreau said.

She advised athletes who object to "stay at home."

Following the World Cup incident, the head of the Algerian Olympic committee told the *Times of London* that all Algerian Olympic competitors may refuse to compete against Israelis next month at the 2012 London Olympics. "There is an obligation to ask our government if we have to meet Israel in sport," Rachid Hanifi told the *Times* last week. Athletes from Arab states and Iran have boycotted Israeli athletes at recent past Olympics.

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# Teen cancer survivor gives back

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Dundas, Ont., teen Shari Levine understands all too well the urgent need to find a cure for cancer.

Having battled and beaten thyroid cancer when she was just 15 years old, the 17-year-old Highland Secondary School senior has been determined ever since to join the fight against the debilitating disease.

"I knew that from my own experience with cancer it was important to get involved and give back to others. It made me see how terrible a disease it is, and I don't want anyone to have to suffer through it again," Levine said.

"I know so many other close family friends and relatives who have suffered from it and... I want to help find a cure."

Levine was diagnosed in February 2010 and had surgery to remove the tumour just two months later. After undergoing radioactive iodine treatment, Levine was declared cancer-free in June of that year.

While some may have been tempted to put the nightmare behind them and move on from the experience, Levine saw an opportunity to give back.

"My friend approached me about the [Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life] and asked if I wanted to start a team," she said.

"Soon after, we got a team together which is made up of 17 of my really good friends called Shari's Soul Sisters."

Shari Levine

The 12-hour relay, which has run annually for the past five years at the Ancaster Fairgrounds, brings together teams of fundraisers for the overnight event held from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. on June 22.

The teams pitch tents and take turns walking around a track, symbolizing the fact that cancer never sleeps.

Participants are treated to live entertainment, games, food and a huge silent auction, as well as a luminary ceremony, during which hundreds of luminaries bearing the names of cancer victims are lit.

"Later in the night, survivors speak, and it's just really emotional and a great time," Levine said.

The first year Levine took part in the fundraiser, she accumulated $13,800 from family, friends and complete strangers who learned about her story.

She was awarded the first-ever Infinite Hope Award for being the highest fundraiser under the age of 18 in Ontario.

Last year, Levine raised $10,200, and this year she's a little more than $2,000 shy of her $10,000 goal.

Determined to reach her goal for a third straight year, Levine stressed that people can continue to donate until the end of July by visiting tinyurl.com/7y57dpk.

In addition to her fundraising efforts, Levine has spent the last couple years acting as a youth spokesperson for the Canadian Cancer Society, which allows her to share her survival story and inspire others.

"I just had a cancer-awareness assembly at my school, where I shared my story and shared a video about my story, and I've travelled to other schools and spoke there for different events," she said.

**Continued on page 29**

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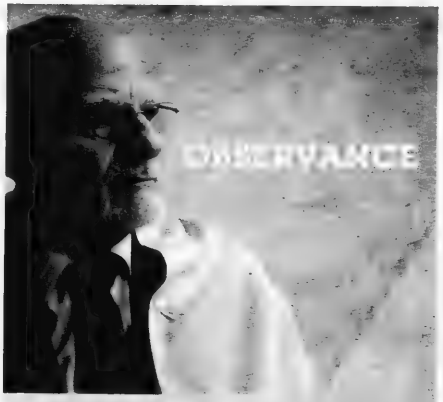


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# Building Jerusalem (3)

The location of the historic building in which the Jerusalem Inter-Cultural Center (JICC) is housed is itself a metaphor for the mission and the work of the center itself and its staff.

The center's website describes its location as being "on the seam lines between the city's major identities." The English translation of the idiomatic Hebrew fails to adequately convey the true meaning of the short text.

The JICC is in the Old City of Jerusalem on Har Zion (Mount Zion), part of the invisible weaving of the ancient/modern, multi-communal neighbourhood of Christians, Muslims and Jews that binds the different groups together in a delicate modus vivendi.

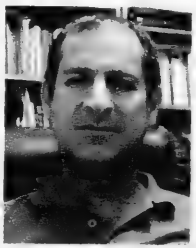
*From the editor's desk...*

The term "culture" in the centre's name, *The CJN* was told by its director, is a misnomer if understood in the sense of arts and entertainment. Rather, it means different, identifiably distinct, ethnic groups. The centre's mission has many components. But its key purpose is to act as a resource in helping Jerusalem's diverse populations live together peacefully if not always in harmony. Over the years, it has become perhaps the country's pre-eminent instrument for bridging communal gaps, calming roiled communal emotions, bringing clarity to misunderstandings and simply, healing social wounds that arise from time to time in Jerusalem.

*The CJN* visited the center last month.

The first observation one makes after meeting its director Hagai Agmon-Snir is how much he resembles writer/actor Steve Martin. The second observation, very quickly after the first, is how interesting and engaging he is. Agmon-Snir is totally and entirely dedicated to finding ways to make the complicated and complex community that is Jerusalem, work. It is therefore, not surprising that the Jerusalem Foundation supports the center and its vital work. For they do share a common purpose.

Agmon-Snir has been the director of the JICC since its founding in 1999. But there are not many clues in his early adult education that would have suggested a career in community "building". Agmon-Snir has a doctorate in Computational Neuroscience from Hebrew University. It was during post-doctoral research at the National Institutes of Health outside Washington that he became interested in issues of multiculturalism. His interest soon developed into devotion. He pursued further graduate studies in the field in Israel focusing on issues of inter-cultural dialogue and protecting disparate group identities. He pointed out to his visitor from *The CJN* that Canada's enshrinement of multiculturalism as a socio-legal value in the country's constitution was an example of great relevance and hope for Israel.


Hagai Agmon-Snir

The JICC is "a pure NGO", Agmon-Snir emphasized. "The centre is totally non-partisan. It does not receive any funds from any government. It is independent of government."

Indeed, Agmon-Snir explained, a key portion of the centre's mission is actually teaching people how to deal with government. He pointed, as an example, to an especially significant milestone initiative that resulted in the residents of Silwan, the ancient city of David, today an Arab suburb south of the Old City, becoming registered for the program called *Tipat Chalav* (literally Drops of Milk). It is a community health program of clinic-based care for infants and toddlers. There are many such examples of the centre's interventions.

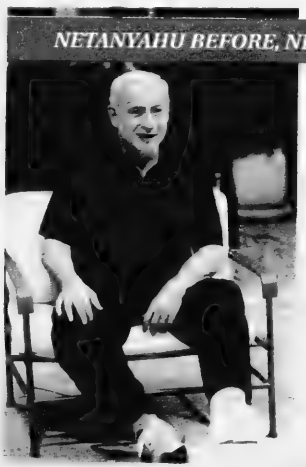
Because of what it does and more importantly, the way it does its work, never deviating from the sacrosanct rule of honouring the respect and the dignity of all individuals and groups, the centre enjoys great credibility in Israel.

Agmon-Snir and his professional and volunteer lay colleagues educate, instruct, inform and ultimately inspire through the myriad programs and seminars offered by the center aimed at educators, decision makers, policy makers and the "ordinary" citizens and residents of Jerusalem who wish to become involved in the building of their own respective communities. The JICC website lists the full, impressive range of the centre's community building programming.

In the case of this Jerusalem Foundation-supported agency, in particular, it is appropriate to write, "*ki miZion tetzeh Torah.*" For out of Zion (where the JICC is situated) shall teaching (of values of mutual respect and tolerance) emanate.

***— MBD***

## SeeJN




**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu joined a soccer game last week with Arab and Jewish children in Jerusalem. During the game, he slipped and tore a tendon in his left leg. Now, he has to wear a cast for several weeks.**

***[GPO photos]***

# Liberal interim leader touts two-state solution

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

A one-state solution in Israel would be "completely unworkable," said interim Liberal leader Bob Rae, who spoke at the First Narayever Congregation June 10 about Israel and the future of Canadian policy in the Middle East.

Rae, the Toronto-Centre MP who announced last week that he won't seek the permanent leadership of the Liberal party, spoke to about 100 people on behalf of JSpaceCanada, a year-old progressive Zionist organization.

Rae said a one-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict wouldn't work, because each side has a legitimate claim to the land and a one-state solution is "based on a premise that one group of people will be first-class citizens, and other group of people will be second-class citizens.

"Any solution that denies the legitimacy of the other will ultimately prove unworkable. It may last for a while... but ultimately, it will not lead to a more steady and reliable solution."

Karen Mock, who lost her bid to become Liberal MP for Thornhill last year, introduced Rae to speak from the bimah of the downtown Toronto shul, but not before talking about the importance of an organization that lends a voice to the "progressive Zionist" narrative in Canada.

"Organizations like these often describe themselves as grassroots and non-partisan. But JSpace is multi-partisan... We need to let people know who are in government, not yet in government, in the media, that indeed there are multiple voices in the Jewish community," said Mock, a member of the group's coordinating committee.

According to JSpaceCanada's website, the group supports a two-state solution, but opposes Israel's Jewish settlements in the West Bank, as well as boycott, divestment or sanction campaigns that undermine Israel's right to exist.

**Bob Rae**
*[Sheri Shefa photo]*

Rae, who has served as the Liberal's foreign affairs critic, spoke about "a major shift of opinion within the Jewish community, which has led to the defeat of several very fine and distinguished friends. The ultimate irony is that [Liberal critic for justice and human rights] Irwin Cotler, who is probably the most articulate, knowledgeable, thoughtful, intelligent observer of human rights and Israel's challenges of anyone in Parliament, was being described as antisemitic by the Conservative party."

Rae was referring to the 2009 controversy in which the Conservative party distributed flyers to neighbourhoods with large Jewish populations, including Cotler's Montreal riding, that implied the Liberal party is antisemitic and not supportive of Israel.

The flyers alleged that the Liberals "willingly participated in the overtly antisemitic Durban I," the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa.

"There is far more diversity of opinion within Israel and far more latitude about what can be said and what can't be said... than there is in Canada at the moment," Rae continued.

He explained while it's antisemitic to denounce the existence of the State of Israel, it's not antisemitic to criticize Israel's policies or actions.

During his recent trips to Israel, Rae said, he realized that the debate about the conflict has shifted.

"Within Israel, there is a school of thought that no longer refers to conflict resolution, but refers to conflict management... It means that you're coping, but you're not actually getting underneath to the real long-term prospects that were set out in [the Oslo accords] as the grand objective."

When it comes to debate about the Middle East, it's important not to engage in wishful thinking, Rae advised.

In the Arab world, a common mistaken belief is that "when we find a solution to the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians... all the other problems in the world will be resolved," he said.

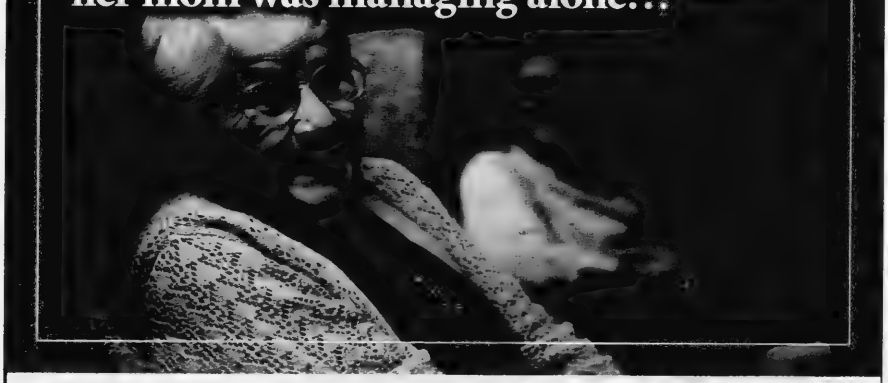
"On the other side, to think that somehow, Israel's experience with attempting to settle and... to continue with the military occupation of certain areas, and to believe that you can carry out that activity and not be subject to the same resentments and sets of issues as every other imperial adventure has experienced in history, is wishful thinking."

During a question-and-answer period, Rae said that Canada has lost a lot of credibility with Arabs and needs to work on regaining it.

"We're not seen as a country that really understands or connects that well to the Arab world," he said.

"I don't think we need to be neutral. I think neutral is a terrible term. I think we need to have an understanding that there is more than one narrative."

Last year, Mary lost sleep worrying how her mom was managing alone...



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# Demographics cited for CHAT enrolment drop

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

The student population at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto has decreased more than 10 per cent over four years, from a high of 1,530 in 2008 down to 1,369 this year, but director of education Paul Shaviv attributes the drop to post-baby boom demographics, not economic factors.

"I can't persuade parents to have more babies 15 years ago," he said, referring to people born after the mid-1960s. This group, sometimes called Generation X, represents a smaller demographic cohort than so-called baby boomers born after the end of World War II.

Rabbi Scot Berman

TanenbaumCHAT's enrolment drop has meant that it's had to address new financial realities.

For example, some teachers at TanenbaumCHAT have retired or left and haven't been replaced, Shaviv said, declining to specify how many.

Also, he added, in the last couple of years, some probationary teachers that in previous years would have been kept on had to be let go. "We haven't been able to offer them long-term posts."

He said no administrative positions have been affected.

In a little more than a decade, tuition at the school – the largest Jewish community high school in North America – has risen dramatically, mirroring rises in tuition at other Jewish and private schools, but consistently surpassing the rate of inflation. In the past 14 years, TanenbaumCHAT's tuition has doubled: in 1998/99, it was $10,700, just under half what it is today.

This year (2011-12), tuition was $21,500, seven per cent higher than the previous year (when it was $20,100). At the time, the increase was about twice the rate of inflation, which was 3.1 per cent last June, as reported by Statistics Canada.

Tuition for the coming school year (2011-12) is $22,650.

Such high tuition costs for Jewish day school are unsustainable, says Rabbi Scot Berman, headmaster of Toronto's Bnei Akiva Schools – Ulpanat Orot and Yeshivat Or Chaim.

He told *The CJN* that if tuition is not made more affordable, the numbers of students attending day school "will continue to decline."

He predicted that even in Orthodox schools – where families are more committed to Jewish day school education than their non-Orthodox counterparts – alternatives to "the standard full-day school" will come into play. It's already happening in the United States, he said.

"There will be new models that parents will be willing to experiment with, because of the crushing costs of tuition," Rabbi Berman said.

He cited some American examples: Hebrew charter schools in the public system, and "academies where part of the day's teaching is online."

Technology makes it possible to "escape the need for paying teachers for every actual moment of instruction," Rabbi Berman said.

"There may be cheaper alternatives, but they are not substitutes" for Jewish day school, said Shaviv, who is leaving TanenbaumCHAT this summer to take a position in New York. (He's being replaced for 2012-13 by Rhona Birenbaum, the school's CFO/executive director, who will serve as interim director of education until Shaviv's replacement can be found.)

Shaviv noted that despite the decrease in student numbers, retention of students is "at an all-time high."

As well, he said the school, which is putting $7.5 million into a new science wing at its Wilmington Avenue campus, "has made tremendous strides in independent fundraising" and will continue to increase its income from fundraising.

At Bnei Akiva Schools, there are currently 217 students – 100 girls at Ulpanat Orot, and 120 boys at Yeshivat Or Chaim.

That's down from 238 students three years ago, a drop of nine per cent.

"We basically get more or less the numbers we expect, based on enrolment in Grade 8 in our feeder schools," said Norman Winter, interim president of the school.

Regarding the increased cost of tuition, Winter said requests for subsidies have risen in the last couple of years. "There are more incoming parents asking for subsidies, and also during the school year, parents who had signed up as full fee-paying parents, or who had been accepted at a certain subsidy percentage, have come back during the year and asked for subsidies or increased subsidies. That's relatively new."

In the Orthodox community, particularly the modern Orthodox segment, it's less likely that families will pull out of day schools, but they may have fewer children "because it's so darn expensive to educate their kids," Rabbi Berman said.

Paul Shaviv

Tuition at Bnei Akiva Schools this year was $21,400, but next year's fees had yet to be determined at *The CJN*'s deadline. "One thing I can guarantee you," said Rabbi Berman. "It's not going down."

Winter said that the school hasn't had to let teachers go for budgetary reasons, although some teachers may be teaching for fewer hours than before.

Rabbi Berman's contract has not been renewed for next year, and neither has that of rosh hayeshiva Rabbi Shlomo Gemara. Winter said neither decision was based on finances. Rather, he explained, the school decided, after a study by outside consultants, to adopt a different administrative structure for the coming year.

As of earlier this month, 27 girls and about 20 boys were expected in next year's incoming class, Rabbi Berman said.

Initially, Winter explained, parents "were holding back" until new administrators were named. (The school has since hired Rabbi Yair Spitz as principal of Jewish studies and interim head of school, and Winter said the school was "hopefully close to finalizing" arrangements with a new principal for Ulpana, a position that didn't exist before.)

Winter noted that the "overwhelming percentage" of the school's budget goes to teachers' salaries.

"We've always had to fundraise," Winter said. "Now there's pressure to raise even more funds."

He added that "all schools look to the community at large to try to get increased funding for education, and that means looking to [UJA] Federation [of Greater Toronto]. They're under pressure as well, and we're very appreciative of what they contribute. We're hoping they can step up to the plate or provide increased funds for the growing gap between what we're able to get in tuition and fundraising, and in order to cover our expenses."

The federation allocates more than $10 million a year to fund Jewish education, mainly for tuition subsidies.

A spokesperson for Bais Yaakov High School for Girls declined to comment on tuition issues, and a call to Tiferes Bais Yaakov, also an Orthodox girls' high school, was not returned by press time.

At Ner Israel Yeshiva College, Rabbi Moshe Friedman, the school's executive vice-president, said numbers have not been affected by high tuition. "Our tuition is lower than most high schools. The parents are already committed... we don't turn away anybody for financial reasons."

In the past, the community has sought – unsuccessfully – to solve the tuition problem by seeking provincial funding for day schools.

But recently, other solutions have been proposed.

In a *CJN* column last month, Rabbi Jay Kelman, a co-founder of Torah in Motion, wrote that the amount of money currently in Jewish philanthropic foundations is a potential solution, "provided one does not feel that capital must be preserved indefinitely."

To preserve capital, he has proposed that parents be required to buy life insurance plans for less than the cost of one year's tuition, "the proceeds of which would replenish any 'capital depletion.'"

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*Seasonal warm weather means...*

# Christian missionaries more visible on the streets

**Reva Kaiser**
Special to The CJN

Armed with warm smiles, pamphlets and years of training, evangelical Christians are planting themselves in key locations in the city, on the lookout for unsuspecting targets.

There are often two-week spans in the summer when their presence increases, particularly on busy street corners of downtown Toronto.

They aim to connect with the people they meet, even briefly, and then slowly convert them – or their acquaintances – to Christianity through followup contact.

"Because missionaries are on the streets intermittently in the summer, I want to make sure we're prepared with individuals who can be there as a response from the Jewish community," says Julius Ciss, executive director of Jews for Judaism.

To combat these evangelical efforts, Jews for Judaism, the only outreach organization in Canada dedicated to countering missionaries' efforts, is once again gearing up its Rapid Response Unit program.

Made up of volunteers who live and work throughout the city, the Rapid Response Unit aims to counter-leaflet on the same street corners as the missionaries and intercept their efforts, focusing on the people being targeted rather than the missionary.

Donning bright yellow "Jews for Judaism.ca" T-shirts, volunteers are often more noticeable than their opposition and are successful in informing passersby that there is another option to Christianity for those Jews looking to fill a spiritual void.

**Jews for Judaism volunteer counter-leaflets against Jews for Jesus missionary.** *[Jews for Judaism photo]*

While Jews for Jesus is one of the most visible missionary groups and whose name has become a catch-all for other similar organizations, there are more than 100 Christian missionary groups in Canada targeting Jews. They know that a sizable number of Jews without religious ties are searching for meaning in their lives or an infusion of spirituality, unaware that it exists in Judaism.

The missionaries don't expect to convert people on a street corner. "They are focused on winning people over in as friendly and as cordial a manner as possible," says Ciss. "They first want to develop a relationship." They make every effort to connect with interested passersby and then follow up later with that individual or his Jewish acquaintances.

Since the missionaries don't broadcast their whereabouts in advance, Jews for Judaism relies on the Jewish public to inform them when missionaries are spotted. They are usually in the downtown core during lunch and afternoon rush hours.

Missionaries also target public Jewish events. This year, 16 missionaries were counted at the Walk with Israel parade in Toronto on Victoria Day, but Jews for Judaism was prepared with their own crew of 24 volunteers, who trailed the missionaries in their sunshine T's emblazoned with the organization's website. The Jewish organization succeeded in attracting attention and raising awareness, and their website hits spiked that day.

Jews for Judaism's website has a wealth of information that can help answer religious and spiritual questions. "People need to know that there's an answer to the missionaries," says Ciss. "We want Jews to be aware that there are Jews who care for them and they must look both ways before crossing the street."

If you encounter a missionary, don't engage him or her, but accept and then forward the materials you get to Jews for Judaism. This helps them identify which proselytizing organizations are operating in the city.

Jews for Judaism wants to increase its base of Rapid Response Unit volunteers and establish a network all over the city. To become a Rapid Response Unit volunteer, visit JewsForJudaism.ca or call 416-789-0020.

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# *In defence of ourselves*

This week and next mark the end of the school year for most of our children. Post-secondary students have already completed their academic year. Whether or not students have graduated and are moving on to a new stage in their lives or are advancing "merely" from one grade to the next, whether they have finished grade one or high school, it is a very sweet time of year for most.

School is not always pleasant. But it is always necessary. The school year is long, and always tiring. At all stages and all grades, it holds rewards and disappointments for our children. Self-confidence climbs; sometimes it stumbles. We must not underestimate how much of an achievement it is by our children to complete their school year.

Nor must we fail to acknowledge the profoundly important contribution of our teachers, school administrators and staff in helping guide our children throughout the year. This is true of all children, teachers, administrators and staff in all schools. We commend them all.

But we would be remiss if we did not make special mention of the well-documented worry taking hold in our community, and in other communities as well, over the constantly increasing, already super-high cost of sending a child to a Jewish day school. In the not-distant future, most middle-class parents will be unable to afford day school education for their children. Rather than decide to live perennially in overwhelming debt or to have smaller families, they will simply decide not to send their children to day school.

Chief U.K. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks has eloquently explained why Jewish education and Jewish schools are so important to us.

"For Jews, education is not just what we know. It's who we are. No people ever cared for education more. Our ancestors were the first to make education a religious command, and the first to create a compulsory universal system of schooling – eighteen centuries before Britain… The Egyptians built pyramids, the Greeks built temples, the Romans built amphitheatres. Jews built schools. They knew that to defend a country you need an army, *but to defend a civilization you need education* [emphasis added]. So Jews became the people whose heroes were teachers, whose citadels were schools, and whose passion was study and the life of the mind."

Reining in if not actually lowering the cost of a Jewish education is a crisis-level problem that knows of no easy solution. But we cannot yet say it is intractable.

We do not point fingers. We extend a hand of concern. We call out to everyone who shares this worry to seek new, as yet untried ways of making Jewish education affordable once again to the "ordinary" middle class family.

Shrugging our collective shoulders in resignation – or worse, disinterest – will have a far-reaching and alas, harmful effect on our collective future as an identifying, aware, Jewish people.

In Rabbi Sacks' words, we must defend our civilization.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) allocated $1.64 million to Israel's Reform movement after U.S. Reform leaders threatened a partial UJA fundraising boycott. JAFI approved $1.64 million out of $22 million in requests. The money was to help expand the movement in Israel. A Reform leader in Israel called it "the beginning of the Reform movement's entrenchment in Israeli society."

*Editorial Advisory Board:* **Maurice Benzacar, Michael Brown, Donald Carr, Rabbi Michael Dolgin, Jake Goldstein, Jeffrey Kopstein, Keith Landy, Lou Ronson, Alan Sandler, Rabbi Philip Scheim, Mike Shriqui, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, Ehud Telem, Nelson Wiseman.**

## Concert Artist Chat (1)

We went to the Simon Shaheen concert in Koerner Hall at the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) on June 1. After intermission, Shaheen was interviewed on stage by the RCM director of programming. Shaheen refused, consistently and stubbornly, to say the words "Jews," "Israel" and "Israelis." He also refused to accept the existence of the State of Israel.

Shaheen said that he went to "Palestine" and visited Haifa and the Galilee, and talked to the local Palestinians (probably meaning Israeli Arabs). He refused to acknowledge that he got to Haifa and the Galilee through the welcoming gates of the State of Israel. Haifa and Galilee are not geographically located within the internationally recognized borders of Israel, but located in a virtual entity called Palestine. The RCM interviewer ignored these "petty" errors and refused to correct false facts, just playing along diplomatically. Then he asked Shaheen if he went to other places in Palestine, such as Gaza and the West Bank. That meant that the RCM accepted, on stage, in front of hundreds of Canadians, the falsified "facts" that Haifa and the Galilee are part of a "Palestine."

We left, saying to the hall: "Bye-bye, we are now going to Haifa, Israel, and then we will go to the Galilee, which is also in Israel. Accept reality, accept reality." We think that a public institution such as the RCM should not allow lies to be said that offend a good friend of Canada's like the State of Israel.

**Juliette and Jacob Hershkovich**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Concert Artist Chat (2)

The Royal Conservatory has just completed its third season of presenting internationally acclaimed artists in Koerner Hall. Occasionally we have added an artist chat to a concert. These discussions are spontaneous, unscripted and unrehearsed, and allow our audience to delve a little deeper into the music and to understand the context within which the artists perform. Having said this, we fully understand that, occasionally, comments may be made that are upsetting to some in our audience and we sincerely regret that this happened to two patrons June 1 at a concert featuring Simon Shaheen, a world-renowned artist of Palestinian descent. While the offended patrons may not have agreed with Shaheen, as is their right, we can assure you that we do not believe that Shaheen was deliberately trying to provoke a political discussion, nor were his comments antisemitic.

This season, we presented a special series of concerts titled "Music from across the Middle East" that featured collaborations between Israeli and Arab musicians. The goal was to create a space where music and art could allow for greater understanding of the people in that volatile part of the world. More than 50 artists from Israel, various Arab countries and Canada participated in a glorious expression of peace and mutual respect. The series was a highlight of our season.

We live in a world filled with the constant "noise" of politics and strident opinion. Music gives us a chance to listen and, perhaps, to understand and respect people from all parts of the world.

**Peter Simon, President**
**Mervon Mehta, Executive Director, Performing Arts**
**The Royal Conservatory**
**Toronto**

### *LET THEM GO…*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

* * *

## Pride Parade

As a queer Israeli-Canadian who is very pro-Israel, I do not see the big deal in letting Queers Against Israeli Apartheid march in this year's Pride Parade in Toronto ("City council condemns term 'Israeli apartheid,'" June 14). There is a little thing called democracy, where different points of view coexist and intermingle. In Israel today, there is a very real debate about whether Israeli apartheid exists. Why is Canada so afraid of this same conversation? Has our Canadian politeness crossed into the realm of censorship? I think so.

**Avi Zer-Aviv**
**Toronto**

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*cjninfo@gmail.com*

# Seven principles of Jewish leadership

The phrase "Jewish leadership" is ambiguous. It means leadership by Jews, but it also means leadership in a Jewish way, according to Judaic principles and values. What follows are suggestions for seven principles for leadership done in a Jewish way.

***Leadership begins with taking responsibility.***

Contrast the opening of Genesis with the opening of Exodus. The opening chapters of Genesis are about failures of responsibility. Confronted by God with their sin, Adam blames Eve, and Eve blames the serpent. Cain says, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Even Noah, "righteous, perfect in his generations," has no effect on his contemporaries.

By contrast, at the beginning of Exodus, Moses takes responsibility. When he sees an Egyptian beating an Israelite, he intervenes. When he sees two Israelites fighting, he intervenes. In Midian, when he sees shepherds abusing the daughters of Yitro, he intervenes. Moses, an Israelite brought up as an Egyptian, could have avoided each of these confrontations, yet he did not. He is the supreme case of one who says: "When I see wrong, if no one else is prepared to act, I will."

At the heart of Judaism are three beliefs about leadership: we are free, we are responsible, and together we can change the world.

***No one can lead alone.***

Seven times in Genesis 1, we hear the word *tov*, "good." Only twice in the whole Torah does the phrase *lo tov*, "not good," appear. The first is when God says, "It is not good for man to be alone." The second is when Yitro sees his son-in-law, Moses, leading alone, and says, "What you are doing is not good." We cannot live alone. We cannot lead alone. Leadership is teamsmanship.

One corollary of this is that there is no single leadership style in Judaism. During the wilderness years, there were three leaders: Moses, Miriam and Aaron. Moses was close to God. Aaron was close to the people, and Miriam led the women and sustained her two brothers. The sages say it was in her merit that there was water to drink in the desert.

During the biblical era, there were three different leadership roles: kings, priests and prophets. The king was a political leader. The priest was a religious leader. The prophet was a visionary, a man or woman of ideals and ideas. So in Judaism, leadership is an emergent property of multiple roles and perspectives. No one person can lead the Jewish people.

***Leadership is about the future.***

It is vision-driven. Before Moses can lead, he has to experience a vision at the burning bush. There he is told his task: to lead the people from slavery to freedom. He has a destination: the land flowing with milk and honey. He is given a double challenge: to persuade the Egyptians to let the Israelites go and to persuade the Israelites to take the risk of going. The latter turns out to be more difficult than the former.

Along the way, Moses performs signs and wonders. Yet his greatest leadership act occurs in the last month of his life. He gathers the people together on the bank of the Jordan and delivers the speeches that constitute the book of Deuteronomy. There he rises to the greatest heights of prophecy, his eyes turned to the furthest horizon of the future. He tells the people of the challenges they will face in the Promised Land. He gives them laws. He sets forth his vision of the good society. He institutes principles, such as the septennial national assembly at which the Torah was to be recited, that will periodically recall Israel to its mission.

Before you can lead, you must have a vision of the future and be able to communicate it to others.

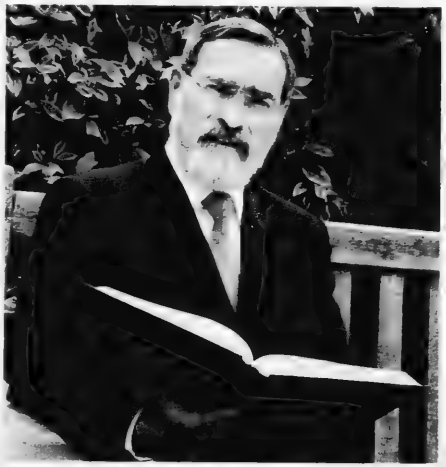
***Leaders learn.***

They study more than others. They read more than others. Of the king, the Torah says that he must write his own Sefer Torah, which "must always be with him, and he shall read from it all the days of his life" (Deuteronomy 17: 19). Joshua, Moses' successor, is commanded: "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night" (Joshua 1: 8). Without constant study, leadership lacks direction and depth.

This is so even in secular leadership. Gladstone had a library of more than 30,000 books. He read more than 20,000 of them. Gladstone and Disraeli were both prolific writers. Winston Churchill wrote some 50 books and won the Nobel Prize for Literature. Visit David Ben-Gurion's house in Tel Aviv and you will see that it is essentially a library with 20,000 books. Study makes the difference between the statesman and the politician, between the transformative leader and the manager.

***Leadership means believing in the people you lead.***

The rabbis gave a remarkable interpretation of the passage in which Moses says about the Israelites, "They will not believe in me." God said to Moses: "They are believers the children of believers, but in the end you will not believe." They also said that the sign God gave Moses when his hand became leprous (Exodus 4:6) was a punishment for casting doubt on the Israelites. A leader must have faith in the people he or she leads.



**Rabbi Jonathan Sacks**

There is a profound principle at stake here. Judaism prefers the leadership of influence to the leadership of power. Kings had power. Prophets had influence, but no power at all. Power lifts the leader above the people. Influence lifts the people above their former selves. Influence respects people. Power controls people. Judaism, which has the highest view of human dignity of any major religion, is, therefore, deeply sceptical about power and deeply serious about influence. Hence one of Judaism's greatest insights into leadership: *the highest form of leadership is teaching.* Power begets followers. Teaching creates leaders.

***Leadership involves a sense of timing and pace.***

When Moses asks God to choose his successor, he says: "May the Lord, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community to go out before them and come in before them, who will lead them out and bring them in" (Numbers 27: 16-17). Why the apparent repetition?

Moses is saying two things about leadership. A leader must lead from the front. He or she must "go out before them." But a leader must not be so far out in front that, when he turns around, he finds no one following. He must "lead them out," meaning he must carry people with him. He must go at a pace that people can bear.

One of Moses' deepest frustrations – we sense it throughout the biblical narrative – is the sheer time it takes for people to change. In the end, it would take a new generation and a new leader to lead the people across the Jordan and into the Promised Land. Hence the rabbis' great saying: "It is not for you to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it."

Leadership involves a delicate balance between impatience and patience. Go too fast and people resist and rebel. Go too slow and they become complacent. Transformation takes time, often more than a single generation.

***Leadership is stressful and emotionally demanding.***

Listen to Moses, the greatest leader the Jewish people ever had: "Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their ancestors?... I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me – if I have found favour in your eyes – and do not let me face my own ruin" (Numbers 11: 11-15).

You can find similar sentiments in the words of Elijah, Jeremiah and Jonah. All at some stage prayed to die rather than carry on. Transformative leaders see the need for people to change. But people resist change and expect the work to be done for them by the leader. When the leader hands the challenge back, the people then turn on him and blame him for their troubles. So Moses is to blame for the hardships of the desert. Elijah is to blame for disturbing the peace. Jeremiah is to blame for the Babylonians. No wonder that the most transformative leaders feel, at times, burnout and despair.

Why then do they lead? Not because they believe in themselves. The greatest Jewish leaders doubted their ability to lead. Moses said, "Who am I?" "They will not believe in me." "I am not a man of words." Isaiah said, "I am a man of unclean lips." Jeremiah said, "I cannot speak for I am a child." Jonah, faced with the challenge of leadership, ran away.

Leaders lead because there is work to do, there are people in need, there is injustice to be fought, there is wrong to be righted, there are problems to be solved and challenges ahead. Leaders hear this as a call to light a candle instead of cursing the darkness. They lead because they know that to stand idly by and expect others to do the work is the too-easy option. The responsible life is the best life there is, and it's worth all the pain and frustration. To lead is to serve – the highest accolade Moses ever received was to be called *eved HaShem*, "God's servant," and there is no higher honour.

* * *

The single overarching question of Jewish existence in the modern age is: what is it to live as a Jew in the public domain, in a world without walls? Jews know how to live with poverty. Do we know how to live with affluence? Jews know how to survive persecution. Do we know how to handle freedom? We know how to recognize enemies. Do we know how to make friends?

Never in history has there been a better time to be a Jewish leader. However, there is a right way for future Jewish leadership to go, and a wrong way. The wrong way is to emphasize antisemitism and the assaults on Israel, to exaggerate the tensions between the different streams in Jewish life and to bemoan the lack of Jewish leadership. The right way is to make friends within and beyond the Jewish community, to emphasize the ethical and spiritual dimensions of Judaism, to find social action projects we can work on across other divides and to find ways of making Jews feel proud to be Jews.

*This is an abridged version of an article by British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, first published to mark the 20th anniversary of the Adam Science Leadership Programme in the United Kingdom. The full version is available at www.chiefrabbi.org.*

# Reading Jewish

Perhaps because I'm a professor of Jewish studies, I often meet people who confess to me that they've "matured" out of Judaism or Jewish identity, which they think of as childish affectations. But it's really their childhood Jewish education that was (appropriately) childish, not Judaism and Jewishness.

After all, no one would claim that Einstein's theories are child's play on the basis of having learned math in elementary school, or that great literature is simplistic once you have Dick and Jane under your belt. Relativity? Hah! Piece of cake. I did math in Grade 4! Hamlet? Easy-peasy. I learned to write in Grade 1! And, notwithstanding the *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* industry, no one would think that the skills acquired in childhood suffices for the complexity of the real workplace. An audit? No problem. I learned my numbers in pre-kindergarten. But many people expect that the Judaism they learned in their youth will suffice them forever.

In a perfect world, we'd all have the luxury of taking formal classes forever. But even in our time-crunched world, we can carve out spaces and time to challenge and renew ourselves, expanding our knowledge and sharpening our thinking. Especially at this time of year, just as the eased time of summer schedules begin, we can make a commitment to read Jewish: something serious, demanding or thought-provoking, something that speaks to the Judaism, the Jewishness, the Jewish experience of adults.

Once upon a time, it was easy to know what folks were reading. You could see which displays attracted clusters of customers in bookstores. In the subway, at the beach or in a café, you'd see waves of the same cover design, or your eyes would be drawn to something out of the ordinary. You could pick out kindred spirits by the book spines balanced in their hands, or expand your to-read list through the choices of others.

The digital world has changed the lay of the literary landscape. It has given us the twinned gifts of portability and privacy. We can order books from a plethora of online vendors and expect a nondescript brown package to arrive on our doorstep in days. We can embark on far-flung journeys with virtual stacks of books in tow, loaded onto a lightweight electronic reader or tablet. And, unless we tell them, no one has any clue what we're reading, just as we, alas, have no clue what others are reading.

So, I'm telling. Here's a sampling of what you could find on my bookshelves, both actual and virtual, recently read or waiting to be read.

First are two autobiographically based novels by the German Jewish writer, H. G. Adler. Hans Adler, trained as a musicologist before World War II, was deported at age 22 to Theresienstadt and was eventually sent to Auschwitz and several other camps. Soon after the war, he published a massive historical study of Theresienstadt, several

***Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto***

novels based on his memories and experiences – more than 25 books in a range of genres. Although Adler died in relative obscurity, lately there has been renewed interest in his writing. New English language translations of his novels *Panorama* and *The Journey* have been published recently to critical acclaim. York University's Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies plans to have the first-ever symposium dedicated to his work in the fall.

The peppery stories in Etgar Keret's newly translated collection, *Suddenly a Knock on the Door*, like all of Keret's writing, is quirky, playful, complex, smart and serious. An Israeli writer who explores the nuances of Israeli culture, Keret has revitalized interest in the short story.

American writer Nathan Englander's new collection, *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank*, explores the complexities of identity and relationships in Israel and the United States in a series of masterly crafted stories.

A cluster of superb recent Canadian novels by Jewish writers pulled me into deeply imagined worlds. I'll mention just two: David Bezmozgis' richly conceived *The Free World*, which follows a multi-generation family of Russian Jews who make their way from the Soviet Union to Canada, and Nancy Richler's elegant and moving *The Impostor Bride*, is a multi-generational story that radiates out of post-War Montreal and contends with memory, absence, and imagination.

What's on your shelves?

# *Fifty years of service*

I believe that diplomas, citations and awards should, like false teeth, be worn with discretion. That's why I've never displayed my plaques and certificates, but I may make an exception for the document I received recently from the Central Conference of American Rabbis that acknowledges the 50th anniversary of my ordination.

I'll cherish it, because I don't see it as a reward for personal achievement, but as a token of humble gratitude to God for having kept me alive and given me the privilege to serve my people for half a century.

***Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto***

I became a rabbi as a largely unconscious reaction to the arid secular world in which I was reared. But in time, I also realized that a deeper reason for being drawn to the faith of my forebears was the desire to warrant the fact that, unlike most of my Polish-Jewish contemporaries, I survived the Holocaust and, therefore, felt that I had a duty to vindicate my survival by finding meaning in preserving and furthering Judaism. The rabbinate was the most obvious vehicle. I first came to it out of a desire to learn, understand and, above all, act. In the process, I found my faith.

The rabbinic college in London that accepted me was established in the shadow of the Holocaust as a successor to the Reform seminary in Berlin. It was named after Rabbi Leo Baeck, the legendary leader of German Jewry during the Nazi period who had survived Theresienstadt. Most of my teachers had been his students. However, they taught very little about the Holocaust and its implications for contemporary Judaism. Even Rabbi Baeck himself wrote about it only obliquely. It seems that what had happened had been too traumatic to be as yet articulated.

It was first in the late 1960s that the subject came onto the agenda of Jewish thought, largely thanks to Prof. Emil Fackenheim of Toronto. He maintained that the most cogent Jewish response to what Hitler had done was not to give him a posthumous victory. Our challenge must be to make sure that the Jewish people would survive and thrive.

This message further validated my rabbinate. I was now able to put my original attraction to it into a coherent context and recognize that serving God and the Jewish people was to make a much-needed contribution to the sacred struggle for Jewish survival. I also saw my commitment to the State of Israel that I had first visited in 1957, months before coming to rabbinic school, in that context.

My challenge throughout has been to formulate Judaism in ways that combine being anchored in its sources and traditions with an appreciation of the needs of contemporary Jews, not only in order to adapt Jewish observance in that light but also to express the tenets of the faith in modern terms. It's this that made me a Reform rabbi.

In time, I also discovered that I had much in common with progressive Christians, even though most of them were oblivious to the Holocaust. They served liberal denominations and were engaged in the struggle of fusing tradition with modernity. Having discovered how much we had in common, despite our very different backgrounds, made it possible for me to engage first in interfaith work and later in joint efforts of tikkun olam, "mending the world," another Fackenheim theme.

I believe that commitment to faith couched in the language of western liberalism is the most coherent way of keeping our civilization open, sane and vibrant, despite the current backlash of secular cynicism on the one hand and obscurantist fundamentalism on the other.

Contrary to contemporary trends, I'm not into "spirituality" as a way of Jewish renewal. This alternative to tradition seems to be more concerned with "me" than with "us," with psychology than with theology. Too often it falsely identifies personal needs and fads with the will of God. I see it as yet another secular substitute for faith, not an authentic expression of it.

I know that I'm in the minority, but I'm by no means alone. And one of the many rewards of the last half-century of service has been that our Israeli son, born to us shortly before I was ordained, has chosen a similar path, first as a rabbi in Haifa and now as a teacher and mentor of future generations of Reform religious leaders.

# Israeli-Turkish trade booming

Israel's bilateral relations with Turkey have been adversely affected by a succession of jolting events since 2009, yet Israel's commercial relationship with Turkey has never been better.

The Israeli invasion of the Gaza Strip drew condemnation from the Islamist Turkish government, as did the Mavi Marmara incident, which resulted in the deaths of nine Turks after Israeli commandos intercepted a Turkish ship in a pro-Palestinian flotilla trying to break Israel's naval siege of Gaza.

This maritime clash prompted Turkey's prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to expel Israel's ambassador in Ankara, downgrade the level of diplomatic ties and cancel all military agreements.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Turkey*

Despite these crushing events, Israel's mercantile ties with Turkey – the sole Muslim member of the NATO alliance –are booming. "On the economic side, we're reached record high levels," said an Israeli diplomat based in Istanbul, Turkey's cosmopolitan hub.

Two-way trade, having surpassed the $4-billion mark in 2011, far exceeds the level of Israel's commercial relations with Canada. By 2013, he noted, the figure is expected to reach $5 billion.

Since the tumultuous Mavi Marmara affair, the volume of trade has increased by a whopping 35 per cent, said Ertan Tezgor, a senior Turkish diplomat who works out of Ankara, Turkey's capital. "Trade will not be affected by political differences," he declared.

Tezgor's colleague, a diplomat who asked to remain anonymous but was once stationed in Jerusalem and now tends to Turkey's relations with Israel and the Palestinians, sounded an identical theme. As he put it, "Trade relations can develop in spite of political problems. Why not?"

In the final analysis, pragmatism trumps politics, says Menashe Carmon, the chair of the Israel Turkey Business Council, an organization with a membership of more than 100 companies.

Israel signed a free trade agreement with Turkey in 2000. It was a historic accord, Israel's first such agreement with a Muslim country. Since then, there has been a remarkably steady progression in trade and investment.

For Israeli entrepreneurs, Turkey, with a population of 75 million, is a key market. Boasting the 15th-largest economy in the world and a $1-trillion GDP, Turkey has a vibrant industrial base. It is particularly strong in construction, electronics, food, machinery, ships, textiles and mining. And its banking and automobile sectors are also thriving.

Stanley Fischer, the governor of the Bank of Israel, does not underestimate the economic importance of Turkey to Israel. Shortly after Turkey expelled Israel's ambassador, he said, "In terms of the sophisticated economies in the region, which is where we export most successfully, Turkey is the most important."

Turkey's chief exports to Israel are vehicles, construction materials, metals, electronic devices, textiles and accessories. Israel's exports to Turkey are high-tech manufacturing machinery and parts, refined petroleum and agricultural products, water irrigation systems, plastics and chemicals.

Last year, Turkey exported roughly $2.3 billion worth of goods to Israel, while the comparable figure for Israel was about $2 billion.

At last count, Turkey was Israel's sixth-most-important trading partner, after such countries as the United States, Germany, China and India.

The automobile sector is especially crucial. In 2011, approximately 10 per cent of Israeli car imports were from Turkey, with U.S. Fords, French Renaults and South Korean Hyundais leading the pack. By all accounts, Israel's $330-million car market was Turkey's biggest outside Europe.

According to Turkey's foreign ministry, 232 Israeli companies, ranging from Israel Chemicals to Netafim Crop, have invested $400 million in Turkey, mostly in real estate, banking, telecommunications and tourism and in joint ventures with Turkish companies.

Reports suggest that Israeli businesses use their Turkish partners to sell to Arab countries, while Turkish companies use their Israeli counterparts to penetrate markets in the United States.

Turkish companies are active in Israel.

Yilmazlar Holding, a construction firm, has completed projects to the tune of $667 million since 1995. Cimsa Holding invested $10 million in a cement filling facility. Guney Yildiz Petrol has been working as a sub-contractor for an American company. Zorlu Holding built a natural gas power plant in partnership with a U.S. company and sold its shares in 2008.

Turkey's political estrangement from Israel, however, has had a negative impact on tourism and defence-related products.

Prior to the Gaza war, 560,000 Israeli tourists flocked to Turkey, only a 90-minute flight from Tel Aviv. But in response to Turkey's sharp condemnation of Israel's invasion of Gaza, Israel's minister of tourism urged Israelis to boycott Turkey. His advice was heeded. During the period from January to August 2011, only 62,000 Israelis, the majority of whom were Israeli Arabs, visited Turkey.

Israelis thereby accounted for 0.05 per cent of Turkey's foreign tourists, compared to three per cent during the heyday of Israel's honeymoon with Turkey. The slack was filled by Arabs, with 1.4 million visiting Turkey in the first half of 2011.

**Israel's trade with Turkey is booming despite political differences, but far fewer Israeli tourists are visiting Turkey. This is a view of Istanbul's main street, Istiklal Caddesi.**
*[Sheldon Kirshner photo]*

Few Turkish tourists venture to Israel, considering it too expensive.

Turkish Airlines – a member of the Star Alliance, along with Air Canada – still flies to Tel Aviv. But El Al Airlines, Israel's flagship carrier, cancelled its service to Turkey due to security problems.

When Israel's political bonds with Turkey were at their apex, Israel was one of Turkey's most reliable suppliers of weaponry. Whether such sales were included in overall trade figures is uncertain. But when times were good, Israel modernized Turkey's fleet of F-4 Phantoms and F-5 aircraft for $900 million, upgraded Turkish M60 tanks for $687 million and sold Turkey Popeye missiles.

But after September 2011, Turkey froze more than a dozen defence contracts with Israel valued in the billions of dollars. Late last year, as part of a reassessment of its strategic relations with Turkey, Israel cancelled a $141-million contract to supply Turkey with an aerial intelligence system.

Israel's former ambassador to Turkey, Alon Liel, claims that Turkey began cutting back on big arms deals with Israel as early as 2003, when Erdogan took office. But in virtually all other respects, Israel's economic relations with Turkey are on an upward trajectory.

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Charlotte and Lewis Steinberg

# Steinbergs give $12M to North York General

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

Montreal natives Charlotte, 79, and Lewis Steinberg, 81, have donated what is believed to be the largest gift by individual donors to a community hospital in Canadian history.

The Steinbergs, who have lived in Toronto since 1978, have contributed $12 million to North York General Hospital's $150-million fundraising initiative, which will support facility upgrades, new technologies and equipment, research and education, as well as emerging priorities.

The Steinbergs' gift will go toward the redevelopment of the Charlotte & Lewis Steinberg Emergency unit, the establishment of the Steinberg Family Acute Care Unit, and the purchase of a new CT scanner.

An earlier donation to the same campaign went toward purchasing three digital mammography machines for the BMO Financial Group Breast Diagnostic Centre, establishing the Karen, Heather & Lynn Steinberg Breast Services facility, in honour of the couple's three daughters. They also have six grandchildren.

The south tower of the hospital, facing Highway 401, will also be renamed the Steinberg Family Tower.

The Steinbergs' previous gifts to the hospital include the renovation and naming of the Charlotte & Lewis Steinberg Emergency unit in 2001, the Charlotte & Lewis Steinberg Familial Breast and Ovarian Cancer Clinic in 1998, critical equipment for the ear, nose and throat department in 2003, sentinel lymph node biopsy equipment for the detection of breast cancer in 1999, and electromyogram equipment used to diagnose neurological problems in 2001.

North York General is one of the country's busiest community hospitals. In 2010/2011, it treated 28,830 patients and 218,701 outpatients, and the emergency department received 113,583 visits.

The hospital serves one of Canada's most diverse communities and socio-economic areas, and has the country's highest population of elderly patients.

Harold Heft, the hospital's executive vice-president of philanthropy and communications, said that among patients declaring their religion, 15 to 20 per cent said they were Jewish.

Lewis Steinberg – whose grandmother, Ida, started the Steinberg supermarket chain with one grocery store in Montreal in 1917 and saw her sons expand it into Quebec's largest, with a strong presence in Ontario as well – said that his family has been connected to North York General since they moved here and Charlotte needed surgery.

"We were happy with the care she received. Staff was compassionate and understanding, and they answered all our questions. We could see that the other patients felt the same way. I told [Charlotte], 'We should support the hospital.'"

They went to the hospital foundation, and decided that they would donate funds to help underwrite the program to test for BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, which are associated with breast cancer.

"Cancer is a family disease, because it affects the whole family. The program needed [help with the cost of] psychologists and social workers," which is where they directed their gift, Lewis said.

Whenever the couple makes a donation, he said, they like to see results. "It makes us feel good to meet the doctors and staff in programs [we're funding]."

Charlotte, formerly an X-ray technician at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, said that North York General is a "real community hospital, and we want to ensure its highest standards."

The Steinbergs, who belong to Beth Sholom Synagogue, also donated $1 million to Baycrest to help support the centre's recently opened Charlotte and Lewis Steinberg Slow Stream Rehabilitation Centre.

Charlotte said her parents, Ernie and Fannie Schneiderman, from Brockville, Ont., and in-laws, Anne and Nathan Steinberg, all believed in giving to the community.

"As soon as we moved here, we got involved, and we hope that other people in the community will follow our example."

# Fashion show raises $50,000 for seniors

**Vicky Tobianah**
Special to the CJN

Young Jewish professionals modelled new designs at a recent charity fashion show that raised nearly $50,000 for seniors programs.

This is the most Bac2Fashion, which is now in its fourth year, has raised so far.

"It's a really unique way to bring together the young adult community for a cause we can all relate to," said event co-chair Jessica Taylor.

The Bac2Fashion event, held on June 7 in the Great Hall on trendy Queen Street West in Toronto, was hosted by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Community Connect (CoCo), a network of 20- and 30-year-old Jewish professionals.

"Lots of people tell us that when they finish university, they miss that connection they had to their community – lots of us were involved with Hillel – and suddenly you don't have that anymore," said event co-chair Raquel Binder. "We're missing that peer group, and this network helps create a sense of self and continue that connection."

In keeping with the goal of raising funds and awareness about seniors challenges in Toronto, the event opened with models walking down the runway with seniors themselves. "This was definitely a highlight of the show. One senior told me she felt like she was queen for the day," said Taylor.

The packed two-storey venue was filled with young professionals and those they were supporting – seniors in Toronto. The runway show, which featured models wearing new fashions from more than eight Toronto boutiques, was intermixed with dance performances. The event was a "fun, creative way to support the community," said Taylor.

With the theme "Making It," the event was also designed to celebrate the career accomplishments of Jewish professionals – in the fashion industry and beyond.

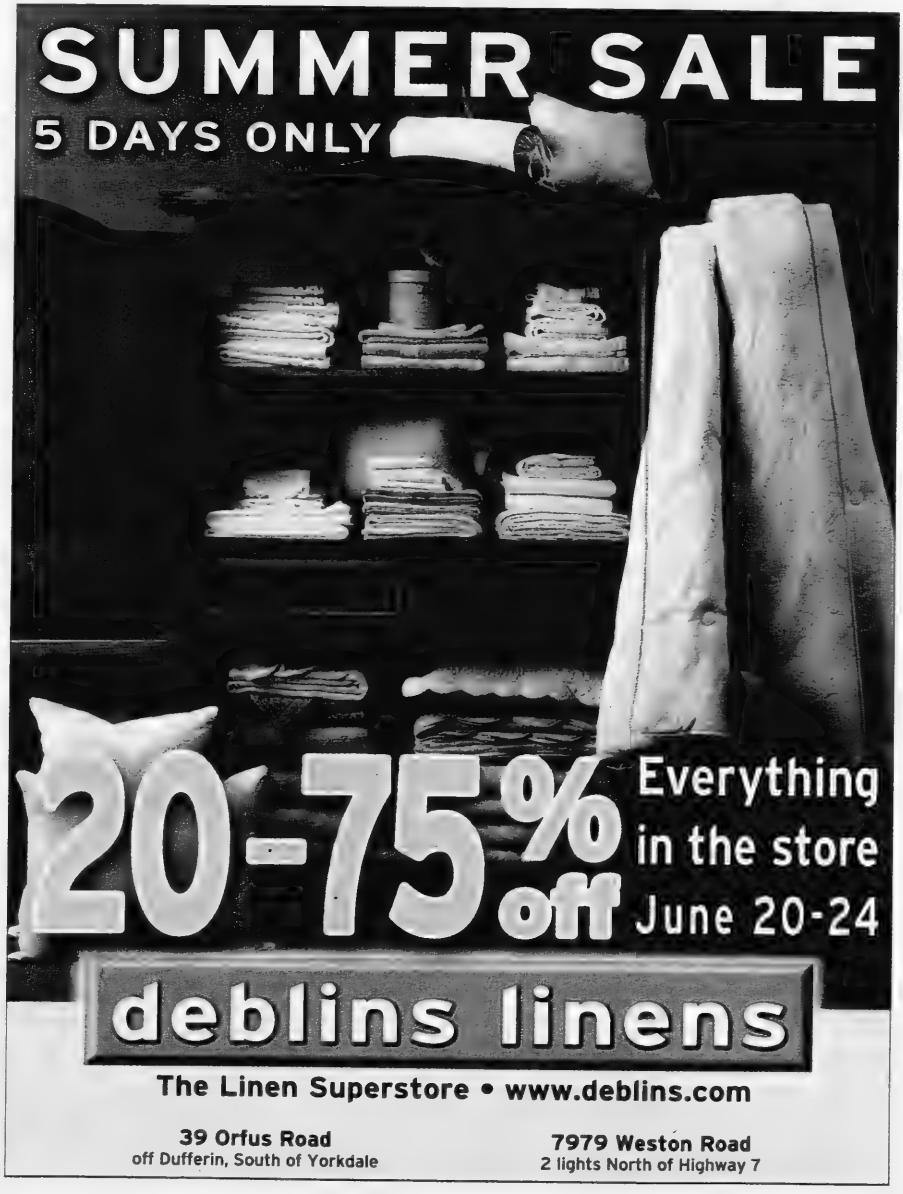
The funds raised will help establish a Healthy @ Home website, to bring social, recreational, educational and cultural resources to seniors homes. The site will give isolated seniors a chance to be involved in their communities, too.

*I really like that it is a multi-generational affair; it's good for seniors to know that the young are helping them*

"I really like that it is a multi-generational affair," said Joy Cherry, who attended the event. "It is creating awareness of older ones who need the support – and it's good for seniors to know that the young are helping them."

But it's not just the seniors who benefit. "It's a great way for young professionals who are finding their way in life to keep them grounded in the Jewish community," said Taylor. "We have truly made it."

**Bac2Fashion co-chairs Raquel Binder, left, and Jessica Taylor**



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# Moroccan king's adviser promotes Arab-Jewish amity

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Andre Azoulay is a bridge builder par excellence.

For years now, he has devoted himself to building coexistence and understanding between the Arab world and Diaspora Jewish communities and fostering dialogue between Islam and western societies.

"It is my mission in life," he said in an interview last week.

Azoulay, a Moroccan Jew, is a senior adviser to King Mohammed VI of Morocco, a pro-western North African Muslim country that has worked for Arab-Israeli reconciliation and peace.

Azoulay was here as a guest of the newly formed Communaute Juive Marocaine de Toronto, an organization that promotes Moroccan Jewish culture and history. Headed by Simon Keslassy, the CJMT was the sponsor of "2,000 Years of Jewish Life in Morocco," a recent eight-day celebration of the Jewish experience there.

The event, mainly sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the Canadian Sephardic Federation and the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, coincided with the 50th anniversary of Canada-Morocco diplomatic relations.

Azoulay, who was born in the Moroccan town of Essaouira-Mogador in 1941, studied economics, journalism and international relations in Paris. From 1968 to 1990, he was employed by the Paribas Bank in Paris in an executive position.

During the last eight years of the reign of King Hassan II of Morocco, Azoulay was one of his advisers.

With his death in 1999, his successor, Mohammed VI – who has called the Holocaust "one of the most tragic chapters of modern history" –reappointed Azoulay, who advises the royal court on economic affairs and plays a role in encouraging foreign investment in Morocco.

By his own reckoning, he is the king's sole Jewish adviser, and the only Jew in the Arab world who fulfils such a function.

Azoulay is president of the executive committee of the Foundation of Three Cultures and Three Religions, based in Seville, and one of the founders of the Aladdin Project, with headquarters in Paris.

He is also president of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation and a member of the Alliance of Civilizations, a United Nations body created at the suggestion of Spain and Turkey.

Asked what these organizations have achieved, Azoulay would only say that time will tell. As he put it, "It's a long process, not an easy one, a long way. It needs time, commitment and loyalty."

Andre Azoulay

He rejected the idea that the Islamic world and the West are on a collision course in a clash of civilizations.

"It's a theory we have to resist," he said in French-accented English, noting that religion and politics should not be conflated.

There is, however, a "clash of ignorance." He said, "We know a lot about western civilization in the Arab world. But what do westerners know about my [Arab] traditions? We have to fill this gap with education."

In a reference to the Arab world's golden era centuries ago, he observed, "My region was exporting mathematics and poetry when westerners were breaking stones."

Decrying the stigmatization of Islam, Azoulay said that Islamophobia and antisemitism are cut from the same cloth of racism. "To resist antisemitism, you have to fight Islamophobia."

When asked what accounts for Islamophobia, he replied, "I don't know. We need pages and books to explain this phenomenon. Globally, we've regressed. This issue didn't exist 30 or 40 years ago."

He claimed that the events of 9/11 were not a factor in sparking or exacerbating Islamophobia.

Turning to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Azoulay said a two-state solution is necessary to defuse Israel's dispute with the Palestinians. "We've missed many opportunities for peace. Justice, dignity and freedom should be the basis of a solution."

Claiming that peace is possible, despite setbacks in the diplomatic process, Azoulay said, "It's vital to have a Palestinian state, for the region and the whole world community."

Morocco has "done all it can" to promote peace, he said in an allusion to the late King Hassan II's behind-the-scenes role in fostering a rapprochement between Israel and Egypt in the late 1970s.

Azoulay, a resident of Rabat who described himself as "a Berber, Arab and Jew" in terms of identity, claimed that close to one million Jews of Moroccan ancestry, primarily in Israel, France and Canada, consider Morocco their "mother country" with respect to history, culture and cuisine.

"They are Moroccan ambassadors," he said. "Moroccan Judaism is a happy story."

In his estimation, Morocco, populated by about 260,000 Jews in 1948, is home to 3,000 to 5,000 Jews today. Asked whether there will be a Jewish community in Morocco in another generation, he said, "I hope so."

Morocco has weathered the Arab Spring of national rebellions thanks to its status as a constitutional monarchy with a multi-party political system and a free market economy, he said.

"Morocco didn't wait for any Arab Spring. We've made deep structural reforms. I don't remember one year when we didn't change something. We're engaged in a culture of change. That's why we're different than other Arab countries."

**Sephardi programs aimed at bringing the community together.** ***Please see page 18***

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# *Media misses simmering Turkish-Iranian tension*

Last week's column dealt with the growing authoritarianism of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan's pro-Islamist Freedom and Justice Party (AKP), despite his claim that Turkey is a beacon of secular democracy for the Arab Spring to emulate.

This week's column looks at the broader role that Turkey is seeking as an influencer in the Arab and Muslim worlds vis-a-vis Iran.

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

While western media have given limited attention to the erosion of liberal democracy within Turkey, they have focused even less on the regional confrontation between Turkey and Iran. To be sure, journalists and pundits have discussed Turkey with respect to the Syrian crisis and Iran with respect to both its role in Syria and its illegal nuclear program. Yet what has not received the attention it deserves is the ongoing struggle between Turkey and Iran for regional dominance – and its far-reaching implications.

With dramatic growth in bilateral trade between the two countries since Erdogan became prime minister in 2003 – trade has increased from $1 billion in 2000 to $10 billion in 2010, and leaped to $15 billion in 2011 – relations on the surface seem to be very healthy. In fact, Turkey has been widely viewed by the West to be one of the leading weak links in the international economic sanctions against Tehran.

When Turkish Development Minister Cevdet Yilmaz met late last month in Tehran with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iran's state-controlled Press TV reported that Ahmadinejad praised the "expanding and deepening" ties between the two countries and claimed to share "common enemies" who want to thwart these relations.

According to Reuters, in 2011 Turkey was Iran's fifth-largest oil customer, buying around 200,000 barrels per day (amounting to 30 per cent of its total imports and more than seven per cent of Iran's oil exports).

**Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan, left, greets Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.** *[File photo]*

However, in May, under U.S. pressure to isolate Iran over its nuclear policy, Ankara cut its imports from Iran to 140,000 barrels per day, a 20 per cent reduction. Along with India, South Korea and four other countries purchasing Iranian crude, Turkey has just been granted a 180-day U.S. exemption from financial sanctions. The hope is that, in six months, Turkey will undertake further cuts while it finds replacement sources elsewhere – primarily Saudi Arabia, Libya and Venezuela.

Besides American pressure, what has seriously frayed relations between Turkey and Iran has been Tehran's financial, military and strategic support for Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose brutal assault on his own people continues with no end in sight. In the meantime, Turkey has provided refuge to thousands of Syrian refugees and a safe haven to the Syrian opposition.

Not surprisingly, just this month, Iran's Gen. Yahya Safavi, a former Revolutionary Guard commander and current military aide to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, accused Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar of serving American and Israeli interests. Safavi charged: "The Americans, Israelis, and some European and Persian Gulf nations, in particular Qatar and Saudi Arabia, have delegated to Turkey the task of achieving their goal to weaken or topple Bashar Assad's government or make it surrender… Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey are acting in the interests of the U.S. and the Zionists to weaken the resistance axis comprising Iran, Syria and Hezbollah."

In recent analysis pieces for *PBS Frontline*, Alex Vatanka explained this growing tension: "The idea that Turkey is seeking regional dominance at the expense of Iran permeates almost all Iranian analysis about Istanbul's policies in the Middle East, not just Syria. Tehran sees a direct Turkish challenge to its interests in places such as Iraq… Lately, the Iran-Turkey split has also begun to resemble the kind of sectarian competition that has long characterized Iranian-Saudi relations."

"The rivalry reflects Iran's innate fear of Turkey gaining geopolitical advantages due to Tehran's isolation, which is a product of its nuclear standoff with the West and the limitations of its political appeal to Arab regimes and peoples."

A third regional power (not addressed above) is Saudi Arabia, which has managed, largely through its financial clout, to thwart the regional ambitions of both Turkey and Iran. That, however, is a subject for another time.

*Paul Michaels is director of research and communications for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

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# Leo Baeck adopts more Israel-centric curriculum

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Toronto's Leo Baeck Day School is prompting its students and staff to become more educated about contemporary Israel in an ongoing effort to have them engage more personally with the Jewish state.

Head of school Eric Petersiel told *The CJN* that a re-tooling of Leo Baeck's program of "Israel engagement" has been in progress for nearly two years.

"We recognized a while ago that one of the reasons people choose our school is a commitment to the State of Israel. And we wanted to make sure it was being presented in a meaningful, realistic modern manner," he said.

Petersiel said the move to make become more focused on modern-day Israel involved a methodical process.

He said staff had been assigned to study the school's existing policies and practices relating to Israel, then presented their findings to their colleagues over the course of two PD days, one last June and another this past November.

Leo Baeck aims to present Israel from a modern, progressive point of view, warts and all, Petersiel said. This is being done in order to allow students to wrestle with complex issues about Israeli society and politics so they are better prepared to defend the country when they leave the Jewish school system.

It's a skill that has been lacking, he said, noting that for years, Jewish day school graduates have felt unprepared to tackle issues such as "Israeli Apartheid Week" or the boycott and divestment movement once they get to university.

To that end, the new plan to teach about contemporary Israeli culture demands that school staff be able to speak openly about their own preconceived notions and understanding of Israel.

"Our responsibility is to teach students how to evaluate a variety of opinions and then make their own. So we thought it was important for staff to investigate their own biases first so they can have that conversation with students," Petersiel said.

Eric Petersiel

Like their counterparts at many Jewish day schools, Leo Baeck's staff and students have adopted the "hugging and wrestling" model of relating to Israel.

The term, used as part of the overall teaching philosophy on understanding modern Israel, refers to loving Israel as a Zionist while at the same time being unafraid to be critical when warranted.

"In some cases, Israel is a blind spot for Zionist institutions," he said. "[Often] people are simply taught 'You're going to love Israel' and that's not a realistic way to understand it.

"We have a responsibility to give kids critical skills and say to them 'Here are all the different ways certain people look at tough issues like Israel, and you have to know that your job as a modern Jew in the modern world is to winnow those opinions down and come up with your own meaningful understanding of the complex issues," he said.

Petersiel noted said it's almost impossible for a 12- or 13-year-old to adopt an "adult-level" opinion of Israel all at once.

"It takes a lifetime to sort through. It takes a lifetime to develop those skills. But we're very comfortable now in giving our students a deeper understanding and the skills with which to make those decisions."

Supplementing the school's teachings on Israel are also live examples of contemporary Israeli society: young emissaries from the Holy Land who interact directly with students and staff.

These youths, called *shinshinim* (emissaries), are a part of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Makom Young Emissary Program.

The project was started nearly four years ago to help local Jewish young people get a sense of what their peers in Israel feel, think and do.

As the flagship program of federation's nascent Israel engagement committee, it brings pre-army Israelis to Toronto "to provide a living bridge between Israel and Toronto," according to the committee.

It's also partly funded by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

The program has grown since 2007 from two *shinshinim* to more than 20 emissaries who participate in numerous schools and affiliated synagogues, as well as summer camps in and around Toronto and North America.

They can also be found at Bialik Hebrew Day School, Robbins Hebrew Academy, Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School and Associated Hebrew Schools, among others.

Emissaries are billeted at host family homes during their stays in Toronto.

This year, Leo Baeck hosted four *shinshinim* – two on each of its campuses – and their presence, Petersiel said, is "invaluable for our students to understand that Israel is a real, meaningful place. There are issues of enlisting in the army and what that means for these kids. It's a very impactful experience for all these kids."

The Leo Baeck *shinshinim* this year were Or Shalem, Mai Levi, Michal Cohen, and Ariel Levy. In a joint letter to *The CJN*, they expressed their gratitude for their time in Toronto and noted how important they felt it was to impact students in the Diaspora.

"We come with the goal of bringing the real Israel, the Israel of today, to the students at our schools, congregants in our synagogues, and young people at our youth movements and summer camps. We came here expecting to give, but we are amazed at how much we have received and grown as well," they wrote.

"We live with families from our school and synagogue, and it's been so wonderful to live with such committed, hospitable, and proudly Reform and Zionist families. Our host families become our families, staying up late to chat, giving us support and advice, cooking *shakshuka*, and listening to Israeli radio or Hebrew music with us. Being embraced by such warm and welcoming families and building relationships with new moms, dads, sisters, brothers, bubbies, and zaides, is one of the most meaningful parts of our year here."

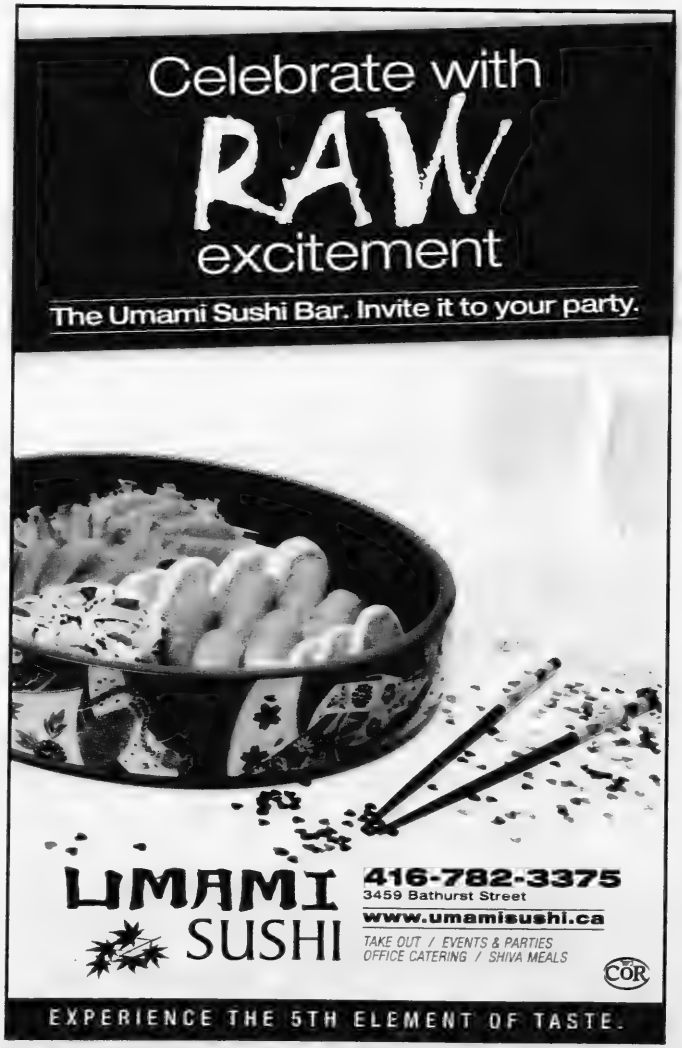
One of the ways Leo Baeck and the Young Emissary Program ensure that students understand the realities of Israel is by re-introducing the previous year's *shinshinim* to students by way of live video chat from their Israel Defence Forces barracks dressed in their military uniforms.

"Our kids say, 'This is the person that hung around and joked and laughed with me last year and taught me about Israel, and now they're there offering their lives to support the State of Israel.' It's a very powerful experience," Petersiel said.

While the program has had an impact on students, Petersiel said he wasn't sure how long Leo Baeck can afford to keep it running, as it's increasingly expensive to maintain.

"It's a huge investment by our school. We're committed to it and believe it's incredibly valuable, but it's hard" to finance, he said. "What I hope is that community donors realize the significance of it and find a way to fund what may be the most meaningful, realistic connection for our students to ensure Israel is a real part of their lives."

Petersiel said even though the cost of the program is shared between the school and federation, Leo Baeck's costs for it have risen continuously since its inception.



# Kiever Shul marks its centennial

**Barbara Silverstein**
Special to The CJN

The Kiever Shul was the place where Pinya Balsky, an immigrant from Ukraine, found community.

**The Kiever Shul, located at the corner of Bellevue Avenue and Denison Square, is one of Kensington Market's best-known historical landmarks.** ***[Barbara Silverstein photo]***

"He was drawn to the shul, because he was lonely," recalls his daughter, Polly Soloway, 96. "He went to the shul for the companionship of the other men.

"I remember when the shul was being built. He stood outside and watched the workers lay each brick. That was his recreation."

That domed red brick building at the corner of Bellevue Avenue and Denison Square, a designated heritage site, has been a landmark in Kensington Market for 85 years. But the Kiever congregation, the Russian Congregation of Rodfei Sholem Anshei Kiev, has actually been in existence for 100 years.

On June 24, the shul marks its centennial with a special Sunday service. It's one of several events in the works for the shul's 100th anniversary. Plans are also being finalized to honour Cantor Pinchus Gutter – he's been leading services there for 25 years – and longtime president, David Pinkus, who's been at the helm of the synagogue since 1979.

In fact, Pinkus was recently named a Jewish Community Hero by the Jewish Federations of North America for his dedication and years of service to the Kiever.

He says the shul was more than a place of worship: it was also a communal centre where *landsmen* from the Kiev area formed friendships and helped one another.

Since many of the male congregants made their living selling food, business relationships were forged there as well, Pinkus explains.

While his parents, Izzie and Mollie Pinkus, were founding members and Izzie helped out financially, they were not "involved in shul politics," he says.

But Alexander Gershman, father of Bess Friedman, was very active in the leadership. Bess Friedman remembers his friendly rivalry with Pinya Balsky: every year, the two men vied for the presidency of the shul.

"His [Balsky's] wife was my mother's best friend," says Friedman, 83. "We'd have family picnics together. The women would be chatting away, and the men wouldn't talk to each other." But all was forgiven by Yom Kippur.

Of course, no shul president has served longer than Pinkus. He says he was asked to take on the presidency to defuse some conflicts on the board and because he lived near the shul. He had actually been on the board intermittently for about 15 years before becoming president 33 years ago.

Many people credit him with keeping the Kiever operating these last three decades. He says he took on this responsibility because he felt it was important to preserve the shul so younger generations could appreciate the Toronto Jewish community's roots in Kensington Market.

After the majority of congregants moved north along the Bathurst Street corridor in the 1950s, the Kiever's maintenance was neglected and it fell into serious disrepair by the mid-'70s.

Pinkus says he was part of a group spearheaded by the late historian Stephen Speisman, "with the foresight to preserve the synagogue. Shuls were being destroyed all over the place. They said it was time to save the shul.

"They picked the Kiever because they thought they could get a government grant for a historical site."

Others in the group included the late Sol Edell, Cyril Troster and architect Martin Mendelow.

In this first phase of renovation, the windows were repaired, doors were replaced, the basement was gutted and the bathroom and kitchen were renovated.

In reality, the physical maintenance of the building and its modernization has been a work-in-progress since 1981.

A modest and discreet person, Pinkus has quietly raised funds and overseen the extensive renovation of the shul.

The plumbing, heating, and electric wiring have all been updated. The floors and benches were refinished, the bathrooms and kitchen have been renovated twice, air conditioning has been installed, the yard has been landscaped, and wrought-iron window covering with the Star of David and a matching fence now adorn the property.

When prodded, Pinkus acknowledges that his training as a mechanical engineer and his decades of service on local hospital and community agency boards equipped him to manage the renovations and raise money for the various projects.

When he took over the presidency back in 1979, Pinkus reorganized the finances with assistance from his brother Max, 99, the shul's treasurer for many years.

"The synagogue operated like a business on Spadina," Pinkus recounts. "It didn't have money to operate for a full year, so it borrowed money from the bank until September when it could sell High Holiday tickets to defray the bank loan."

He says he built up a membership and collected dues so he "wouldn't have to go running to the bank."

Along with managing the finances and renovations, Pinkus has been looking after the membership, cemeteries, bar mitzvahs and other life-cycle events, as well as all the ongoing physical upkeep of the building.

He says it has also been his responsibility to maintain the continuity of the traditional service. "The mandate of the shul was Orthodox. I think I have carried that out."

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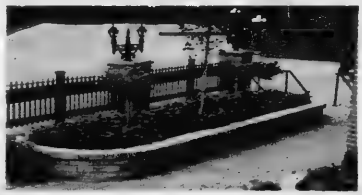

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# SCOT aimed at uniting Sephardi community

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

When Jacob Abecassis founded the Sephardic Community of Toronto (SCOT), he envisioned an organization that would appeal to Jews of all denominations, affiliated or not.

Abecassis said that SCOT, a non-profit organization that provides recreational, educational and cultural programming, fills a need for events that appeal to Jews who may not identify with synagogue culture.

"We were lacking these types of events in our communities," he said.

"Those who could identify with the synagogue would come to synagogue programming on a religious level, but those who couldn't… were left by the wayside."

Abecassis, a 44-year-old father of eight kids between the ages of 19 and two, said making sure the next generation has programs that help them connect to their community is important to him.

Although the organization was registered about three years ago, the seeds for SCOT were planted in 2006, when families were invited to meet at the Future Stars Arena for a weekly ice skating program called Saturday Night Chill.

"The kids would look forward to it every motza'ei Shabbat, to come out for some skating fun with their parents. It was an activity to get our kids off the streets," Abecassis said. "We've been occupying the rink every Saturday night from September into March."

He stressed that Jews of all backgrounds are welcome to the events, as the programming has less to do with promoting Sephardi culture and more to do with bringing people together.

"It's not solely Sephardic, we're open to everybody. With the family skating, we have the Russian community coming out, the Ashkenazi community. The kids have friends from school that they love hanging out with," he said.

"Why would you segregate people, God forbid? There are people from all levels of observance and you appeal to everybody. We're seeing people who never affiliated themselves with a synagogue who are coming out to these events. The synagogue didn't do it for them, but now we're starting to see faces, and we think, 'Where were they? Where did they come from?'"

Jacob Abecassis

Today, SCOT activities include Lag b'Omer barbeques, Toronto Marlies hockey games, fundraisers for Jewish charities, a soccer league and a summer camp.

Abecassis said he's working on obtaining charitable status from the government, but until now, he's relied on manpower from volunteers and funding from business owners and private donors to keep the programs running.

Some of SCOT's funders include Michael Serruya of Yogen Früz, Leon Elmaleh of Dorplex Industries, and Jack and Joseph Bitton of Eurofase Lighting.

SCOT continues to expand and attract young families looking for quality Jewish programming, Abecassis said. There are nearly 1,000 people on his e-mail list.

"The last barbeque we had after Lag b'Omer, which was called Meat and Greet, at Earl Bales Park, attracted about 300 people," he said.

For the third consecutive summer, SCOT will be recruiting young soccer players for its Sephardic Soccer League.

"Last year, we had 90 kids sign up, and this year, we're expecting 150 kids," he said.

The teams meet each Wednesday night in July and August at Lakehurst Park in Vaughan.

"We have a BBQ every night. At the end of the season, there's a tournament and people get awards."

This summer, SCOT will open a summer camp for the first time.

"Right now, we're at 65 kids and 24 [counsellors in training]… This is the first year we're doing it on our own and we've got an excellent program. It's really coming together and we're raising money to get the budget covered," he said, explaining that the camp fees are subsidized.

He's also planning a leadership-training program to educate the next generation of community leaders.

"The more we can invest in our kids to become leaders – in case the Canada Pension Plan is not around for me when I retire, at least I'll have these kids to do some programming for me," he said with a laugh.

Abecassis said some of the programs also focus on giving back, by partnering with other established Jewish charities, including Ezrat Achim, which provides weekly food and financial assistance to needy Jewish families, and Peace of Mind, a program that benefits former Israeli soldiers suffering from psychological trauma.

"The community has responded well to the organization. They see what SCOT is doing for the community and see that it's done with the intent of bringing our community together," he said.

While Abecassis laid the foundation for what is growing into a recognized Jewish cultural organization, he emphasized that SCOT is an initiative that's owned and operated by the entire community.

"SCOT is the community coming together, and it's the community that makes the difference. And it's the people who want to work for the community who make it happen," he said. "I'm very thankful to those who are supporting it financially. People are starting to buy the product and believe in the product."

For more information about SCOT programming, visit www.myscot.org.


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UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

# The United Church should not boycott Israel

This August, delegates will meet at the General Council of the United Church of Canada where they will decide on a new policy toward the Middle East, including a proposed boycott of Israeli settlements. If the policy is ratified in its current form, the United Church will exit the ranks of the genuine peace movement and enter the same camp as those anti-Israel activists who aim to isolate and undermine the legitimacy of Jewish state.

Shimon Fogel

The proposed boycott is based on a recent report by a United Church working group that, despite containing some positive aspects, is largely marked by historical distortions. In the report's initial version, perhaps the most obscene is a direct comparison between the Holocaust and the challenges faced by Palestinians. Shockingly, the report stated that both were characterized by the denial or loss of dignity ("the deepest meaning of the Holocaust.") It further describes Israel's presence in the West Bank as "the primary contributor to the injustice that underlies the violence of the region" – a baffling statement given the atrocities inflicted by the likes of Syria, Iran, Hamas, and Hezbollah. Unfortunately, the words "Hamas" and "Hezbollah" appear not once in the United Church's 26-page report.

The report concludes by putting virtually all of the onus on Israel to resolve the conflict, calling for a church-wide boycott of Israeli products from settlement communities in order to pressure the Jewish state. Regardless of one's opinion on the long-term status of the settlements (and Jewish opinion – both Canadian and Israeli – is quite diverse on this topic), to propose a boycott of settlements is to ignore a basic fact of history. For it is indisputable that when Israel has had a reliable partner for peace on the other side of the table, Israelis have made serious compromises on the settlements.

**Guest Voice**

In fact, Israel withdrew thousands of settlers from the Sinai after signing a peace agreement with Egypt, and peace has lasted for some three decades. However, when Israel removed every last settlement from Gaza in 2005 as a unilateral concession, the response was the firing of 10,000 missiles and mortars from Gaza into Israel. The lesson is clear. A future for both sides can only be secured through a negotiated peace accord that ends the conflict once and for all (and addresses various issues, including settlements). In other words, violent Arab rejection of Israel since 1947 is the core issue, of which the post-1967 settlements are one of numerous resulting products.

As Jewish Canadians, regardless of our healthy diversity of opinion on Israeli policy decisions, we cannot be silent bystanders as the United Church aims to target Israelis for boycott. Now is the time for solidarity with our fellow Jews and principled action as a community.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, and Jewish communities across Canada, are reaching out to our neighbours in the United Church. This critical work depends on grassroots Jewish activists. It depends on you.

There are two simple steps you can take to make a difference today. First, get the facts on the United Church's proposed policy at www.cija.ca/issues/ucc. Second, call, e-mail, or arrange a meeting with your local United Church clergy. Go to locator.united-church.ca to find a local congregation. Make the case for the church to promote peace and reconciliation – not boycotts.

*Shimon Fogel is CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

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# Jews and the Olympics, Pt. 2

Thousands of athletes will soon arrive in London, England, to compete in the 30th Summer Olympics. Although Jewish athletes have shared in Olympic glory, for Jews, the memory of the Olympics also includes racism, violence and death. Today, a look at that history.

The Jews in Sports website has created biographies for 722 Jewish athletes who have competed in the modern games. Everybody from Israel's Ruth Abeles (gymnastics, Squaw Valley 1960) to U.S.-Israeli dual citizen Rami Zur (kayaking, Sydney 2000, Athens 2004). **[http://bit.ly/jolymp11]**

One of the stars of the first modern games was Alfred Flatow of Germany who brought home three golds and a silver in gymnastics in 1896. Those four medals tied Flatow with the second most in Athens. The International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame lists the medal count for every Jewish Olympian from Athens 1896 to Vancouver 2010. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp12]**

Two of the best-known Jewish Olympians competed a half-century apart. Britain's Harold Abrahams won gold in the 100-metre final at the 1924 Paris Olympics. Abrahams' story is well-known thanks to the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp13]**

The United States' Mark Spitz was the first athlete to win seven gold medals in a single Olympic Games. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp14]** You can watch a short documentary about Spitz's Munich gold at the Olympics. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp15]**

Unfortunately, for Jews the memory of the Olympics is not always pleasant. One of the greatest blots on the history of the Games is the Nazi Germany's hosting of the 1936 Summer Olympics. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has a comprehensive site detailing those Games, starting in 1931 with the International Olympic Committee's awarding of the 11th Olympiad to Berlin. Although Hitler was elated

***Jewish & Digital***

***Mark Mietkiewicz***

with the Games and Germany's athletes captured the most medals overall, the site points out that 13 Jewish athletes and 10 African-American competitors (including Jesse Owens) were medallists at the Games. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp16]**

And of course, there was the tragedy of the 1972 Munich Olympics when Palestinian terrorists murdered 11 members of the Israeli Olympic delegation. To learn more about it, I recommend the *Sports Illustrated* section that marks the 30th anniversary of the killings **[http://bit.ly/jolymp19]**, as well as a fascinating Wikipedia entry about the massacre. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp20]**

This summer, marks the 40th anniversary of the murders, and Israel has asked that the massacre be observed by an official moment of silence. The International Olympic Committee rejected the request by IOC President Jacques Rogge, who said he would attend the Israeli delegation's tribute to those slain in the massacre. "Within the Olympic family, the memory of the victims of the terrible massacre in Munich in 1972 will never fade away." **[http://bit.ly/jolymp26]**

Israel first sent a delegation to the Helsinki Olympics in 1952, but it wasn't until Barcelona in 1992 when Yael Arad and Oren Samdja took home the country's first medals – both for judo. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp21]**

Israel's medal count now stands at seven – one silver, five bronze – with sailor Gal Fridman winning the country's first gold in 2004. Nothing beats the pride on Fridman's face as the first notes of *Hatikvah* were played in Athens. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp22]**

*Time* magazine's Jeff Chu called the gold-medal win – three decades after the Munich murders – "Israel's Olympic healing." **[http://bit.ly/jolymp23]**

*Highway@rogers.com*

# *Free will challenges us all*

God alone is perfect – He and His handiwork. The world truly is full of His Glory. If there is confusion about this – whether it be the beauty or ugliness we see in the world – it stems from His giving us free will, which permits us to see and to do as we wish with all that He has given us.

When I moved to Vancouver almost 13 years ago, the city seemed perfect. Surrounded by breathtaking scenery, the mountains and the ocean seemed like paradise. At the time, I didn't realize that it rains a lot, and winters in Vancouver can be grey and very wet indeed. I was beginning to think how morose my new home was when a congregant of mine told me, in all seriousness, that he really loves the rain!

Our perception of the world is crucial, but even more important is what we choose to do with that perception based on our talents.

I have met people who lived through unspeakable atrocities in their lives, losing their families and loved ones during the Holocaust, but their approach to life is surprisingly positive. For many, their faith in God keeps them going. When Rabbi Israel Meir Lau visited Vancouver, he told us that the Holocaust strengthened his belief in God. He realized that, if he were to abandon his faith, he would capitulate to the Nazis. I found this approach inspiring.

Another who taught me a similar lesson was a con-

***Sephardi Window***

***Rabbi Ilan Acoca***

gregant of mine from the island of Rhodes, who lost many members of his family during the Holocaust, yet he was a true believer in God, an exemplar of happiness and a teacher by his mere presence.

On the other hand, there are many who are quite understandably consumed by the dark horror they lived in those terrible years. Clearly, each remains the author of his or her own fate.

As we are getting close to the three weeks between the 17th of Tammuz and Tisha b'Av, a period commemorating the most tragic moments in Jewish history, it's interesting to note that Pesach and Tisha b'Av begin on the same day of the week. They are profoundly linked, Pesach being the holiday of redemption and freedom and Tisha b'Av, recalling our exile and slavery. Even – or especially – in the depths of our sorrow, we should not lose hope.

A reader of mine wrote in response to my column of Oct. 6, 2011, that while God may have provided us with love and hope during the Holocaust, He didn't provide us with protection. I certainly understand her point. However, what we must seek to understand is that God's promise is to Klal Yisrael (the Jewish People) as a whole and not necessarily to the individual person whose fate we may or may not understand. God may hide His face at times, but He will not abandon our People (Leviticus 26, 43).

May we all endeavour to understand that free will challenges us to make the right choices, sometimes in spite of seemingly insurmountable odds.

# Immigrant programs get support

**Meir Shenhav**
Special to The CJN

Silvan Shalom, the deputy prime minister of Israel, spoke at Chabad's ninth annual Spirit of Community Dinner, which raised funds for the Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre in Thornhill, Ont.

At the event held on June 6 at the Terrace Banquet Centre in Vaughan, Ont., Shalom said that the Chabad movement narrows "the gap between religious and secular Jewish in Israel and in the Diaspora."

Turning to the subject of the recent political changes in the Arab world, he said, "The Arab Spring is closer to an Islamic winter."

He encouraged Jews all over the world to support Israel. "When Israel is secured, Jews all over the world are secured," he said.

Shalom also brought a message of thanks and appreciation to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and to Canada. More then 1,100 guests from diverse backgrounds attended the event, among them officials from all levels of government.

Three people were honoured at the dinner, including Canada's Foreign Minister John Baird. Baird, in his absence, was awarded Chabad's International Community Service Award in recognition of his service to Canada. Baird said in a video that Canada and the State of Israel have a special relationship.

Carlo Baldassarra, president and CEO of Greenpark Group of Companies, was awarded the Community Spirit Award, in recognition of his philanthropy and support of the community. His family, including his wife, his kids and his grandchildren, went on stage with him to receive the award and gave him many hugs.

Silvan Shalom

Mordechai Ronen, a Holocaust survivor and 18-year Israel Defence Forces veteran, received the Community Heritage Award in recognition of his community service and activities in remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust, as well as his support of Israel. Ronen made a touching speech, and his 12-year-old granddaughter read a greeting for her grandpa's 80th birthday.

Rabbi Yisroel Landa, the spiritual leader of the Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre, spoke about how the honorees demonstrate their concern for the welfare of others by actively supporting newcomers to Canada and "help them to integrate into the society."

He praised Baird and thanked him. "The minister means a lot to us. He is the one that publicly stated that there is no better friend to Israel than Canada," Rabbi Landa said.

The evening ended with a live auction with high bidders winning such items as the opportunity to name a street in Markham, Ont., a dinner for 12 with Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, luxury vacations and hockey jerseys from the greatest players in the National Hockey League.

Proceeds from the dinner go toward programs and services for the Israeli immigrant population in the Toronto area, including classes, social services, emergency aid, job networking, counselling, educational programs, lectures, women's group activities, religious services and cultural events. These programs help Israeli immigrants to adapt to their new lives in Canada.

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# *Ushering in the experience economy*

Business strategists B. Joseph Pine II and James H. Gilmore contend that economic history has moved through four phases, traceable through the evolution of the birthday cake.

First, agrarian society was a commodity market. One procured flour, sugar, butter and eggs to bake a cake.

Next, in a goods-based economy, mothers bought Betty Crocker or Duncan Hines mix, which they baked and decorated themselves. Manufacturers competed based on the quality of the product they produced.

*Class Act*

*Daniel Held*

As manufacturing was standardized and products were differentiated only on the basis of cost, the service economy took root. Companies prided themselves on their ability to cater to the needs of clientele and differentiated themselves through customer service. Families bought pre-baked, iced and packaged cakes, which could be customized with superhero or Disney character icing.

Finally, time-starved families of the 21st century moved us into the experience economy, the latest progression in the economic model. In the experience economy, parents outsource birthday parties to Chuck E. Cheese, Mad Science or other venues.

The experience economy is exemplified by companies such as Disney and the Rainforest Café, as well as by experiences such as sitting in a Parisian café or praying at the Kotel. Moving beyond service, the offerings aren't simply customized, but personalized, existing in the mind of an individual engaged through the full range of senses as well as on an emotional level. Experiences ignite lasting memories. In the words of Pines and Gilmore, while services are delivered to clients, experiences are staged for guests.

There are a few offerings of the experience economy in the Jewish community. In my last column, I wrote about Shavuot retreats, combining nature, Jewish learning and recreation. UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Walk With Israel, with its 15,000 participants, each experiencing a personal journey, is an example of the experience economy. I carry memories from nearly three decades of walkathons, including years ago when I marched for a Russian refusenik.

Some of our community's offerings, however, continue to base themselves on the goods or service economies. Some schools see their role narrowly as producing knowledgeable students – prepared for bar mitzvah, proficient in Hebrew, loving Israel and knowledgeable of Bible. Some synagogues see their function as offering services – Shabbat service, counselling, funerals and education classes. The limited scope of these offerings misses the boat of the new economy.

Even attempts at innovation in these settings – the "synaplex" model, which offers choice within synagogues, such as young families services, reflective hikes or musical services, or schools that offer electives, allowing students to choose between classes such as Jews in film or Israeli music – bring us back to customization, idiomatic of the service economy, rather than personalization, a key aspect of the experience economy.

Pines and Gilmore urge organizations driven by the experience economy to think about what they would do differently if they charged admission. As a thought experiment, consider how we might transform Shabbat services if they were ticketed events? What would Hebrew school look like if admission were charged at the door?

Conceptualizing communal institutions as stagers of experiences, focused on creating memorable and moving personal experience, will enable us to build our market while emphasizing the spiritual and intellectual growth of each individual.

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# Local bachelor stars in reality web series

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

He's tall, dark, handsome and single. Even better, he's Jewish and he's looking for love.

But instead of searching in the usual places, 30-year-old Nathaniel is starring as the real-life bachelor in Shalom Life's upcoming web series, *The Bachelor 2012: Tall, Dark and Jewish.*

Oh, and did I mention he has a British accent?

With the popularity of ABC's hit show *The Bachelor*, Jewish web news outlet Shalom Life, in partnership with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Community Connect and El Al Airlines, decided it was time to have a Jewish bachelor, too.

Nathaniel, who works in health care and volunteers extensively in the Jewish community, was shocked when he got the call telling him he was the bachelor of choice. "I was really taken aback and my answer was an instant 'yes,'" he said.

Stephen Arbib, the founder of Shalom Life and one of the organizers of the competition, said Nathaniel came recommended to him through staff and volunteers at federation.

"We wanted someone that wasn't well-known in the community but was a great catch," Arbib said, adding that with a fairly "closed" Jewish community in Toronto, it was important to find someone that not everyone would immediately recognize.

London-born Nathaniel fit the bill perfectly. He came to Canada 10 years ago, lived in Montreal for seven years, and has only been in Toronto for the last three years. "I'd say Toronto is difficult because people like to stay within their groups," Nathaniel said of his dating luck so far in the city.

Needless to say, he was pleasantly surprised to see the dozens of applicants who want to meet him (sorry, ladies – the application deadline passed last month).

"The one thing that I've learned during this process is that there are so many people out there," Nathaniel said.

With the help of professional matchmaker Alison Green, he has narrowed down the pool of applicants to seven lucky ladies. He will go on a partially filmed date with each one, and the videos will be posted online for the community to watch, comment on and cast their votes.

From the top seven, Nathaniel will narrow it down to three, and eventually one. The new couple will go on a trip to Israel at the end of the summer to get to know each other better.

"I just really hope the community gets engaged and really loves it," Arbib said, adding that he plans to launch a Jewish bachelorette series in the winter, and to make both competitions annual.

For the moment, Nathaniel is preparing to meet the lucky seven with Green's expert advice. He said the insight into the dating world that she's provided has been very useful. "There's no class that teaches you how to date – you just kind of do it," he said, explaining the value of Green's help.

Nathaniel is hoping the competition will lead him to his future wife – a woman, he said, who should be kind, ambitious and charismatic.

The dates begin soon, and Nathaniel is gearing up for an adventurous summer. "I'm excited and nervous about it at the same time," he said.

For more information and to watch the date videos as they're posted, visit www.shalomlife.com.

**The bachelor Nathaniel** *[Shalom Life Media photo]*


Though retirees are likely to have the greatest number of critical records - and might need access to many of them on short notice - they are the least likely to have organized themselves for easy access to those records. This includes you or your parents. Family CFO Group can review, organize, update, and help you complete your personal and financial records. It might be as simple as compiling information and instructions so if bad things happen, you can take care of your family and they can take care of you.

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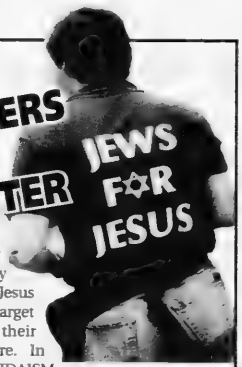


During the summer months, missionary groups like Jews for Jesus take to the streets and target pedestrians with their proselytizing literature. In response, JEWS FOR JUDAISM is organizing a counter-leafletting campaign to alert and educate the public against this threat.

We need volunteers for a "Rapid Response Unit" of our Counter-Missionary Task Force to help this effort. JEWS FOR JUDAISM is seeking dedicated individuals who will act as "Spotters" – who will notify us if, when and where missionaries appear, or as "Counter-Leafletters" – who will distribute our counter-missionary literature in a non-confrontational manner on the street beside the missionaries.

If you would like to volunteer for our program and/or help support our vital work, please contact:

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## BAKE SALE

Dylan Perlis sells baked goods to a hungry customer at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (MNJCC) nursery school's annual bake/lemonade sale. The $1,225 the children raised will go toward the MNJCC Scholarship Fund and Playground Memorial mural.

**CREATIVE WRITERS:** Six Eitz Chaim Day School students won awards in the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Centre for Jewish Education's annual creative writing contest. From left are Chavi Marder, Grade 8; Yaffa Cohen, Grade 6; Sarah Harari, Grade 7; Tamar Walfish, Grade 6; Batya Epstein, Grade 2, and Eli Weltman, Grade 7. *[Gina Epstein photo]*

## UNICEF FUNDRAISER:

Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School student council president Molly Katz accepts an appreciation plaque from UNICEF community engagement specialist Lindsay Seeger. The award is in recognition of the school's tzedekah project Wheels That Heal, which raised $3,000 to go toward the purchase of 25 mobile health unit bikes that will transport vaccines in specially designed coolers to remote African villages to immunize 2,500 children.

# Mazel Tov
# מזל טוב

**Mazel Tov**
**Gerry Granek, P.Eng.**
On receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from The Canadian Standards Association, for contributions to healthcare facility engineering and pioneering smoke control measures in high rise office buildings. Thanks to CSA, Lalie Ellmas and Mike Keen, and to Roz Schultz and the dedicated Sage Care staff at 147 Elder Street.

Congratulations to Ashley Farberman on becoming a doctor of veterinary medicine. Your mom's light is shining down on you. Love, Andrew and dad.

Mazel tov to Ezra Karakowsky and the class of 2012 on your graduation from TanenbaumCHAT. From your parents, grandparents and brothers.

On Feb. 27, Natalie Avram & Jared Klaiman, proud first time parents, welcomed with lots of love their beautiful daughter, Arielle Rose Klaiman.

Mazel tov Alisha Levine on her bat mitzvah. All our love Mom, Dad and Megan. Also proud grandparents Steve & Esther Wise, Carol & Art Levine

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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

Social Networking @ The Canadian Jewish News
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**Deadline reminder: June 25 is the deadline for the issue of July 5. June 29 is the deadline for the issue of July 12 and for listings intended for July 19, as there is no issue July 19. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, June 21

**THE STORY OF THE EXODUS**

**Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses "The Story of The Exodus – the Ship That Launched a Nation," 7:30 p.m., Temple Har Zion, 7360 Bayview Ave. $3/$5.

**FORGOTTEN SCRIPTURES**

Melton Mini School is offering a class on "Forgotten Scriptures: Books That Never Made It Into Anyone's Bible," taught by **Barrie Wilson**, Beth Emeth Synagogue, 10 a.m. June 21-July 12. Call 416-789-7400.

**ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN PEACE**

**Rabbi Michael Dolgin** discusses "The left is wrong, the right is wrong: A centrist approach to the the Israeli/Palestinian situation," Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave. Refreshments at 7 p.m.; presentation 7:30 p.m.

**EMUNA TOUR**

**Rabbi Lazer Brody**, translator of *The Garden of Emuna* speaks at Chabad Romano Centre, 10500 Bathurst St., today at 8 p.m. RSVP 905-303-1880; June 23 at the Sephardic Kehila Centre, 7026 Bathurst St., 10:30 p.m. RSVP 416-827-7666; June 24 at Adas Israel Synagogue, 125 Cline Ave. S., Hamilton, 10:30 a.m. RSVP 905-928-9615.

## Friday, June 22

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Am Shalom Synagogue in Barrie is holding its annual fundraising golf tournament in support of Gilda's Club, Innisbrook Golf Course. For information on registration or sponsorship, call 705-792-3949.

## Saturday, June 23

**PRE-PRIDE KARAOKE NIGHT**

Kulanu Toronto and Congregation Shir Libeynu hold a pre-Pride Karaoke Night, 9:30 p.m., Spirits Bar and Grill, 642 Church St. RSVP to kulanutoronto@gmail.com.

**SERVING MAN AND GOD**

**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik** discusses "Serving Man and God in the Twilight Zone: Reflections on Judaism and Western Thought," 10:45 p.m., Or Chaim Yeshiva, 159 Almore Ave. 416-633-5770; www.torahinmotion.org.

**B'NAI SHALOM**

B'nai Shalom Congregation of Halton-Peel, a Conservative congregation, meets at 10 a.m. in Oakville. www.bnaishalom.ca or 905-901-9889.

## Sunday, June 24

**GARAGE SALES**

Yachad and Dinah branches of National Council of Jewish Women are holding a garage sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St.

Holy Blossom Temple Sisterhood is holding a yard sale, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 1950 Bathurst St. Proceeds to camp scholarships.

**Continued on page 25**

# *Concert supports disabled IDF veterans*

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Disabled Israeli veterans were given a warm welcome at the Toronto Centre for the Arts on June 7. They came for the Celebration of Life concert tour held by Beit Halochem Canada – Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel.

"Tonight, we are really celebrating the lives of our brave guests," said Toby Feldberg, the president of Beit Halochem Canada, explaining the name chosen for the concert.

The annual tour visits Calgary, Montreal and Toronto to raise money for the Beit Halochem centres in Israel, which provide therapy and programming for Israel's 51,000 disabled Israel Defence Forces veterans and victims of terror and their families.

"Those who have given their bodies, their souls, their limbs for Israel – without them, there wouldn't be an Israel," said Lisa Levy, the executive director of Beit Halochem Canada.

Beit Halochem brings 10 disabled veterans to Canada each year for a two-week tour that overlaps with the concerts, allowing them to meet the Canadian Jewish community and to share their personal stories.

"The thing that they're most in awe about is that, 'Hey, there are people in Canada who actually care about me,'" said Levy, adding that for many, it is the first time they have travelled abroad alone since being injured.

This year, among those who shared their stories were Liftach Yaacov, who was injured in the Yom Kippur War and is the nephew of a former prime minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, and Yarden Hershko, who lost the use of her legs while serving in the Karakal batallion.

Yaacov swims 70 laps in a Beit Halochem pool each morning, and Hershko is the only female player on Beit Halochem's wheelchair basketball team.

**Israeli veteran Yohai Touitou and Beit Halochem choreographer Yelena Feitliher perform a wheelchair dance at Beit Halochem's Toronto Celebration of Life concert.** *[Michelle Bitran photo]*

Beit Halochem members can play several sports adapted to suit their needs, including skiing, hand biking, wheelchair dancing and archery. Many even participate in the yearly Beit Halochem bike ride each October called Courage in Motion. The veterans can also take art classes, learn chess and sing in the choir, among many other activities.

The centres, in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Be'er Sheva and Nahariya, Levy explained, aim to keep the veterans physically active and to help them deal with the emotional pain of their injuries, including conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder. They also provide activities for the veterans' families to socialize and support each other.

"We offer a place where they can go every single day," said Levy, adding that Beit Halochem representatives visit injured soldiers during their initial hospitalization to inform them of the options available to them at the centres.

The veterans at the Toronto concert told the audience how much the centres helped them to move on from their injuries. "It taught me how much happiness can come from things that seem so insignificant, like driving or shooting a basket [in basketball]," Hershko said.

The veterans were joined on stage by three Israeli musicians, Liron Lev, Gilan Shahaf and Shem Hamami, who entertained the crowd along with the wheelchair-dancing duo of veteran Yohai Touitou and Beit Halochem choreographer Yelena Feitliher.

At the Montreal concert, Beit Halochem honoured philanthropist David Azrieli in celebration of his 90th birthday. The Azrieli Foundation will be matching the funds raised throughout the concert tour in addition to its own contribution.

The money raised this year will be going toward the construction of a sixth Beit Halochem centre in Ashdod, where it will serve the 7,200 disabled veterans in the area.

Levy said Beit Halochem may exist for a sad reason, but the work that it does helps injured Israeli veterans to lead happy and fulfilling lives, even when many of them thought that it wouldn't be possible. "Every year we see people coming like broken doves and then soaring away."

Continued from page 24

**BALLROOM DANCE LESSONS**
A ballroom dance lesson will be given at Beth Radom Synagogue, 18 Reiner Rd.,7:30 p.m. E-mail: dance@bethradom.com. $12.

**SINGLES IN THE PARK**
**Jordan Klapman** performs a musical presentation of "Oscar-winners: Hollywood's Greatest Hit Songs," 7 p.m., Earl Bales Community Centre. $10 RSVP debbygo@rogers.com; 416-631-0005. Singles in the Park welcomes single, divorced and widowed men and women over 55.

## Monday, June 25

**EVERY BREATH WE TAKE**
**Dr. Alan Kaplan** and **Hilda Swirsky** discuss the risks of air pollution and how to reduce health hazards, 8 p.m., Beth Emeth Synagogue. $3/$5.

**STARS OF STAGE & SCREEN**
**Myriam Shechter** discusses the music of **Lorenzo Da Ponte**, 1:30 p.m., with the Temple Sinai Social Club. $10/$12. 416-487-3281.

## Wednesday, June 27

**WOMEN AND KADDISH**
**Rabbi Gedalia Zweig** discusses "Women and Kaddish," 7:30 p.m. at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill.

***OPENING NIGHT***
Medina Theatre presents a staged reading of *Opening Night*, 7:30 p.m., Temple Sinai. $7. For more information, call **Fran**, 416-638-2716, or **Morris**, 416-785-0344.

## Other News

**YIDDISH PERFORMERS**
New Voices for Yiddish is looking for a female performer with some knowledge of Yiddish for an upcoming show. Call **Nathan Garnick**, 416-633-6755.

**CANADA DAY DANCE**
Shaar Shalom Synagogue is holding a Canada Day dance for singles (45 and older), July 1, with DJ **Dave Jones**. $8. Call **David**, 416-224-9494.

**MOSAIC OUTDOOR CLUB**
Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America, for Jewish outdoor enthusiasts, is holding a Labour Day retreat in Colorado, Aug. 30-Sept. 3. To register, visit www.mosaicoutdoor.org or call 1-888-MOSAICS (667-2427).

**TORAH IN MOTION TOURS**
Torah in Motion presents "Journeys through Jewish History" with **Marc Shapiro**, Italy July 9-19; Central Europe Aug. 2-12. 416-633-5770.

**JUMPSTART HEBREW**
JumpStart Hebrew is a program for children entering JK to Grade 2, Aug. 27-31 at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Children will be introduced to Hebrew through art, music and play. E-mail **Karen Goodis**, karen@bethsholom.net or www.bethsholom.net.

**TORAH TOTS REGISTRATION**
Registration for Torah Tots, September 2012, at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham is now open. Call 905-886-0420, ext. 227.

**HOUSING REGISTRY**
List your basement apartment or extra room free with UJA Federation's Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto. If you're looking for a place to live, JIST can assist you as well. Visit JIST in the Lipa Green Centre, 416-635-5600 or e-mail: jinfo@ujafed.org.

## JF&CS GROUPS

**BEREAVED PARENTS**
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Support group** for caregivers burned out caring for loved ones with dementia will be held June 27, 7 p.m. at L'Chaim Retirement Homes, 718 Sheppard Ave. W. 416-398-7898.

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. Casino Niagara July 18. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts. Call **Morty**, 416-783-6078; 416-630-6487.

**The Bridge Club** at Forest Hill Library is seeking new members. Call **Lea** (evenings), 416-487-7630.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

*SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22*

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Bernard Betel Centre** 416-225-2112. June 26. **Rachel Levin** discusses "How Artists Have Depicted Women Reading since the Middle Ages," 10 a.m.; June 27, Canada Day Festival, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.; June 28, **James Buttoo** discusses "The Myths and Facts of Immunization," 1:30 p.m.

**Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext.155. June 28, enjoy light classical music performed by a string quartet, 1:30 p.m.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526, **Colin Blayney.** Ongoing yoga, dance fitness and aquafitness classes.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

**Kevin Courrier** teaches a course on "The man who would be king – John Huston," June 27-July 25, 1 p.m..

Seniors art exhibit, June 25, 2-4 p.m.; Movie Monday *Waltz With Bashir*, June 25, 1 p.m.

Ongoing programs: Folk dance, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.; Current events, Thursdays, 12:45 p.m.; Duplicate bridge, Thursdays 12:30 p.m. The Shalom Singers are looking for more singers. Rehearsals Thursdays, 10 a.m.

Tickets on sale for *Beauty and the Beast*, July 3. Ext. 4255.

Fridays in June are free for fathers at the fitness centre.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

**Adam Nayman** discusses the film *Eyes Wide Shut*, June 25, 7 p.m.

A reading of the play *The Kalamazoo Diaries*, a comedy in development by **Natalie Fingerhut**, will be held June 26, 7 p.m.

Toronto IsReal Dance Festival June 29-July 1. Pre-registration required. 416-221-6280 or www.israelidancetoronto.com.

Summer Institute for Creative Adults offers adult vocal/choir camp, July 16-20. deannad@mnjcc.org or ext. 250.

Call for submissions to the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition. Deadline July 3, 2012. For submission guidelines, esthera@mnjcc.org or ext. 606.

The adult daytime choir runs all summer, Tuesdays 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

*Aging Is Living: Myth-breaking Stories from Long-term Care*, photography by **Irene Borins**, is on display in the gallery till July 22.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

**ZAREINU DONATION: Lodge Ilan Ramon of the Hebrew Order of David International, a non-profit Jewish fraternal organization, recently raised $2,000 for the Zareinu Educational Centre of Metropolitan Toronto. From left, back row, are Ilan Ramon lodge members Mitch Parker, Colin Brasg, Leonard Laser, Adrian Lichtman and Joe Varkul. From left, front row, are Zareinu students Asher Oppenheimer, Menachem Blaustein and Mackenzie Moneypenny.**

# Antisemitism in the shadow of war

**Rebecca Bitton**
Special to The CJN

York University faculty members, students and community members gathered earlier this month to celebrate the launch of a book titled *Nazi Germany, Canadian Responses: Confronting Antisemitism in the Shadow of War.*

The book is based on scholarly research compiled by B'nai Brith Canada's National Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, an initiative backed and funded by the Canadian government.

Four of the contributors, professors Doris Bergen and Harold Troper of the University of Toronto, as well as University of British Columbia's Richard Menkis and York's Michael Brown, were on hand at the June 5 event to comment on the significance of the book and answer questions.

This book comes 30 years after historians Troper and Irving Abella penned *None Is Too Many: Canada and the Jews of Europe, 1933-1948*, which focused on the governmental barriers that kept Jewish refugees out of the country in the years before, during and after World War II.

**From left are professors Richard Menkis, Harold Troper, Doris Bergen, B'nai Brith Canada's national director, Ruth Klein, and York professor Michael Brown.** *[Rebecca Bitton photo]*

B'nai Brith Canada's national director Ruth Klein, editor of *Nazi Germany, Canadian Responses*, addressed the gathering first, and began by drawing attention to a significant date. "It is perhaps no coincidence that this evening's launch falls on the eve of an important anniversary," Klein began.

"June 6 is the day [in 1939] that the MS St. Louis had to turn back to Europe since country after country, including Canada, would not allow safe haven for its Jewish refugees on board."

*Nazi Germany: Canadian Responses* attempts to uncover the reasons behind Canada's attitude toward Jews in the years surrounding the war, by examining how much Canadians knew about the plight of the Jews at the time, how they responded to Adolf Hitler's rise to power and other questions. The book's contributors turned to media, literature, university campuses and community activist groups as sources of information. The research led to findings that revealed that Canadians responded to the horrific situation in Europe differently – some reacted with outrage, others indifference and others still with acquiescence.

History professor and Holocaust studies scholar Bergen said contributing to this project was challenging for her.

"Not only did I need to conduct research on Nazi Germany – that seemed fairly easy to me – but I had to focus on the connection to Canada, which, in many archives, I have never seen mention of Canada," Bergen said, adding that the Holocaust was "not about Canada."

In light of this, Bergen's contribution titled *What I Learned about the Holocaust by Thinking about Canada*, revealed that "the process of social death got reinforced from outside Germany. Jews were isolated and alone, not only in Germany but around the world."

Brown, co-editor of a 2003 book titled *Not Written in Stone: Jews, Constitutions, and Constitutionalism in Canada*, said that the social, political, and legislative barriers further reinforced the antisemitism many Canadians felt during the 1930s and 1940s.

"Leadership reflected the popular opinion… [of] ordinary folk, working class people," Brown said.

– *With files from Sheri Shefa*

GTA

# Kulanu halts complaint process against QuAIA

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Toronto's main Jewish gay and lesbian organization says it won't proceed with a complaint against an anti-Zionist group that intends to march in this year's Pride Parade because the pro-Israel group contends the complaints process is biased.

Kulanu Toronto filed the complaint June 8 with the chair of Pride Toronto's new dispute resolution panel, lawyer Douglas Elliott, against Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA).

According to Justine Apple, Kulanu's executive director, Elliott received the complaint on Monday, June 11, and proceeded to forward the document to both the *Toronto Star* and *Xtra*, a gay and lesbian weekly newspaper. The latter then posted the full text of the document on its website, including Apple's personal contact information.

*Xtra* later took out Apple's personal information after she complained, but left the rest of the text online.

Nevertheless, Apple said *Xtra* went too far and that she felt "betrayed" by Elliott, whom she said Kulanu had previously trusted.

Referring to Pride's dispute resolution process, Apple said in a statement that as a result of the panel's actions, Kulanu believes the mechanism "is seriously tainted with bias."

"We feel that it is unfair, unprofessional, disrespectful, and has demonstrated poor judgment. It has lost our confidence and that of many others. We feel it is a discredited process by any reasonable standard."

Elliott was not available for an interview by *The CJN*'s deadline. Apple said she was unaware that submissions to Pride's dispute resolution process would be made public.

The process was set up late last year as an outgrowth of the controversy surrounding QuAIA's presence in the parade since 2008.

Kulanu's complaint was the first to be filed with Pride Toronto's arms-length dispute panel. On June 7, Toronto city council voted to condemn the term "Israeli apartheid" as part of a compromise that saw it grant nearly $104,000 to this year's Pride festival without stipulating that QuAIA not take part. The group is scheduled to march in this year's Pride Parade on July 1. QuAIA didn't participate in Toronto's 2011 Pride Week, bowing to pressure from Pride organizers and the city's gay and lesbian community to ensure that the city's annual grant flowed to the festival after an acrimonious public debate threatened to see the city cut its funding.

Aside from feeling "violated" and "shocked" by the online publication of her personal information, Apple said she wondered how both the *Star* and *Xtra* knew to ask Elliott for copies of Kulanu's complaint form almost immediately after it was filed.

According to the rules of the dispute resolution process, once a complaint is registered with Pride Toronto, the group or person affected by the complaint is notified immediately.


# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

**BENJAMIN'S** PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Bob Sherman** | **Jun 2/12** | **394 Glenmar Avenue** |
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| **Violet Swimmer** | **Jun 3/12** | **7420 Bathurst Street** |
| **Louis Ziff** | **Jun 3/12** | **3560 Bathurst Street** |
| **Sidney Forman** | **Jun 5/12** | **7 Townsgate Drive** |
| **Susan Davidson** | **Jun 4/12** | **262 St. Clair Ave. West** |
| **Bertha Schwartz** | **Jun 3/12** | **5935 Bathurst Street** |
| **Irving Liberman** | **Jun 4/12** | **104 De Quincy Blvd.** |
| **Leon King** | **Jun 5/12** | **40 Page Avenue** |
| **Bernard Burstyn** | **Jun 6/12** | **1201 Steeles Ave. West** |
| **Yidel Podeswa** | **Jun 7/12** | **42 Ridgvale Drive** |
| **Archie Rottenberg** | **Jun 9/12** | **86 Acton Avenue** |
| **Lorraine Naster** | **Jun 10/12** | **5935 Bathuirst Street** |
| **Mary Nesbitt** | **Jun 9/12** | **484 Steeles Avenue** |
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The unveiling of a monument in loving memory of
**SID BUTOVSKY** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 24th at 11:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Darchei Noam Section, NN
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**ALBERT WAXER** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 24th at 2:30 p.m.**
**Beth Tzedec Memorial Park**
Bathurst North of Finch
Section #9
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

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will take place
**Sunday, June 24th at 11:00 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Beth Emeth Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

# Domestic violence can affect anyone, speaker says

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

For 29 years, Judy, now in her late 50s, lived what appeared to be an idyllic life.

Wife of a dentist, Judy (not her real name) had two sons, a beautiful home, and was able to travel a good deal.

About five years ago, however, she read a *CJN* article about domestic violence, and identified with the woman in the article. "I recognized myself," she said in an interview.

Judy, now divorced, is part of the speakers bureau co-ordinated by Act to End Violence Against Women and made up of women survivors and professionals in the Toronto area.

The goal of the speakers bureau is to educate the public about the widespread incidence of violence against women and to underline its impact by sharing real life, personal stories told by survivors of violence.

Judy said that from early on in her marriage, her husband blamed her for everything. "He made me the person responsible for all his actions. He swore at me and called me names.

"He manipulated me, and my self-esteem began to erode. He made me feel guilty, and I kept having to defend myself."

After reading the article, she said, she began to respond differently to his behaviour, "and his abuse increased. When he began intercepting my e-mail, though, that was the last straw."

Judy said that until she met Penny Krowitz, executive director of Act to End Violence Against Women, Judy did not consider herself abused. "Like many people, I thought abuse had to be physical. I didn't realize there is all kinds of abuse."

Krowitz, whose organization offers workshops, educational materials and programs on dating abuse and violence against women, said that people do not recognize the subtle nature of abuse and how it affects psyches. "Abuse can be verbal, sexual, financial, emotional – abuse is abuse, and no group is immune."

> *Like many people, I thought abuse had to be physical. I didn't realize there is all kinds of abuse*

Abuse is an imbalance of power, she said, and it is unjust. "[Our mandate] is to help women live safe and secure lives."

Judy said she joined the organization's speakers bureau because she wanted to put a face on abuse. "It's a disease that can affect anyone. Penny validated me, and gave me a place to talk. It is a powerful way to spread the word. When someone hears me, they say, 'It could be me.'

"I am one of the lucky ones who got out. My lifestyle changed drastically, but I have peace. It feels like 29 years were wiped out of my life, and I do get lonely sometimes, but no one yells at me anymore. I have no regrets."

# שישאר בינינו

## גידי קורן וחברים

**ציורים שלנו-גאווה ישראלית:**

בשקט, בדרך כלל הרחק מעין הציבור הישראלי של טורונטו, פועלים ויוצרים כאן אמנים ישראליים שידועים היטב וזוכים להערכה ברחבי קנדה ובעולם. ביקרתי השבוע בתערוכת ציוריו של גדעון טומשוף בגלריית אחוזן-וונגר היוקרתית שבדאון טאון-זו לו התערוכה השלישית ב 198DAVENPORT. גדעון טומשוף, ישראלי שמתגורר בטורונטו, סיים את לימודיו הגבוהים כמהנדס באוניברסיטת באר שבע, לפני שעשה הסבה רשמית בקולג' לאמנות ועיצוב של אונטאריו בין השנים 6-1993- ומאז הוא מרבה להציג ברחבי קנדה וארצות הברית.

ציורי השמן שלו הם אבסטרקטיים, מקרינים אוירה ייחודית ומביאים את המתבונן להרהר על החלל והמרחב שבין דברים. שילוב הצבעים מאד בלתי רגיל ובי הוא הישרה שלווה מבורכת. שווה מאד לבקר שם- עד חמש בערב כל יום כולל שבת.

בנסיבות מאד שונות מציג הצייר הישראלי אבי זיו אב תערוכה מתחלפת במסעדת משו משו שבספדיינה וילג', שם עודדו אותו הבעלים האלבניים להתשמש בקירות המסעדה להציג את ציוריו וצילומיו. זוהי חוויה מאוד ייחודית והיא זוכה לתגובות נלהבות של המבקרים במקום. אבל שישאר בינינו.

**מה יהיה**

בישראל מתנהל ויכוח גדול האם נשיא מצרים הבא ינתק את הקשרים של ארץ הנילוס עם ישראל ויבטל את הסכם השלום. נראה די ברור שאם ייבחר נציג האחים המוסלמים- כך יהיה. מעניין יותר האם המועמד השני ,הגנראל שאפיק, שהיה ראש ממשלתו האחרון של מובאראק, גם הוא ילך בדרך זו כדי לרצות ולהסות את ההמונים. לשאלה זו יש משמעות רצינית, כי מאז נפילת מובאראק הפך חצי האי סיני לאזור חסר שליטה, שבו הבידואים מאפשרים ואפילו יחמים פעולות טרור נגד ישראל, ושממנו חודרים אלפי פליטים אפריקניים שמסכנים בצורה מאוד דרמטית את המדינה היהודית. מה שלא יהיה-אביב העמים המוסלמי הולך להיות די מפחיד למדינה הדמוקרטית היחידה במזרח התיכון.

**קצת קלילות לנשמה**

בבית כנסת בטורונטו החליט הרב, לאור גל של גירושין בקרב צאן מרעיתו, להתחיל בחוג לענייני נישואין, כשהרבצן נפגשת עם הנשים והוא נפגש עם הגברים. בפגישה הראשונה הציץ הרב ברשימת המשתתפים שבה כתבו הגברים כמה שנים הם נשואים, וגילה שאיציק נשוי כבר חמישים שנה.

אומר לו הרב: "כל כך נפלא שאתם ביחד כבר חמישים שנה! בוא ספר לנו כמה מהדברים שעזרו לכם להגיע להישג כזה".

עונה לו איציק:

" תמיד השתדלתי לתת לה מה שהיא רוצה, לשמור על בית כשר ולכבד את השבת. והשיא היה ביום הנישואים ה- 25 כשלקחתי אותה לטיול נפלא לישראל!"

התפעל הרב ושאל אותו" "ומה אתה מתכנן, איציק, לחגיגות החמישים לנישואיכם?"

ענה לו איציק ללא היסוס:

"אני נוסע לישראל להביא אותה חזרה".....

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# Parliament calls on IOC for moment of silence

Compiled by CJN Staff

The House of Commons last week unanimously adopted a motion that calls on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to hold a moment of silence at the 2012 London Olympics in memory of the 11 Israeli athletes and coaches killed by terrorists 40 years ago at the Games in Munich.

With adoption of the motion, the Canadian Parliament became the first in the world to call for a moment of remembrance.

That move came after John Baird, minister of foreign affairs, and Bal Gosal, minister of state for sport, wrote to IOC president Jacques Rogge supporting Israel's request for a minute of silence. Baird also phoned Rogge last week to express "strong support" for an official commemoration, a foreign affairs spokesperson stated.

The IOC has consistently refused Israel's request, saying it has paid tribute to the athletes on other occasions. Palestinian Black September terrorists murdered the athletes after invading the athletes' village.

Irwin Cotler

Liberal justice and human rights critic Irwin Cotler proposed the House motion. Following its passage, Cotler told Parliament, "Civil society groups and political leaders around the world have been calling on the IOC to hold a moment of silence at the opening ceremony of the London Games. I am delighted that the Canadian Parliament is the first to unanimously support this call.

"The adoption of this motion is part of our responsibility to remember the victims of this terrorist assault 40 years ago – the duty of memory. I am pleased that all parties have worked together in common cause and hope the IOC will accede to our request."

Earlier, Baird and Gosal had urged Rogge to reconsider the IOC rejection of Israel's request for a moment of silence, "given the gravity of the events that took place in Munich in 1972.

"This terrorist attack targeted not only Israel but the spirit and goals of the Olympic movement. Given the impact of this tragedy, on the Olympic community as a whole and the world, it should be marked publicly as part of the official opening ceremony of the games, not just by the Israeli delegation," the letter states.

In Australia, meanwhile, Prime Minister Julia Gillard was joined by opposition leader Tony Abbott, state premiers and other dignitaries in calling on the IOC to hold a minute of silence.

Rogge has rejected Israel's suggestion that the Munich tragedy should be recognized during the opening ceremony. He has said that he would attend a special service in London and that IOC officials would attend memorials organized by the Israelis.

## *CONCERT RAISES SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS*

**Violinist Vadim Gluzman performed a private concert at a recent evening hosted by Esther and Sam Sarick, to raise funds for a Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation (CICF) scholarship. The $67,000 raised will benefit young Israeli artists. Top Israeli artists in music, theatre, art, design, film, television and dance will select scholarship winners. From left are Karen Green, CICF Toronto chapter president, Sam Sarick, Esther Sarick and Gluzman.**


DID THE LOSS OF A FAMILY MEMBER BEFORE JUNE 14, 2010, RESULT IN A CORONER'S INVESTIGATION AND AUTOPSY?

IF SO, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AN ORGAN WAS RETAINED AFTER AUTOPSY AND KEPT FOR FURTHER TESTING.

When deaths are investigated, pathologists sometimes retain an organ to help determine the cause of death.

In the past, family members may not have been notified that an organ had been retained. Now, families are routinely notified when an organ is retained and their wishes regarding final disposition of the organ are sought wherever possible.

The Ontario Forensic Pathology Service is reaching out to anyone for whom the loss of a family member before June 14, 2010, resulted in a coroner's investigation and autopsy.

**Immediate family members and personal representatives (i.e. those responsible for administering an estate) are invited to contact us to find out if an organ was retained in their case.**

Affected families and personal representatives may request that the organ be sent to a funeral home for cremation or burial. Expenses will be covered by the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service and the Office of the Chief Coroner.

Organs retained before June 14, 2010, will be respectfully disposed of beginning on June 14, 2013. This is in accordance with regulations made under the Coroners Act.

**A toll-free telephone line has been set up. Contact us at 1-855-564-4122 or visit our website at Ontario.ca/OrganRetention.**

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# Jewish groups welcome curbing of Nazi salute

Compiled by CJN Staff

**MONTREAL** — Quebec student leaders say they will try to curb anti-tuition hike demonstrators from using the Nazi salute again.

Both B'nai Brith Canada and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) denounced the gesture last week as unacceptable and insensitive to Jews and others, whatever the intention of those who do it.

A relatively small number of young people raising their arms straight out, and sometimes goose-stepping, has been observed occasionally at the demonstrations, which began in March and sometimes attract thousands.

However, the impact of the salute has been magnified by the circulation of images on the Internet.

The saluting has been directed at police as a taunt, to say that demonstrators believe the police are acting like fascists. The French acronym of the Montreal police department, SSPVM, is also said to have provoked the Nazi mockery.

Martine Desjardins, president of the largest student group organizing the daily protests, mainly in downtown Montreal, contacted both B'nai Brith and CIJA to apologize immediately after the two groups voiced their objections.

She said she understands how hurtful this reminder of the horror of World War II is and that it has no place in the students' campaign.

The demonstrations have expanded to include a denunciation of Bill 78, the emergency legislation enacted in May to quell the social unrest, and general discontent with the government.

Desjardins heads the largest student organization in the province, the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FEUQ). Speaking via Twitter, the much smaller and generally considered most radical of the student groups, CLASSE, also urged an end to any mimicking of Nazi gestures.

"Regardless of the intentions, it is deeply offensive to Jews and non-Jews," said David Ouellette, CIJA's associate director for Quebec public affairs. "It defiles the memory of the Holocaust and is an assault on Quebec society, which lives by the rule of law."

He added that it "reflects a disturbing lack of awareness of the true nature of Nazism… But our understanding is that it does not express sympathy for Nazism. We will be monitoring the situation."

Ouellette said he is grateful for Desjardins having responded "quickly and unambiguously" to condemn the Nazi imagery.

But he said it's not surprising, because CIJA and its predecessor organizations have maintained a good relationship with FEUQ, and its members have taken part in organized trips to Israel and the Jewish community's Fête nationale receptions, for example.

B'nai Brith CEO Frank Dimant also welcomed the swift apology and assurance from Desjardins that she will make every effort to curtail this behaviour.

"We reiterate our call to all other Quebec student organizations, protest groups and individual students to refrain from hateful gestures that have caused shock and outrage throughout the Jewish community and are tremendously offensive to all Canadians."

# *Focused now on school*

**Continued from page 3**

"I love speaking… because at the first year at the relay when I spoke during the luminary ceremony, someone contacted my mom afterwards and said… she used parts of my speech to speak to her son when he got diagnosed and it inspired him, so that was rewarding."

Although Levine is cancer-free, she said she still has some bad days.

"I'm still so tired, either from the surgery or the radioactive iodine treatment – we don't really know what's causing it. But I still get really tired and some days it's hard to get out of bed, and my immune system is a lot lower so I get frequent infections, one after another after another."

Since her recovery is taking a little longer than she anticipated, she decided to take a year off before enrolling in university to fully recuperate.

But Levine, who maintained a 95 per cent average before she started getting sick, isn't letting her recovery keep her from volunteering and giving back to her community.

"I volunteer at my synagogue, Temple Anshe Shalom, and I've been involved with both the youth groups," she said, adding that she was on the executive for both the Temple Anshe Shalom Cool Crew, as well as the Temple Anshe Shalom teen youth group.

"Also, at school, there's a social action club called Haven and I've been involved for all four years of high school."

She said the group organizes fundraisers and food drives for non-profit groups.

But for now, Levine is focusing her attention on graduating from high school and reaching her goal for the Canadian Cancer Society.

"I would be so grateful to anyone who'd be willing to donate, and I hope together we can find a cure for cancer."

# Alleged assault charges; splitting RRSPs; hemlines.

**Family Matters**
by
**John Syrtash**
B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Counsel
Garfin Zeidenberg LLP
Family Lawyer & Mediator
for 31 years

**Question:** I recently have been unfairly charged by the police for allegedly assaulting my wife. The charges are ludicrous. But I have been excluded from the matrimonial home pending the hearing of the charges. The children live at home with her. Does this mean she now has custody of them?

**Answer:** Absolutely not. However, it does put you in a very disadvantageous position. As time goes by and the children continue to live in the home where they have been normally residing, the status quo of that home being their appropriate place of residence is reinforced. It is imperative that failing negotiations to reassert your position as an 'equal parent' with perhaps something approaching equal time with the children, you consider court action to obtain as much time with the children as possible.

The children's relationship with you should not have to change, especially if you are truly innocent of these charges. Unfortunately, given the reality of the justice system, it takes so long for the charges to be disposed of, that by the time it happens your relationship with them may well be negatively affected.

If mediation with the mother fails it may be important to contact a qualified and competent family law lawyer to ensure that the Court understands the need for the children to have as much contact with their father as possible, no matter how strained the relationship between their parents may be.

**Question:** My wife and I are separating. I have RRSPs that I do not wish to cash but that I do wish to split with my wife now that we are going our separate ways. However, I am afraid to do so because of the tax consequences. Once I've cashed an RRSP, I then have to bring it into my income for that calendar year. What do you advise?

**Answer:** Canada's Income Tax Act permits a transfer tax free of any portion of your RRSPs to your spouse on separation if it is provided for in a properly drafted separation agreement and if you sign a prescribed form it has for that purpose. You can obtain this form online or from any office of the Canada Revenue Agency and file it with your tax return.

You would be wise to consult a competent family law lawyer before proceeding. These RRSPs are only one of many details that should comprise your separation agreement. Unless you're prepared to study family law for several years, it's best to let an expert handle it.

If the answer to your RRSP question comes as a pleasant surprise, a consultation with a family law lawyer may well yield pleasant surprises about other details of your separation or divorce. At the very least, it will help prevent the *unpleasant* surprises that often result from a well-intentioned but ill-advised "do-it-yourself" agreement.

**Question:** My wife has sole custody, but I don't like the way she allows my 14-year-old daughter to dress in very immodest clothing, even though her school allows it. I have complained to my ex about her lack of proper attire several times. I am terrified my daughter will become pregnant one day. Is there anything I can do about this?

**Answer:** No, you cannot. Any intervention on your part could result in legal action against you. Being loving and supportive to the degree you can, within the parameters of your separation or divorce agreement — and setting an example of modesty in your own lifestyle — is probably a more productive approach.

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# Camp Massad celebrates its 60th anniversary

Myron Love
Prairies Correspondent

**WINNIPEG** — Camp Massad, the only Hebrew-immersion summer camp in Western Canada, is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

Former campers and counsellors are invited to come and celebrate the anniversary at an alumni reunion from Aug. 24 to 26.

"We are anticipating between 100 and 150 people will come out for the weekend," said Hart Jacob, a member of the reunion's planning committee and a former Massad program director.

Capacity at the camp, which is located about a 45-minute drive north of Winnipeg, is 170.

Camp director Daniel Sprintz said that almost every former program director and numerous former counsellors and campers have already signed up for the reunion, eager to sing old cabin songs, debate Maccabiah scores, dance to Rikudei Am, and write and perform shtick for Café ben Leumi.

Massad has, from the beginning, offered a camping experience unlike any other Jewish camp in Western Canada. First of all, it is a Hebrew-immersion camp. The camping experience also features such traditional camping activities as swimming, hiking and a variety of sports.

Massad grew out of the Talmud Torah Hebrew School and Zionist youth groups. The campsite at Winnipeg Beach was originally a Habonim camp. With the founding of the State of Israel, most of the Habonim leadership were anticipating making aliyah.

One of the Habonim youths, Soody Kleiman, had spent nine months in Israel, where he had learned about two Hebrew-speaking camps that were both Camp Massads – in Pennsylvania – and he felt that one could work for Winnipeg as well.

On his return to Winnipeg in 1952 before making aliyah, Kleiman and some friends were able to get support from the leadership of the Karen Hatarbut organization (Labour Zionists) in Winnipeg for a Hebrew-immersion camp.

Among Kleiman's most important supporters was Rabbi Abraham Kravetz, the principal of Talmud Torah, who promoted the new camp among his students. "Our Habonim camp had always kept kosher," Kleiman said. "And we had a Shabbat service."

Kleiman became the new camp's first senior counsellor and program director. Ed Yuditsky, the principal of the Talmud Torah in Regina, became the camp's first director.

Leona Billinkoff was recruited to be the first administrator. Billinkoff had been a volunteer at Talmud Torah and had impressed Rabbi Kravitz with her abilities. She turned out to be an inspired choice to lead Massad. She served in that role for 25 years and left her stamp on Massad.

It was also helpful that Billinkoff's late husband, Alec, was a builder by profession. He helped build up the camp's physical infrastructure.

"The programs we set up are little changed to this day," said Kleiman, still vigorous as he nears 80. "I am delighted that the camp has succeeded so well."

Kleiman did make aliyah in 1954, but returned to Winnipeg with a wife and young family four years later. He said that his only involvement with the camp after returning to Winnipeg was through his sons.

The reunion will focus on the creative side of Massad, Jacob said. That includes sing-alongs and Israeli dance and skits and songs in the evenings, as well as Shabbat dinner and services. During the day, former campers and staff will take part in water and sports activities. Reunion participants will be in cabins with their peers.

For more information about the reunion, call 204-477-7487 or e-mail info@campmassad.ca.

**Campers at Camp Massad in 2011** *[JL Photography]*

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# CJA donors lose option to allocate funds

**WINNIPEG** — The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg will no longer allow contributors to the annual Combined Jewish Appeal campaign to allocate their own donations.

Donors have been allocating their gifts between the community and Israel for nearly 40 years, but local leaders have decided to stop the practice. With this change, the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg falls in line with other federations in North America.

"Our allocation of funds raised has been based on community needs since day one," said Bob Freedman, the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg's longtime CEO. "Each of our local beneficiaries makes a presentation to the allocations committee, which is chaired by the federation board treasurer. The committee members are representatives from all walks of Winnipeg Jewish life, and they take their responsibilities very seriously.

**Jewish Federation of Winnipeg president Rael Ludwig, left, and CEO Bob Freedman**

"This year's committee will be the last to deal only with local needs. Effective with the 2012 campaign, our community's donors will make their gift to the annual campaign, and the 2013 allocations committee will distribute funding to local, national and overseas needs. The process will be expanded to include a presentation from Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA on behalf of national and overseas beneficiaries. In effect, the number of beneficiary presentations will go from 11 to 12."

The allocations process is rigorous, and designed to provide donors with confidence that their annual gift is being well spent, he added. Each beneficiary must prove appropriate fiscal responsibility and effective stewardship of the community's money. Donors can now expect that level of confidence to extend to agencies supporting Jews in need around the world.

Winnipeg's "two-line" card dates back to 1974, when the United Israel Appeal and the Community Council combined forces to better meet the needs of the Jewish community at home and away.

Freedman notes that letters have been sent out to all past CJA donors, explaining the change in policy.

"We are encouraging people who have questions or concerns to call us now," he said. "Any time there is a major change, there are some people who want to know what's behind it. We would rather that people ask now instead of when our canvassers are calling."

The letters were sent out near the end of May. So far, there have only been a half-dozen calls, Freedman said.

Over the past few campaigns, the split between the percentage of donations to the local community and funds going to Israel and overseas has been constant at about 70-30. Freedman isn't expecting the allocation split to change dramatically as a result of eliminating the two-line card.

"We just feel that having our allocations committee responsible for all the monies raised makes the process more accountable and transparent," Freedman said. "We are still in discussions with [Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA] Canada about how the new process will work."

He said the new system will give the Winnipeg CJA more flexibility in responding to overseas needs. "If Birthright comes to us asking for more funding, for example, our allocations committee can consider the request," he added. — *M.L.*

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# Israel moves tanks to border with Egypt

JTA

**JERUSALEM** — Israel reportedly moved tanks close to the border with Egypt on Monday after a cross-border attack in which an Israeli civilian was killed.

The move was in violation of the Camp David accords. The tanks were later withdrawn from the area, *Ha'aretz* reported.

The terrorists who infiltrated Israel from Egypt killed an Israeli contractor during a border attack.

The terrorists detonated an explosive device Monday morning near two Israeli vehicles carrying contractors who are working on the border fence between Israel and Egypt. Gunfire was also directed at the vehicles, according to the Israel Defence Forces.

Three terrorists had infiltrated into Israel in a place where the border fence is not yet complete. Some terrorists remained on the Egyptian side of the border, the IDF said.

The incident took place near the Philadelphi Corridor, a narrow strip of land along the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt.

**An Israeli soldier directs a tank headed towards Sinai** *[Flash90 photo]*

Golani Brigade soldiers who arrived at the scene within minutes of the incident opened fire on the terrorists, killing two. One of the terrorists was carrying a large explosive device that went off after he was fired upon, according to the IDF. No terrorists remain inside Israel, Brig.-Gen Yoav Mordechai of the IDF spokespersons unit said.

The attack came a day after two long-range Grad missiles fired from the Sinai Peninsula were discovered in southern Israel.

"We see here a disturbing deterioration in Egyptian control in the Sinai," Defence Minister Ehud Barak said Monday during a meeting with his Polish counterpart, Tomasz Siemoniak, in Tel Aviv. "We are waiting for the results of the election. Whoever wins, we expect them to take responsibility for all of Egypt's international commitments, including the peace treaty with Israel and the security arrangements in the Sinai, swiftly putting an end to these attacks."

IDF troops returned later Monday to the scene of the attack to retrieve the terrorists' bodies, according to reports. A helmet, a vest, uniforms and Kalashnikov rifles were found near the terrorists.

The Israel-Egypt border project currently employs 1,500 workers, according to Ynet.

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# Muslim Brotherhood claims victory in Egypt

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**CAIRO** — The Muslim Brotherhood declared early Monday that its candidate, Mohammed Morsi, won Egypt's presidential election.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian military gave itself the lion's share of power over the new president, enshrining its hold on the state and sharpening the possibility of confrontation with the Islamists.

With parliament dissolved and martial law in force, the generals made themselves the country's lawmakers, gave themselves control over the budget and will determine who writes the permanent constitution that will define the country's future.

But as they claimed victory over Hosni Mubarak's last prime minister Ahmed Shafiq in the election, the Brotherhood challenged the military's power grab. The group warned that it did not recognize the dissolution of parliament or the military's interim constitution – or its right to oversee the drafting of a new one.

That pointed to a potential struggle over spheres of authority between Egypt's two strongest forces. The Brotherhood has campaigned on a platform of bringing Egypt closer to a form of Islamic rule, but the military's grip puts it in a position to block that. Instead any conflict would likely centre on more basic questions of power. At a pre-dawn press conference Monday declaring their win, officials from the fundamentalist group that was banned for decades and repeatedly subjected to crackdowns under Mubarak's rule were ebullient and smiling, as supporters chanted, "Down with military rule."

"Thank God who guided the people of Egypt to this right path, the path of freedom and democracy," Morsi told the crowd at his campaign headquarters in his first appearance since the victory claim.

Final official results are not expected until Thursday. The Brotherhood's declaration was based on results announced by election officials at individual counting centres, where each campaign has representatives who compile the numbers and make them public before the formal announcement. The Brotherhood's early, partial counts proved generally accurate in last month's first-round vote.

The group said Morsi took 51.8 per cent of the vote to Shafiq's 48.1 per cent out of 24.6 million votes cast, with 98 per cent of the more than 13,000 poll centres counted. Morsi is the "first civilian, popularly elected Egyptian president," the Brotherhood proclaimed on its website. There was no immediate comment from the Shafiq campaign.

The question now will be how a Brotherhood president will get along with the military generals who have ruled since Mubarak fell on Feb. 11, 2011, and who will still hold powers that can potentially paralyze Morsi.

The Brotherhood has reached accommodations with the generals at times over the past 16 months, as it struck deals with Mubarak's regime, gaining the Brotherhood a reputation among critics as willing to sell out for a taste of authority.

But after a highly polarized presidential election and the miltary's arrogation of powers to itself, the Brotherhood presented itself as willing to get into a confrontation with the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, the body of top generals headed by Field Marshall Hussein Tantawi, Mubarak's defence minister for 20 years.

Just before the election, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, which has ruled since Mubarak's fall, slapped de facto martial law on the country, giving military police and intelligence agents the right to arrest civilians for a host of suspected crimes, some as secondary as obstructing traffic.

# Neo-Nazi party still strong in Greek elections

JTA

**ATHENS, Greece** — The neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party maintained its strength, winning nearly seven per cent of the vote in the Greek national elections last Sunday.

The fascist party, with its Nazi swastika-like flag and Holocaust-denying leader, leapt to prominence when it entered the Greek Parliament for the first time in the inconclusive elections six weeks ago.

The conservative New Democracy Party, which supports Greece staying in the European Union and honouring its commitments under bailouts it received,

**Golden Dawn party leader Nikolaos Michaloliakos**

won the most votes and will likely form the new government.

Polls and Greek commentators had predicted that support for Golden Dawn would drop in Sunday's election, saying the original vote was a protest against the established political parties held responsible for Greece's economic crisis. However, the party's support dropped only fractionally, from 6.97 per cent to 6.92 per cent in results released Monday. This will give the party 19 lawmakers in the 300-member Parliament.

"It shows we were all wrong and that this is the real percentage of people who support them with their anti-illegal immigrant policy and their Nazi style that they show the people," David Saltiel, president of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, told JTA.

"It is a problem for Greek democracy and we have to see how the parties will react. We hope they will isolate them," he said. Golden Dawn had campaigned on an anti-austerity, anti-immigrant platform, preying on the fears of ordinary Greeks who have seen their neighbourhoods overrun by the nearly 1 million immigrants who have flooded the country from Asia and Africa hoping to use it as a gateway to the European Union.

After the first election, Golden Dawn leader Nikolaos Michaloliakos — who came to prominence when he won a seat on the Athens City Council in 2010 and celebrated by giving the Nazi salute at the first City Hall meeting — gave an interview in which he denied the existence of gas chambers at Nazi death camps.

# *Trying to 'demystify' the book*

**Continued from page 1**

Anyone who wants to read the book can download a copy anyway, he noted, and its ban "probably even raises the fascination with Hitler among some teens."

Actually, it's "a very boring book and no kid will like to read it," said political scientist Thomas Lutz, who heads the memorial museums department of the Topography of Terror Foundation at the site of the former Gestapo headquarters in Berlin. "A special edition may be helpful as a further possibility to deal with the Nazi period, but I would not overestimate its impact."

Hitler wrote his rant against Jews and communists while in prison in 1923 following his attempted coup in Munich. After he came to power in 1933, many editions were published, including one given free to newlywed couples and one to mark Hitler's 50th birthday in 1939.

"The Nazis tried to put the book everywhere," said historian Christian Hartmann of the Institute for Contemporary History, which is advising the state's Agency for Civic Education on the educational excerpts.

Following World War II, the Bavarian Finance Ministry inherited the copyright from the publisher, and until now, it has barred publication in Germany in an effort to limit the spread of Hitler's ideology. But that does not stop publication elsewhere.

"Of course, Hitler is a fascinosum," an object of fascination, Hartmann said. "Evil is always fascinating, and you can't prevent that." Accordingly, the book "is one of the most purchased in the world – more than 12 million copies have been sold. Here, where it was banned, people have read it secretly.

"What we are trying to do is demystify *Mein Kampf* and make it what it is: a historical source and nothing more," Hartmann added.

Amid Hitler's inaccurate accounts of personal and world history are hints of what would come, he said. "Such things as the Holocaust, the attack on the Soviet Union, relations with France and Italy, attempts to form a union with Great Britain – these are in the book. It is a kind of master plan for his later deeds."

Documentary evidence of those deeds can be seen at the House of the Wannsee Conference in Potsdam, just outside Berlin. On a glass-topped display table in a ground-floor room are facsimiles of the minutes of the meeting of Jan. 20, 1942, where the "Final Solution" was mapped out. Adolf Eichmann wrote the protocol.

On a recent visit, students from St. Ursula High School of Geisenheim viewed the pages intently.

"In the course of the practical implementation of the final solution, Europe will be combed through from west to east," Eichmann wrote in one section. "Any first-degree *mischling* [person with one Jewish parent] to be exempted from evacuation will be sterilized in order to prevent any progeny… State Secretary Dr. Buhler… had only one favour to ask: that the Jewish question in this territory be resolved as fast as possible."

People "could have known" what was coming if they read *Mein Kampf*, said teacher Annette Zschatzsch, looking at the display with her students.

"But people did not read it."

As for whether it would be useful for students to read the book, David, 17, said he thought it would be good for students aged 16 and older to have access to explanations and a "watered-down version."

Zschatzsch, who graduated high school in 1984, noted that she and her classmates also were able to read parts of *Mein Kampf* excerpted in textbooks, "but the degree to which it was used depended on the individual teacher."

# Canadian helps African refugees in Israel

**Viva Sarah Press**
CJN Israel Bureau

**TEL AVIV** — Lilah Jaffee came to Israel for some hands-on humanitarian experience and found it as a volunteer at the African Refugee Development Center (ARDC).

"When I came to Israel, I didn't even know there was an African refugee problem. I thought I'd be helping asylum seekers get refugee status, but that's not the case," Jaffee told *The CJN*. "What I thought I was getting into and what I do are completely different. But this has been the most amazing internship for me."

Jaffee, 25, who has an MA in international affairs from Carleton University, is in Tel Aviv on MASA's Career Israel program. The initiative offers young people from around the world the opportunity to enrol in an internship in Israel.

The ARDC is a non-profit organization founded in 2004 by refugees and Israeli citizens to assist and support refugees and asylum seekers in Israel. There are approximately 60,000 African migrants in Israel.

When Jaffee started her four-month internship, she was working to help refugees leave Israel and resettle in Canada or Australia on the basis of humanitarian sponsorship.

Not all the Africans she has met, she said, are interested in staying in Israel. Many see Tel Aviv as a way station to better promised lands.

"But midway through my internship, we realized that Australia hadn't accepted anyone and Canada had only accepted seven people from Israel. It seemed like all our work was not paying off," she said.

Now, she is trying to help asylum seekers reunite with their families in Europe or North America. She said one case she was working on involves a man from Sudan who says his wife was resettled by the United Nations in the United States.

"The stories we hear are how they feel unwanted, that they feel they deserve rights that they aren't getting. Overall, there's a lot of anger and frustration and disappointment at how their lives have turned out. It's hard not to sympathize with them," Jaffee said.

And though she could have stayed in Canada to work with refugees, Jaffee says she chose to come to Israel because her Birthright trip here in 2008 left her wanting to return.

So, she signed up to intern at the ARDC. The centre's office is located in Tel Aviv's Old Bus Station, at the heart of the migrant workers' community.

**Lilah Jaffee**

Jaffee's internship has afforded her a taste of both Tel Avivs – that of the migrants and that of other residents. A 20-minute bus ride from the ARDC office takes Jaffee to her rented apartment in downtown Tel Aviv, which is a walk away from the beach, bars, theatres, designer stores, cafés and restaurants.

"I love Tel Aviv. I think it's one of my favourite cities," she said. "I live right in the middle of everything."

And while she is quick to praise Israel for its outgoing lifestyle, when she returns to the offices of ARDC, she is equally as swift to object to Israel's course of action toward the African migrants.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently ordered his ministers to accelerate efforts to deport citizens of South Sudan, the Ivory Coast, Ghana and Ethiopia who are living in Israel illegally. He said that while it's not possible to expel refugees whose lives would be at risk in their home countries, holding facilities for them must be built in the Negev as quickly as possible.

"Israel is not doing a good job. No country has had a perfect record for dealing with refugees, but Israel needs to do better. It needs to figure out a policy," said Jaffee, who hopes to continue working with refugees upon her return to Canada.

Asked about Canada's infamous "none is too many" policy during World War II, Europe's tendency to turn away African boat people before they even touch land and the Egyptians shooting migrants along their border, Jaffee said that the Israel Defence Forces has been "really receptive and good to them. I think there is a magnifying glass on Israel. But still Israel needs to do better."

# Orthodox fuel NYC Jewish population growth

JTA

**NEW YORK** — The New York City area's Jewish population is growing, in large part due to its Orthodox community, a comprehensive study has found.

There are 1.54 million Jews living in 694,000 Jewish households in New York City and three suburban counties, an increase of nine per cent between 2002 and 2011, according to the *Jewish Community Study of New York: 2011*. The figures in the study, released last week, show the New York area with the largest Jewish population anywhere outside of Israel.

The study, sponsored by UJA-Federation of New York, was conducted from Feb. 8, 2011, to July 10, 2011 by Jewish Policy & Action Research, led by Dr. Steven Cohen. Some 5,993 self-identifying Jewish adults from New York City and suburban Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties were interviewed by telephone. The poll's margin of error is plus or minus two per cent.

According to the study, 32 per cent of the New York area's Jews are Orthodox. Orthodox households are home to 61 per cent of all Jewish children in the New York area.

The total number of Jewish children and young adults under the age of 25 has grown by 66,000 since 2002. Meanwhile, the number of Jewish senior citizens also has risen since 2002, with 45,000 more Jews age 75 and above.

Some 361,000 people – both Jews and non-Jews – live in poor Jewish households, defined by the study as having an income of under 150 per cent of the federal poverty line. Some 43 per cent of chassidic households are identified as poor.

On the subject of Jewish engagement, the numbers of Orthodox and nondenominational Jews each increased by more than 100,000 over the past decade, while the numbers of Conservative and Reform Jews each decreased by about 40,000. Twenty-two per cent of married couples are intermarried, and some 40 per cent of non-Orthodox married couples are intermarried. Of the non-Orthodox couples married in the past five years, 50 per cent are intermarried.

## Israel Briefs

***Schalit a sports columnist***

Gilad Schalit has found his calling for now, accepting a position as sports columnist for Israeli daily *Yediot Achronot*. Schalit, who was abducted by Gaza militants in 2006 while serving in the Israel Defence Forces and held captive for more than five years, is an avid basketball fan and Maccabi Tel Aviv fan and has even attended a workout with the team. He also attended the NBA All-Star game in Orlando, Fla., in February. Schalit told family and friends that during his captivity, his guards allowed him to view sports on TV, something he said helped him pass the time and keep his mind active.

***No pardon for Pollard***

The White House reiterated last week that it has no intention of releasing Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard on humanitarian grounds amid Israeli President Shimon Peres' Washington visit to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Peres asked U.S. President Barack Obama for Pollard's release during a private meeting the same day, and Obama reportedly "did not close the door" on the idea.

***Forbes names richest rabbis***

Forbes Israel has released a list of the 12 richest rabbis in Israel. The richest is Rabbi Pinchas Abuhatzeira, 36, who lives in Be'er Sheva with his wife and five children. His estimated wealth is NIS 1.3 billion ($334,947,000).

***Israeli singer popular in Iran***

Despite political tension between Israel and Iran, an Iranian-Israeli singer has gained significant popularity among music lovers in the Islamic Republic. Rita Jahanforuz was born in Iran but immigrated to Israel as a child. As one of Israel's most famous singers, she's known simply as Rita in the Jewish state. Her latest album, *All My Joys*, reinvents Persian songs in a Mediterranean style popular among Israelis. The album went gold in Israel in three weeks, but also became secretly popular among Iranians.

*– Files from JointMedia News Service*

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# Canadians invited to invest in Israeli infrastructure

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

When attorney Yehudah Raveh considers the opportunity he's offering investors and compares it to the alternatives available to high net-worth individuals, he feels as if he's got a leg up on the competition.

These are difficult times all over the world, yet Israel, for all its political and security issues, boasts a thriving economy and lots of public spending, he said. In the next few years, the government is poised to spend at least $8 billion, perhaps as much as $12 billion (all figures US) on major infrastructure projects, and the private sector is invited to get in on the action.

Enter the Israeli Infrastructure Fund (IIF), a limited partnership Raveh co-founded in 2007. It pools the capital of foreign and Israeli contributors, and invests it in various companies that develop and operate infrastructure projects.

In its first phase, the IIF invested $845 million in a half-dozen projects, including a major highway, a power plant and a gas pipeline. That fund is now closed but a second fund, IIF II, will follow the lead of the first and invest in companies that will bid on infrastructure projects, Raveh said.

Yehuda Raveh

Zale Newman

And there are some big ones coming soon. The government of Israel is planning to move most of its military training centres to the Negev Desert, fulfilling David Ben-Gurion's dream of populating Israel's south. Some $2.5 billion has been allocated for that, said Raveh, whose expertise is in project finance.

IIF II has already invested in Hayovel Lines Ltd., which has a contract to design, build, operate and maintain Road 431, which runs south of Tel Aviv to Modi'in, for 25 years.

Another investment is in Derech Eretz, which won a contract to build, operate and maintain Highway 6 for 30 years.

Projects on the horizon include a light-rail system for Tel Aviv, with an estimated cost of $3.5 billion; a railway linking Eilat to the country's centre that will run in the neighbourhood of $2.5 billion; a new airport to be constructed just outside Eilat.

"I'm here to meet high net-worth individuals who are capable or agreeable to invest $5 million or more in our fund," Raveh said during a recent visit to Toronto.

He acknowledges the $5 million could be a barrier to some, and that's where Zale Newman comes in. Newman is president of Bond Street Mercantile, a firm that makes investments in Israeli infrastructure accessible more broadly.

Bond Street has created the Canada-Israel Infrastructure Fund, a limited partnership that serves as "a feeder fund that puts together a group of smaller investors who bring together the $5 million," he said.

Open to accredited investors, each is asked to put up at least $100,000.

IIF is one of several Israeli investments offered by Bond Street.

"Anybody who loves Israel should put a percentage of their assets in Israel," perhaps one-10th, Newman said.

"We're looking for investments that are steady, low risk with good returns," he added.

> *'Anybody who loves Israel should put a percentage of their assets in Israel'*

He chose the IIF as a vehicle for Israeli investments because of its five-year track record as the "oldest and largest infrastructure fund in Israel."

"This limited partnership in Canada gives the average investor the chance to partner with the biggest investors… Every doctor is a candidate, every major Jewish philanthropist is a candidate," he said.

In effect, they can piggyback on the knowledge and contacts of well-connected Israeli players. IIF is co-managed by a company controlled by Raveh, by Harel Insurance, one of the country's largest insurance and finance groups, and Yaron Kestenbaum, formerly director of the Public Private Partnership Projects division in the Israel Ministry of Finance.

"Less than one per cent of Canadian Jews have an investment in Israel," said Newman. "We're trying to strengthen this connection to Israel and give them a good return."

The investments offer a lower risk and are safer than the Canadian stock market or real estate, he said.

IIF II closes in August, Newman said. "When they invest, the goal is to sell off within five years."

In the best-case scenario, investors receive their capital back, a capital gain as well as an income stream for the duration of the investment, Newman said.

Bond Street also offers other funds that invest in Israel.

If Raveh is unfamiliar to many Canadians, Canadians are quite familiar to Raveh.

"The law firm has long been connected with Canada," he said. "We represented Canadian Pacific when they had business in Israel and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan [when it acquired] an interest in Israel Chemicals, and some individuals."

"My first involvement with infrastructure was 15 years ago when I was approached by the chairman and CEO of Aecon Construction."

That firm had participated in the construction of Highway 407 in the Toronto area, and they intended to participate in a tender to build a toll road in Israel, he said.

Aecon won the bid. "Our firm and me personally have been very much identified with infrastructure, and we developed a well-known expertise on infrastructure projects," Raveh said.

His "good friend" Yair Hamburger, whose family owns about half of Harel Insurance, approached him in 2007 to put together an infrastructure fund.

In its five years of existence, the IIF has earned annual returns of more than 19 per cent, Raveh stated.

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# A graphic celebration of Yiddish culture

**Bill Gladstone**
Special to The CJN

In lieu of baseball cards, some American Orthodox boys have turned in recent decades to collecting Torah personality trading cards that feature images of revered *gedolim* (giants) from Moses Maimonides to Rabbi Moishe Feinstein, with lists of famous published works on the back in lieu of batting statistics. The happy invention of a Baltimore accountant, Torah Personalities cards have been available (in packs, but minus the bubble gum) since 1989. Rare cards reportedly sell for hundreds of dollars.

The devolution of high-minded rabbinical lore into the arena of popular American culture has a certain parallel in the recent publication of *Yiddishkeit: Jewish Vernacular & The New Land* (Harry N. Abrams), a collection of graphic writing about Yiddish culture edited by Harvey Pekar and Paul Buhle.

Pekar, who died in July 2010, has become a sort of "Gedolim" in his own right. A self-admitted "shlump" who led a lonely existence as a lowly file clerk in Cleveland, he teamed up with R. Crumb and other comic-book artists to transform the dross of his life into gold. Using stick figures, he wrote and drew short autobiographical pieces that the artists spun into *American Splendor*, a wondrously ironic and highly popular comic-book series.

When the eponymous movie came out in 2003 with Paul Giametti playing Pekar, it completed the latter's transformation from zero to hero and brought him a measure of success and renown. In a Wikipedia entry devoted to him, Pekar is quoted as saying that *American Splendor* is "an autobiography written as it's happening. The theme is about staying alive. Getting a job, finding a mate, having a place to live, finding a creative outlet." One imagines he died more contented and fulfilled for having made a genuine mark upon the world.

*Yiddishkeit*, the book, is a graphic celebration of Yiddish culture that includes several major pieces by Pekar in collaboration with his talented artists. We learn that his first language was Yiddish and that, as an adult, he developed advanced tastes in Yiddish literature.

However, although finely illustrated by Dan Archer, his two pieces recounting the history of classic and modern Yiddish lit are uneven, wordy and idiosyncratic. Appearing as himself in the cartoon, Pekar complains at one point that Isaac Bashevis Singer is "so overrated it makes me sick. James Joyce never got a Nobel Prize but I.B. Singer did. Wonderful – maybe next year Harold Robbins'll get it." The anthology is also saddled with a 42-page script called *The Essence, A Yiddish Theatre Dim Sum* that, whatever its virtues on the stage, pales to blandness on the page.

These failings aside, there are many gems here. The series of page-long cartoons by Joel Schechter and drawn by Manuel (Spain) Rodriguez are particularly fine in the way they dramatize pivotal and legendary moments in Yiddishkeit. *Robeson Sings Yiddish* chronicles the great American singer's visit to Moscow in 1949 where he performed a concert in Yiddish. During his historic trip, Robeson asked the Soviet authorities if he might see his two Jewish friends, and was told one was on holiday and the other had died in an automobile accident. In truth, one had been imprisoned and the other murdered by the KGB.

*Chayale Ash's Day in Court*, also by Schechter and Spain, presents the tale of the Romanian actress and troupe who were arrested in Haifa in 1948 for performing in Yiddish because the government "was afraid Yiddish would overtake Hebrew, the national language." Ash and troupe countersued, emerged victorious and resumed their performances. *Mark Twain Translated*, another Schechter-Spain cartoon, dramatizes the memorable meeting of Sholem Aleichem and Mark Twain – the one being "the Jewish Mark Twain" and the other "the American Sholem Aleichem."

In the editor's introduction to a three-page graphic depiction of Yip Harburg's Depression-era song *Brother Can You Spare a Dime?*, we learn something new about the left-leaning lyricist whose greatest contribution to popular culture may have been the lyrics in *The Wizard of Oz*. Evidently the word "rainbow" did not "exist in the literary original of *The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum. It was Harburg's key addition and, right-wing critics accurately charged, implied an idyllic socialism."

Several pieces are pleasantly drenched in nostalgia for the Yiddish New York of a century ago, from Rivington Street to Second Avenue. *Coney Island*, Nathaniel Buchwald's lively and flavourful Yiddish essay from 1926 (translated by Hershl Hartman), wonderfully conveys the sights, sounds and smells of that crowded beach paradise, while Peter Kuper's fine illustration perfectly captures its essence. And a fascinating set of cartoons from the old American Yiddish satirical journal *Der Groyser Kundes* (*The Big Stick*) seems to convey a world of information about the vanished milieu of the Yiddish theatre.

There are odes to the cinema here, too. *Abraham Lincoln Polonsky*, a piece about the American screenwriter of *Body and Soul* and *Force of Evil* (script by Dave Wagner, Paul Buhle, Peter Kuper; art by Kuper), is a stark and lovely depiction of the accomplished film-noir genius. An overly long depiction (12 pages) of Edgar G. Ulmer's 1937 film *Green Fields*, as retold and drawn by Sharon Rudahl, at least provides the occasion for the editors to recall Ulmer's worthy contributions to American cinema.

Although not particularly dramatically rendered, a three-page cartoon about Aaron Lansky, founder of the National Yiddish Book Center, rightfully attempts to canonize him in the pantheon of Yiddish underdogs and heroes that this book seeks to immortalize.

A peculiar mixture for sure, and some of it questionable, but there is still plenty to satisfy in this odd grab bag of Yiddishkeit.

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## EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

### WRITERS MICHAEL CHABON, HOWARD JACOBSON TO READ AT HARBOURFRONT

**Michael Chabon** and **Howard Jacobson** are among the impressive roster of writers due to participate in the 33rd annual International Festival of Authors at Toronto's Harbourfront from Oct. 18 to 28.

Chabon's works include *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* (2000) and *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* (2007), while Jacobson wrote the Man Booker Prize-winning *The Finkler Question* (2010). They will be joined by **Paul Auster, Richard Ford, Vincent Lam, Rohinton Mistry, Alice Munro, Robert Rotenberg** and many others. www.readings.org

* * *

**Between Stages:** *The Kalamazoo Diaries*, a new comedy in development by **Natalie Fingerhut**, is set in a medieval-studies conference and explores the question of what can we really know about the past. **Esther Arbeid** directs a staged reading featuring a cast of seven. Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, Tuesday, June 26, 7 p.m. Suggested donation $10. 416-924-6211, ext. 606.

* * *

**War of 1812:** Two hundred years ago this week, the United States declared war on Britain and its colonies in Canada. Yap Films has produced *Explosion 1812*, a two-hour documentary about the American attack on Toronto (then called York), preceding which the British blew up their own munitions, resulting in a huge blast that rattled windows 50 kilometres away. "It was the largest explosion that had ever been witnessed in North America and the pivotal moment of the entire war," said executive producer **Elliott Halpern**. The film aired this week on History Television and is being rebroadcast on Canada Day, July 1.

* * *

**Literary Buzz: David Bezmozgis**, who won a Canadian Jewish Book Award this month for his 2011 novel *The Free World*, told Eye On Arts at the awards ceremony that he is working on another novel. The story is set in the Crimea in the modern era and extends to Israel and Ukraine. However, unlike *The Free World*, it has no Canadian connection or characters.

Bezmozgis is also working on a feature film adaptation for *Natasha*, the title piece in his acclaimed story anthology of 2004. "If everything works out, it will be filming here next summer and I will direct it," he said. The Toronto-based author and director (whose 2008 film, *Victoria Day*, is a competent and impressive piece of work) also reminisced about his first time in print. His first published story, he said, was a travel piece on the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, N.Y., which ran in *The CJN* about 1997.

* * *

**Musical Buzz:** Reports have reached us that there were some sour notes during a recent concert by Galilean-born Arab **Simon Shaheen** at the Royal Conservatory of Music's Koerner Hall. Oh, the music was all right, but in conversation Shaheen, who graduated from the Academy of Music in Jerusalem in 1978, so assiduously avoided uttering the word "Israel" that people got upset. Shaheen referred to Haifa and the Galilee as being part of Palestine and the RCM interviewer politely played along. Isn't it about time for Palestinian nationalists to face the music that Israel really exists?

* * *

• **Book Launch Postponed:** The launch of the book *Letters & Pictures from the Old Suitcase*, which had been scheduled for June 28, has been postponed until the fall.

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• **Adam Nayman** continues his analysis of the films of **Stanley Kubrick** with a discussion, illustrated with film clips of *Eyes Wide Shut*. Miles Nadal JCC, Monday, June 25, 7 to 9 p.m. $12 drop-in, students $6. 416-924-6211, ext. 606.

• Active Seniors presents light classical music performed by string quartet. $3 includes refreshments. Miles Nadal JCC, June 28, 1:30 p.m. Music begins 2:10 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 155.

• Toronto IsReal Dance Festival offers a weekend of Israeli dancing with top choreographers with the latest moves, plus a mini Karmiel Dance Competition. Presented by Israeli Folk Dance Toronto and the MNJCC. Miles Nadal JCC, June 29 to July 1. Pre-registration required. 416-221-6280, www.israelidancetoronto.com

• July 3 is the submissions deadline for the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition. esthera@mnjcc.org or 416-924-6211, ext. 606.

* * *

**At the Galleries**

• *Summer Special* is a Koffler Gallery offsite exhibition that opens at Honest Ed's, 581 Bloor St. W., June 21, 6 to 9 p.m. Ed's hand-painted signs and show bills serve as inspiration for six artists who have installed pieces within the iconic bargain department store. The artists are **Corinne Carlson, Robin Collyer, Barr Gilmore, Jen Hutton, Sarah Lazarovic** (whose pieces grace the *National Post*) and **Ron Terada**. Until Nov. 11.

• *Aging Is Living*, a collection of photographs by **Irene Borins Ash**, aims to tell "myth-breaking stories from long-term care." Continues at the Miles Nadal JCC until July 22.

* * *

**Out of Town:** The exhibition *Enemy Aliens – The Interment of Jewish Refugees in Canada, 1940-1943*, opened this month at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. Toronto **Rabbi Erwin Schild**, author of *The Very Narrow Bridge* and himself a former interned refugee, was a guest speaker at the opening. The exhibit focuses on Canada's wartime internment of some 2,300 young refugees of Nazism. Until June 2013. www.vhec.org

# *Neil Diamond to play several Canadian cities*

**Marvin Glassman**
Special to The CJN

Neil Diamond could easily settle into retirement and look back at his nearly 50-year recording career during which he's sold 125 million records and had 39 Top 40 hits.

But Diamond is not ready to get out of the spotlight yet. He is currently on a 31-city North American concert tour that includes Canadian stops in Montreal, Toronto, London and Vancouver.

He has much to beam about, especially about events in his life over the past two years. Diamond recently married for the third time, to his 41-year-old manager, Katie McNeil. He was inducted into the Rock And Roll Hall of Fame in 2011 and ended that year as a Kennedy Center honoree for lifetime achievement in the performing arts.

"I feel so fortunate to make my dream a lifetime's work. Having Katie with me, being honoured over the past two years – I am as excited about singing and songwriting now as I ever was. I feel that I have been rejuvenated. I'm looking forward to another 20 years of singing and songwriting," said Diamond in a phone interview from his home in Los Angeles.

He has sold more records in his career than most artists half his age, yet seems to be humble enough to avoid the excesses of stardom. Diamond's last two CDs, *Twelve Songs* (2005) and *Home Before Dark* (2008), gave him the status of being the oldest artist to reach No. 1 on the Billboard music charts.

Opening his tour in Fort Lauderdale on June 1, Diamond sang 29 songs in a two-hour concert without either an opening act or intermission. Dressed in a black shirt and black pants, he performed his most beloved songs from the past five decades, ranging from his first hit *Cherry, Cheery* (1966) to *Hell Yeah* (2005) with his 14-piece band.

Most memorable for Diamond fans were his singing his signature tunes, *America; I Am I Said; I'm a Believer* and *Sweet Caroline*, which fans sang along with him.

"I am grateful that after all these years, people resonate with my songs. I try to be honest and truthful in everything I do – just the same as when I was struggling in the 1960s. But for me, it is not the fame or money that moves me – it is the challenge of expressing myself in new songs."

Neil Diamond

Diamond recreated, to a degree, his Jewish upbringing when he starred in the film *The Jazz Singer*, a remake of the tale of a cantor who found fame as a pop singer.

"Even though my parents wanted me to become a doctor and not a cantor, the film is a tribute to my Jewish heritage.

**Continued on page 37**

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# *Film documents flashpoint in Arab-Israeli dispute*

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

**Israeli soldiers face Palestinian demonstrators in Bil'in, which is cut off from its olive groves by Israel's security barrier.**

Since 2005, the Palestinian village of Bil'in, a bedroom suburb of Ramallah four kilometres east of the old Green Line, has been the venue of weekly demonstrations to protest the construction of Israel's security barrier, much of which cuts into the West Bank and physically divides Arab communities.

The villagers, mostly farmers who tend mature olive tree groves, oppose the fence because it separates them from nearly two-thirds of their agricultural fields and signals an intention by Israel to seize yet more of their lands.

Typically, the residents, backed by Israeli and international peace activists, have marched to the barrier to disrupt work on it, prompting intervention by the Israeli army. In these clashes, two Palestinians have been killed and many more have been injured.

Emad Burnat, a Palestinian born in Bil'in, has been recording these events with video cameras for the past seven years. Drawing on more than 700 hours of this footage, he and Israeli filmmaker Guy Davidi have produced a jolting 90-minute documentary, *5 Broken Cameras*, which opens June 22 at the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema in Toronto.

The title is a reference to the number of Burnat's cameras that have been rendered inoperable by violence as he has documented these developments.

Burnat bought his first video camera to film his new-born son, Jibril, but after Bil'in was divided by the route of the barrier, he began focusing on the troubles that the barrier brought to the village.

Being a highly personal and subjective film, *5 Broken Cameras* addresses the issue from a purely Palestinian perspective, concentrating on the confrontations that have pitted the villagers against Israeli troops, on the one hand, and the bitter verbal exchanges that have erupted between Palestinians and Jewish settlers, on the other.

Beyond these ugly outbursts, it deals with the role that Israel's Supreme Court has played in this ongoing struggle and conveys the Palestinians' deep attachment to their land.

The film, however, is flawed.

No mention is made of the fact that Israel's decision to build the barrier was directly motivated by a spate of Palestinian suicide bombings from 2001 onwards that virtually traumatized Israel.

And although Bil'in is widely regarded as a model of non-violent Palestinian resistance to the barrier, which has been deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice, *5 Broken Cameras* all but ignores Palestinian stone-throwing incidents that have injured Israeli soldiers.

Although the film does not dwell on the complexities of the Arab-Israeli dispute and therefore lacks evenhandedness, it underscores the bitterness that lies at the core of this enduring and seemingly intractable conflict.

# *Singer embraces Judaism*

**Continued from page 36**

"I worked very hard to retell this classic story of a Jewish cantor who left his expected place in society for a world in show business," he said. "I loved the retelling of the Jewish experience. So much of the story reminds me of my grandparents and their kind of life. They were immigrants to America and taught Yiddish to me as a child.

"I wanted Yiddish in this movie. In fact, I tried to convince the director at one point to have the whole opening in Yiddish with subtitles, as they did in *The Godfather*. Yiddish is a beautiful language, and I wanted to do my part to keep it alive," added Diamond, whose first language at home was Yiddish, taught to him by his grandmother.

Born in Brooklyn in 1941 to Akeeba and Rose Diamond, young Neil knew he wanted a career in music, but to satisfy his father's wishes for a stable career, he enrolled as a pre-medicine student at New York University.

After taking his first job as a songwriter for $50 weekly in 1961, Diamond was hooked on a music career ever since.

Although he has some disdain for organized religion, he wants to embrace Jewishness and raises funds for organizations he admires.

"I am Jewish. I believe in God, love the traditions I learned growing up, and tend to be very spiritual, so I want to pass on to my four grandchildren all I know about their heritage," he said.

Following the end of the concert tour in September, Diamond will be going on a six-month honeymoon to New York, Israel and Italy, among other destinations.

"I want Katie to know everything about me and my past. Aside from my natural ties to New York City and Israel, my mother has relatives in Italy, so we look forward to a wonderful journey together," he said.

*Diamond performs in concert at the Bell Centre, Montreal, on June 21, the Air Canada Centre, Toronto, on June 26, the Labatt Centre, London, on June 28, and the Rogers Arena, Vancouver, on July 21. For links to tickets and concert dates at all Canadian cities, go to www.neildiamond.com.*

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# Maccabi hockey tryout attracts talented players

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

When 22 Canadian skaters take to the ice in Metulla next summer to compete in the Maccabiah Games, they'll be wearing official Team Canada sweaters – the same uniforms worn by Canadian teams at the Olympic Games and World Championships.

Hockey Canada has given Maccabi Canada the green light to use the jerseys, along with other hockey apparel, said Alex Voihanski, manager of Maccabi's Team Canada. It's a testament to the stature possessed by the Maccabiah Games and signals to players that the event is held in high esteem, he said.

Judging from the quality of the competition at tryouts last week, Team Canada should have plenty of good players to justify using Team Canada uniforms.

About 50 skaters took part in scrimmages at the Pavilion sports complex north of Toronto. Among them were professionals or NHL draftees; NCAA Division I and III players, plus junior and major junior players. They auditioned in front of a battery of Maccabi coaches, headed by former NHL bench boss Mike Keenan.

The coaching staff, which includes OHL coaches Greg Gilbert (Saginaw) and Mike Polino (Peterborough), was suitably impressed, said Voihanski. There's an embarrassment of riches in the Jewish community when it comes to high-end hockey talent, he said.

In addition to the players vying for a spot on the "open" team, another 90 or so tried out for the under-19 squad. Mario Cicchillo, head coach of the Toronto Junior Canadiens and coach of the under-19 team, said a lot of AAA to A calibre players were on hand. Two weeks before, at tryouts in Montreal, 27 kids showed up; 11 skaters and three goalies made the cut to the second round of tryouts.

"Quite a few could play on the Junior Canadiens. I think we've got a pretty good crop here in Toronto," said Cicchillo, who served as head coach of Team Ontario at the World Under 17 Hockey Challenge in 2009.

Junior hockey will be making its debut at the Maccabiah Games in 2013, though the "open" version has already been a medal sport at the Games. In 1997 Canada won a gold medal in the sport. The Canadian team was loaded with quality players, led by AHL skater Harold Hersh, the brother team of Mikhail and David Nemirovsky (David played for a time with Florida Panthers before ending his career in the KHL), ex-NHLer Brian Wilks and bolstered by youngsters (and future NHL draftees) Michael Henrich and Cory Pecker.

As in 1997, the United States is expected to provide Canada with the stiffest competition. Israel and France round out the competition.

Judging from the quality of players at the tryout, the Canadians should be good starting from the goal out. Among a talented group of netminders, Daniel Altshuller possesses the most impressive hockey resume. Altshuller plays for the Oshawa Generals of the OHL and is rated by NHL Central Scouting 12th among North American goalies heading into the 2012 entry draft.

**Goaltending should be a strength for Canada at the 2013 Maccabiah Games.**

Playing for the Nepean Raiders in the tier two Central Canadian Hockey League in 2011, he was selected to the OHL-dominated Team Ontario and backstopped the squad to a gold medal in the World Under-17 Tournament. Later, he was Canada's number one goalie at the Ivan Hlinka Memorial Under-18 Tournament, where he won another gold medal and was named player of the game in the final game.

Others vying for goaltending duties include Cody Rosen, a New York Islanders draft pick who plays for Clarkson University in the NCAA, and Kevin Kliman, who played for Brown University. Two other prospects who could not attend the camp include Mark Segal, a goalie with Vancouver Giants of the Western Hockey League from 2009 to 2011, and Josh Tordjman, who played two games for the Phoenix Coyotes during a four-year AHL career. He now backstops EC Red Bull Salzburg in the Austrian Hockey League.

Up front, brothers Michael and Adam Henrich stood out at the tryouts with their size, skating and skill. Michael was a first-round pick, 13th overall, by the Edmonton Oilers in 1998 – the highest ever for any Jewish player – while Adam was selected 60th overall by Tampa Bay in 2002. They play in the Italian pro league and two years ago were on the same team and led the Asiago Lions to a championship.

Zach Hyman, drafted by the Florida Panthers in the fifth round in 2010, played for the University of Michigan this past season. Zach Sternberg, a defenceman with Lake Superior State of the NCAA stood, out as did Andrew Calof, a centre for Princeton University.

Dylan Smoskowitz, who played the last two years with the Barrie Colts and Benjamin Rubin, who played for Patrick Roy's Quebec Remparts in 2006-07 and in France this past season, were also impressive, Voihanski said.

"Rubin had an excellent camp," he said. "Playing in Europe has done wonders for him… He has NHL-calibre skating."

A number of players who were unable to attend the tryouts are still in the running for the final roster, Voihanski said. Among there are Winnipegger Jacob Micflikier, who plays for the AHL Hershey Bears; Vancouver native Trevor Smith, second leading scorer on the Calder Cup champion Norfolk Admirals; Barrie Colt Daniel Erlich, and Ethan Werek, a 2009 second-round pick of the New York Rangers who played last season with the Portland Pirates of the AHL.

Voihanski said he plans to reach out to Calgary Flame Mike Cammalleri, but believes injury concerns and prohibitive insurance costs make the participation of NHL players unlikely.

Still, no one has yet turned down his offer to participate in the tournament.

"We've gotten very enthusiastic responses from the players. A lot of guys were into the fact it's a real Maccabiah tournament where you walk into a stadium in front of thousands or people," he said.

Players are also impressed with the quality of coaching. "They'll be playing for a staff they've never played for thewir entire lives. Between the coaching staff, the opportunity to represent Canada and [the fact] it's the Maccabiah Games, the response was tremendous," he said.

**Adam Henrich, left, and Matt Silcoff are hoping to play in Israel next summer.**

At the rink, the enthusiasm was apparent. Matt Silcoff, 19, took part in the World Cup of Jewish Hockey in Metulla three years ago. A left winger who'll attend Middlebury Collegiate, a Division III school in Vermont next fall, he said that "it's a good level of hockey. There are a lot of good players here fighting for a few spots."

Adam Henrich said he was excited to hear hockey was returning to the Maccabiah Games. "It's a pretty big tournament, and it's an honour to play for your country, your religion," he said.

Henrich spent 10 days in Israel on a personal trip two years ago and hopes to return on the same team with his brother. "Ideally, that's what we're here for," he said.

Dustin Laren, 22, played for Canada at the World Cup of Jewish Hockey. "It was one of the most fun trips of my entire life. Everyone's so close, you're in Israel and you have the chance to represent Canada as a hockey player. It's unbelievable," he said.

Unfortunately, not all the prospects will make the final 22-man roster or five-man reserve unit. Fourteen guys were thanked for their efforts after the first day of scrimmage and didn't return for the second.

That still leaves a core of about 35 players whom the team's management will monitor over the next few months. The deadline for submitting a roster for the Games is May 31, 2013, and a decision on the Canadian team won't be made until next winter – sort of like Hockey Canada's timetable for the Olympic Games, Voihanski said.

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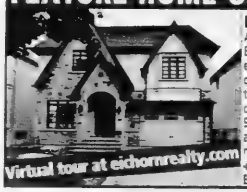


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# Seeking the fate of three missing soldiers 30 years later

**Hillel Kuttler**
JTA

**JERUSALEM** — Soon after the war in Lebanon began in June 1982, Avigdor Chen's tank unit fell into a trap. Artillery rained from high ground occupied by the Syrians near the village of Sultan Yacoub. The battle continued all night.

When dawn broke, Chen saw a struck Israeli tank some 100 yards away. With smoke billowing from it, the tank rolled downhill. Chen ran toward the now-stopped tank. He smelled burning human flesh and looked inside. The commander, Zohar Lipschitz, was dead. Chen ventured no further into the tank, knowing that another shell could follow imminently. Chen later learned that Yehuda Katz was also inside the tank.

Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz

Katz, then 25; Zachary Baumel, 21, with whom Chen had been friends since basic training; and a third soldier, Zvi Feldman, 22, have been missing ever since that battle, which took place 30 years ago, on June 11. Not a single letter, photograph, video clip or third-party message from them has reached the outside world, nor has any proof of their deaths emerged.

"I really feel strongly that there may be a chance that some of these guys are still alive and that there's still hope," Chen said. "People in Vietnam went missing for so many years and they turned up."

But, he added, "they're on the radar much less than they used to be. There's not even a blurb about them."

With Gilad Schalit's release last October from more than five years in Hamas captivity in Gaza, Israeli MiAs fell from public consciousness. Long before Schalit's release, Baumel, Katz and Feldman were all but forgotten, unreported in negotiations over prisoner exchanges. No leftover, Schalit-era demonstrations are being recycled or protest tents filled to demand the trio's freedom or proof of their fate.

The Israeli media recently began marking the Lebanon War's 30th anniversary. In one radio interview, a brigade commander mentioned the missing trio in passing – but not by name.

The silence is striking for a country that values memory so highly and takes such pride in its soldiers. Within days of the 2006 seizing of Schalit by Hamas and the kidnapping of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev by Hezbollah, posters and placards proclaiming: "Return Our Sons to Their Borders" adorned Israel's lampposts. Two summers later, the country fairly stopped in its tracks to watch television coverage of the bodies of Goldwasser and Regev being repatriated at the Rosh Hanikra border crossing in a prisoner swap.

The longer Schalit remained in captivity, the more intense became the public relations campaign by Israelis to press Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to secure his release.

Meanwhile, Ron Arad, held prisoner since bailing out from his shot-down combat fighter over Lebanon in 1986, remains a household name.

"That was a bit telling: that people didn't put these three soldiers in the same place they put Ron Arad, Schalit and [Goldwasser and Regev]," Arieh O'Sullivan, a veteran writer on Israeli military affairs, remarked about the radio interview. "These three never had a public outcry to get them back because the military never had a public outcry to get them back."

"They've been forgotten," said Efraim Inbar, director of Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies. "They disappeared, as if the ground swallowed them up."

Explanations abound for the societal distinctions: the public presumed the three soldiers dead almost from their moment of capture; the 2009 death of Baumel's father, Yona, sapped the movement of its most vocal advocate; the three MiAs were single, while Arad's wife and baby daughter lent powerful poignancy to everyone's nightmare of a soldier disappearing; people and their causes move on.

> *'They've been forgotten'*

The Israel Defence Forces officially classifies Baumel, Feldman and Katz as "missing." The soldiers' parents have fought periodic IDF initiatives to declare the men dead without producing proof of their fate. Thirty years later, Baumel's mother, Miriam, retains hope.

She and her late husband tirelessly knocked on every door to obtain Zachary Baumel's freedom. They met Israeli government leaders, IDF brass, foreign officials, Red Cross representatives, Diaspora Jewish community members, journalists – anyone who might help obtain proof of their son's fate. They lobbied the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that then-president Bill Clinton signed into law in 1999, calling on the State Department to press Arab governments to provide information on the three Israeli MiAs.

Later this month, Miriam Baumel will travel to England to seek out a British diplomat who reportedly witnessed the parading of three kidnapped Israeli soldiers – perhaps her son, Katz and Feldman – through Damascus streets just hours after their capture. She will address Jewish audiences in London and Manchester to rally support.

Visit our new website @ heebonics.ca HEEBONICS

# Advocate fights for Israel despite 'tough environment'

**Joshua Goodman, right, with Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird at the American Jewish Committee Global Forum in Washington, D.C., in May.**

**Cara Stern**
Special to The CJN

For the past three years, Joshua Goodman has called Brussels his home, but he's hardly ever there for long. His love of Israel advocacy has him hopping all over Europe.

"Right now, I have two suitcases, small and large, that permanently stay at the foot of my bed," says Goodman, who is always ready for an impromptu trip.

The 31-year-old Toronto native is the communications director for the American Jewish Committee. His job is to advocate for Jewish issues all over the continent. One day, he might be in England, the next in Austria and then in France.

"From the looks of it, I will only be in Brussels maybe one or two weekends until the end of August," he says. "Not that I'm complaining."

Goodman started out at York University's Schulich School of Business, but decided after a few weeks that he wanted a more worldly education. He moved to the history department, which he calls the best decision he's ever made.

His interest in the Middle East grew during his undergraduate studies, leading him to a master's degree in Middle Eastern history at Tel Aviv University.

"It was a wonderful experience to live in Israel," he says, describing it as an eye-opener into the issues Israelis face on a daily basis. "Whenever you heard a loud bang, your first thought was always negative."

He recalls sitting with his friends, catching up on the latest news.

"Too often the news was terrible," he says. "It was a sobering reality, whatever your opinions were. This was average life in Israel."

Inspired by his experiences, he began a career in Israel advocacy that brought him first to Washington, D.C., and then to Brussels.

Although he loves living in Brussels, he says life there can be difficult because of the widespread anti-Israel attitude.

"There's so much focus on the mistakes Israel is making in the peace process and not so much on the Palestinian role," he says. "A lot of the legitimately good friends of Israel are critical."

The AJC Brussels office is one of five in Europe. As part of its advocacy, it also runs a radio show about international politics on the local Radio Judaica.

A large portion of Goodman's work involves meeting with people who are anti-Israel and building bridges with those who have opposing views, such as foreign ministers from the Arab world, he says.

His trick in discussions with people who disagree with him is to focus on portions of the arguments that can be won.

"You're not going to win the argument that settlements are legal, but you can perhaps persuade them that settlements are not the core issue and are not the reason there isn't peace right now."

Usually, his Judaism isn't an issue, he says, but he has noticed some fear among other Jewish people living in Belgium.

He recalls one surprising situation when he was visiting a Jewish school. The weather was stunning and he could hear birds chirping happily, when suddenly he was approached by armed police officers questioning his reason for visiting to the school, trying to ensure the safety of the children.

"It's almost like this enclave of happiness was surrounded by fear," he says.

Israel advocacy runs in Goodman's family. Both his parents, Sheldon and Lindy Goodman, are involved in the Jewish community, holding positions with the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) and the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, among other organizations.

"They can't blame me for choosing the career path I did," he says, adding that it can be quite difficult to live so far away from his family, but he loves his new home.

"In a way, I was returning back to where my family came from," he says, referring to his mother's roots in Antwerp, Belgium.

"It's where my family left partly because of negative circumstances," he says. "It's nice to come back and rebuild Jewish life here."

Despite the challenges that come with working in sometimes hostile situations, he says he loves fighting to promote Israel and Jewish issues, and has no immediate plans to return home.

Ultimately, he says the work is worthwhile and important to Jewish communities all over the world.

"You always have to be up to date and on your toes to find out how you can influence the decision-making process," he says.

"It's a tough environment to work in, but that's what drives me."

More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca

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# Share information to save

We last left a mythical board of a synagogue/school with a question: "Would changing lights in the building result in a real 78 per cent cost savings?"

Readers posted comments on *The CJN* website, including a City of Toronto representative and a lighting company (http://bit.ly/cjntsj19-comments).

However, the most interesting observations, unrecorded on the website, came from a team of middle school junior energy auditors from the Toronto Montessori Jewish Day School, where learning is facilitated through self-discovery, using guided conversations and experiments.

***Sustainable Jew***

***Fred Winegust***

The conversation started with a video that looked at the science behind climate change and ways to reduce energy generation requirements by changing consumption habits (http://bit.ly/climatereality-billnye).

The students, who were split into junior energy auditor teams, developed an understanding of their own family's consumption patterns, with each team contributing data on the number of family members at home and the size of the home. They also pulled data from their family's electricity and gas bills.

The teams then compiled a table of monthly consumption numbers, sharing the information they had. By putting numbers side by side, the students saw patterns emerge, and this prompted a discussion about kilowatt hours and consumption.

Why do two same-sized houses with an equal number of occupants have different consumption patterns? Did this apply to schools and synagogues, too?

In the home discussion, big-screen TVs, refrigerators, washer/dryers, dishwashers, microwaves and electronic chargers were identified as devices that consume electricity. The light bulb discussion led to an expedition to the school building and the synagogue that houses it. The students counted the number of fluorescent lights that consumed electricity in two portable classrooms. Moving to the main synagogue building, they were confronted with multiple lighting types and many incandescent, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), warm lights, cool lights, spotlights and chandelier bulbs. They asked how long the lights were left on, how long the bulbs would last, how long it takes to change a bulb and the effects of esthetics due to different light colours. Back in the classroom, the students started to put it together: how much lighting was there in the school versus the synagogue, how long were the lights left on and how does that build up to kilowatt hours, and how is the school charged for energy consumption within its monthly rent?

However, unlike at home, there was no utility bill the junior energy auditors could look at to see the total kilowatt hours consumed.

Without that bill, the students concluded there was no incentive or monetary value for the school to conserve energy, as there was no way to quantify the impact. They did see the value of conserving energy at home where behaviour changes could be tracked to quantified consumption reductions.

The Montessori learning method helped students experience first-hand a systemic Jewish community issue, the non-transparency of energy data. Would making consumption data visible to a tenant/school, leading to reduced consumption/operating costs, be a disadvantage to a landlord/synagogue by leading to reduced revenues?

Transparency needed? Discuss!

*Winegust@gmail.com*

**DEEP-DISH CHOCOLATE CHIP CARAMEL TOFFEE COOKIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 c flour | 2 lg eggs |
| 1 tsp baking powder | 1 tblsp vanilla |
| 1 tsp baking soda | 1 c semi-sweet chocolate chips |
| 3 sticks butter, softened | 1 c caramel bits |
| 1 c white sugar | 1/2 c toffee bits |
| 1 c brown sugar | |

Preheat oven to 375°. Coat small ramekin type baking dishes with non-stick cooking spray. In medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda. In mixer beat butter, white sugar, brown sugar until creamy; beat in eggs and vanilla. Gradually add in flour mixture. Stir in chocolate chips, caramel, and toffee. Scoop 1/3 c cookie dough in each ramekin. Place ramekins on cookie sheet; bake 20-25 min. or until golden brown, but still soft. Cool on wire rack 5-10 min. before serving. Top with ice cream and extra toffee bits if desired.

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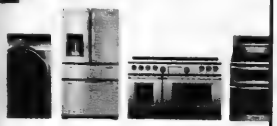

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## On cjnews.com

*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

French Rabbi Michel Serfaty, a leader of Judeo-Muslim dialogue in France, who talks about the impact the recent murder by an Islamist of a rabbi and three Jewish children in Toulouse will have on Jewish-Muslim relations there.

*Exclusive to cjnews.com*

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa says that the size of the Israeli community in Canada is growing and that new immigrants are arriving at an accelerated pace.

Topkapi Palace is the jewel in Istanbul's crown.

**Education Minister Michelle Courchesne**

Quebec Education Minister Michelle Courchesne under fire from the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ), affirmed that any school in the province that does not conform to the law will face sanctions and possible legal action. She was defending herself against the CAQ's charge that her department is lax in enforcing the law, and she insisted that the opposition party is spreading false information about the funding of certain private religious schools, including a number of Jewish ones.

# Consider the message of chalk art

Life is all right there – with all its nuances – so, when I see them, I jot them down in a BlackBerry file called "ideas." There they are ready to use. They are available. Here are some moments, interactions, I was witness to or part of. You can define them any way you like.

• I was talking to some litigation lawyers at Ve'ahavta. I thanked them for their volunteer work. They told me that, in the course of the day, their clients rarely thank them. Do we think we don't have to thank them because of their hefty hourly rates? But is that sound reasoning? Shouldn't we thank them for their caring? My family lawyer cared.

***Urban Writer***

***Avrum Rosensweig***

• I've discovered there are a number of different ways to spell the Almighty's name. I was reading a newspaper, and to my surprise, there was the word "Gawd." I'm familiar with G-d spelled by those who believe that the Omnipotent's name is not to be tossed out with the rest of the paper. I know the word God, which is for those who likely put less stock in His written name. But "Gawd"? It seems somewhat redneck, the way "gosh" or "golly" would be. It's quite something that we are so meticulous about the Almighty's written name. Why? Do we who believe in God believe so much?

• A man I know was booted out of his home. One of my staff, Theresa Schrader, invited him to her house. He took her up on it. Theresa didn't have an extra bed, so he slept in her five-year-old son's bed. I asked many people if they would do the same thing, or at least free up their child's bed for a guest to sleep in. I have often met non-Jews who are tenacious in their practice of good deeds, yet make very little fuss about them. Perhaps having the Torah naturally makes us louder about our goodness, like the kid who got all the answers right on her test. Is that true? Would you ask or tell your child to sleep on the couch for a guest?

• Now here's an interesting one that naturally follows from the previous story. I've learned that there are many children who become very close with a neighbour, particularly those children who feel somewhat neglected at home. It's as if they are adopting a parent or have found a parent figure in the woman or man down the street. One of my dear friends who grew up *frum* and somewhat impoverished told me about his neighbour who took a liking to him, introduced him to airplane models and took him to events around the city.

I know a man who, when he was a child, became like a son to the guy next store because he didn't have a father and was invited to all their family celebrations. How wonderful, I thought, that people would extend themselves like that and feel such compassion for the kid down the block. Have you "parented" a child who you sensed needed it?

Throughout the day when you are excited about your own quote, write it down. If someone else's words move you, do the same. Watch your surroundings. Consider the course of the floating leaf or the message of the sidewalk chalk art. Life is a series of nuances all laid out in front of us to figure out. Or they are not.

*Avrum@veahavta.org*

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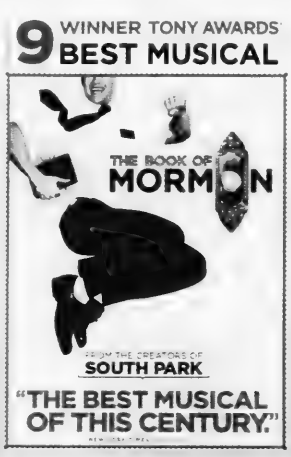


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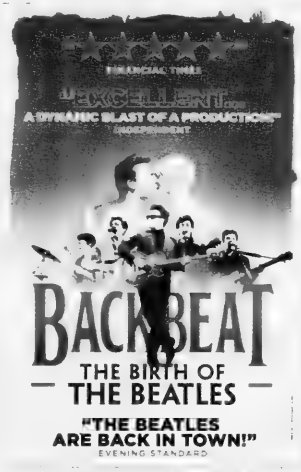


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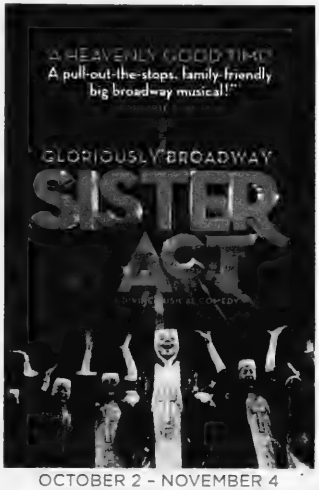


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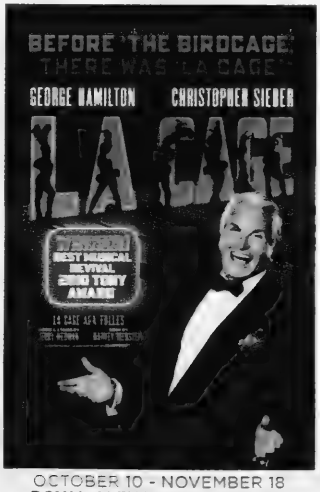


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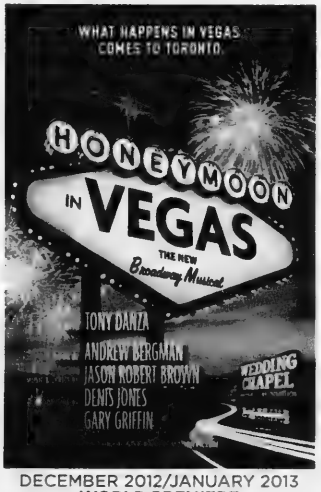


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# Tribute to Israel

[Mickey Alon photo]

The Canadian Jewish news

Section B

## 'To better the world'

Like most countries, Israel is full of people. And like most people, Israel's are all colours, all sizes, all manner of reprobates, saints, ordinary folk and many who rise above the fray. And, like people everywhere, they are all works in progress

Indeed Israel itself, born a scant 64 years ago, is a work in progress.

In the early 1970s, it was still a Third World country. Today, less than four decades later, it is among the main drivers throughout the world of advancements in every applied field of science and technology. Hardly a day passes without a new innovation or advancement announced involving Israelis in areas of the environment, medicine, biology, electronics, engineering, agriculture, information and high technology.

Just last week, for example, it was reported in the scientific journal *Molecular Neurodegeneration* that researchers from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology faculty of medicine identified a biomarker comprising five genes that can predict Parkinson's disease with high accuracy. The discovery has enormous implications in the treatment of the disease, perhaps in delaying its onset, and perhaps even one day in its prevention. The only way to diagnose the disease currently is to observe the symptoms only after they appear in the patient.

Or, as reported on the website Times of Israel also last week, an Israeli scientist, Daniel Hillel, has been awarded the World Food Prize. The prize, created by Norman Borlaug, the winner of the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize, honours those who fight against global hunger. Hillel won for a micro-irrigation system he developed. Hillel's system carries water through narrow plastic pipes to plants, where it drips or trickles on to the roots. He has revolutionized agricultural practices around the world by enabling food to be grown in some of the harshest, driest climates on Earth while conserving scarce, precious water. Hillel has brought life-saving technology to dozens of countries in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and South America. Apparently, people from Egypt, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates supported Hillel's nomination for the award.

These are just two recent announcements of Israeli innovation. There are countless.

The reason we call readers' attention to them, however, is to point out and emphasize *why* they came about. What was the motivation that led to the research, the labour, the findings, the inventions in the first place?

That motivation happens to be the very same one that brought the handful of Israelis, seen in the photo above, many thousands of kilometres away to a remote classroom of young students in Japan.

Editorial

The Israelis are members of IsraAID, an umbrella organization of Jewish and Israeli relief groups that travel the world to provide aid wherever such aid is needed. These rapid deployment Israeli response teams work in conjunction with Jewish communities in the Diaspora, including, significantly, the Jews of Canada. (See the related story on page 6.) They rushed to Japan in the wake of the horrific earthquake and tsunami that struck the island in March 2011 to help its people cope with the monstrous disaster, to help them heal and become whole once again.

IsraAID's founder, Shachar Zahavi, explains that the raison d'être of the group is to help the needy. The group's "innovative response teams have brought a whole new dimension to the world of development work and to the concept of tikkun olam." And, he says without fanfare or self-congratulation, "We must continue our efforts to better the world."

"To better the world" is the very essence and core and heart of the purpose of the existence of the people called Jews and of their sovereign state, called Israel.

Israel is a tiny, imperfect little country obsessively vilified, falsely accused and vituperatively scorned by its enemies and by so many others who wish to see it disappear. And yet, its people, without hesitation or doubt, turn toward humanity, face forward, inclining fully to the challenge and the responsibility to help where help is needed, "to better the world."

And that is why we offer these pages of tribute to Israel. Tribute is well deserved. And we are proud to say so.

# Ethiopian-born Israeli champions higher education

**Abigail Klein Leichman**
Israel21c.com

Pnina Gaday Agenyahu does not remember trekking for two weeks with her mother and elder sister from Ethiopia across the desert of Sudan. She was only three years old when they arrived at a refugee camp waiting to be brought to the home they'd never seen – Israel.

Agenyahu, now 30, was recently appointed as the first Ethiopian-born member of Israel's Council for Higher Education. And as Hillel director at Tel Aviv University since August 2007, she is also the world's only Ethiopian-born director among more than 500 campus clubs run by Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

At a time when Israel is examining its successes and failures in absorbing Ethiopian Jews who began arriving in the early 1980s – their numbers today reach about 130,000 – Agenyahu's achievements are all the more exceptional.

She says she owes much to her mother's decision to move to Haifa after two years in an absorption centre in northern Israel.

"We were the only Ethiopian family in our neighbourhood," Agenyahu says. "On the one hand, it's a privilege to live among a wider family and we missed that support, but on the other hand, my mom understood that here she would be able to raise her kids with more opportunities. It was more challenging to be on our own, and it was lonely, but it also required us to be like the Israelis around us."

Her mother and stepfather could not help with schoolwork as her classmates' parents could. "I had to accept that, but I did not have to accept that this would happen to my own kids. It will be different," pledges the newlywed, who lives in Yehud, near Tel Aviv.

She came to fully appreciate the positive effects of her mother's choice during her second year in an army educational unit. Living in an Ethiopian Jewish neighbourhood of Rehovot, she taught teens leadership skills and helped dropouts get back into school.

"That was the first time I saw that not everyone had grown up like me," she says. "They had much bigger challenges, and many of them had turned to drugs and alcohol. At 19, seeing that broke my heart, and I understood that in my life I wanted to be not only a role model; I wanted to see what I could do to help. Every year, I find a way to volunteer in the community no matter what else I am doing."

Pnina Gaday Agenyahu

From Agenyahu's perspective, success hinges on being aware of opportunities and taking advantage of them. "I see that young [Ethiopian] people today are not always aware of the opportunities in their lives. It's hard to define the doors open to you when you are so focused on your poverty and helping your family."

Her mother worked in a kindergarten and cleaned houses until severe asthma disabled her. Her older sister helped support the family from the age of 12. "In Ethiopia, education was only for those who could be spared from supporting the family. Usually only one of the children could go to school, and in my family that was me. My mom and her new husband pushed me to earn a higher education." Later they sent her younger half-sister and half-brother to college as well.

Agenyahu opted to board at a private girls' high school in Jerusalem. "The quality of education was better than at the public school in Haifa, and they had lots of afterschool programs I wouldn't have had at home because my mom would not have had money for them," she explains.

After the army, she enrolled at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she was disappointed to find few classes and activities relating to Ethiopian Jewry.

"I read everything I could, and almost every assignment I got I connected to my community," Agenyahu says. "At the campus Hillel House, they had Yiddish classes and clubs for English-speakers and Russian-speakers, but nothing for Ethiopians. So I asked the director if we could plan something celebrating the culture of Ethiopian Jewry, and he said I'd need to raise the money for it."

To her surprise, the event attracted not only funding but also about 300 participants. Later, she co-ordinated cross-cultural initiatives such as a Yemenite evening and an Italian-Jewish event, and eventually became Hillel's program director.

After graduating, she taught Zionism and Jewish identity in overseas Jewish communities on behalf of the Jewish Agency. Her near-perfect English is a result of two summers at Camp Ramah in Chicago, and a few months in Australia and England from 2005 to 2006.

Despite her full-time job, Agenyahu is often asked by world Jewish federations to come share her personal story, report on the status of Israel's Ethiopians and explain the need for developing Jewish identity on an Israeli college campus.

"It's not so obvious why we have Hillel groups in Israel," she says. "Judaism in Israel is taken for granted, but most of Jewish life is kept by one 'side,' the Orthodox, while the other 'side' chooses to be more Israeli than Jewish. I always tell people that you can take responsibility for your Jewish identity without being religious."

The programs she began at TAU stress community volunteering with youth at risk, Holocaust survivors, Darfur refugees and children of parents struggling with illness. She gives study sessions connecting this work with fundamental Jewish values. And she facilitates student dialogues between native Israelis, new immigrants and short-term visitors from abroad.

Agenyahu fit the bill when Education Minister Gideon Saar was seeking qualified women and Ethiopians to serve on the Council for Higher Education. This body sets policies and grants accreditation at Israel's 200-plus institutions of higher education.

"The Education Ministry is making efforts in improving education among Ethiopians," she says. "Today there are many questions about the future of our country and how higher education makes for a more equitable society."

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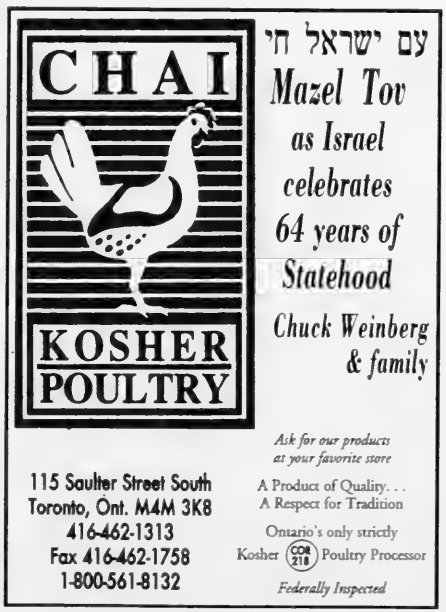
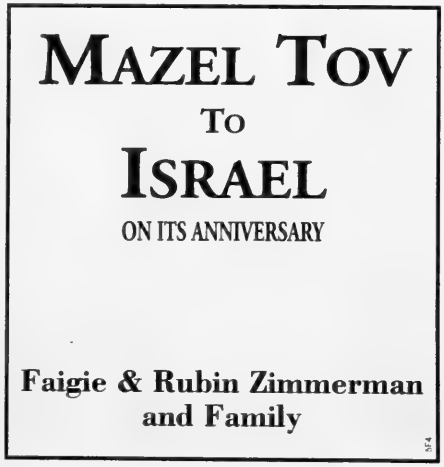


# Israeli named Europe's top young researcher

**Meredith Mandell**
JTA

She's young, smart and aims to help treat life-threatening diseases.

Naama Geva-Zatorsky, 34, is leading the way for Israeli women scientists to gain recognition for their contributions to scientific research.

The Weizmann Institute biologist was in Paris in March to accept the International UNESCO L'Oreal Prize for Women in Science. Dubbed "Europe's top young researcher" by the prize committee, she received a two-year, $40,000 fellowship for her postdoctoral work at Harvard University.

The selection committee cited the "excellence and the originality of her work."

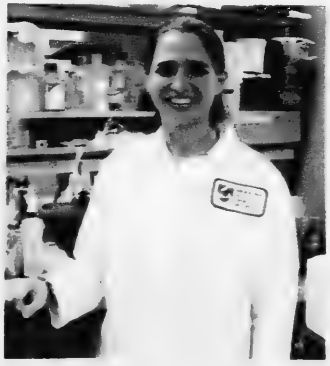
Geva-Zatorsky's research focuses on probiotics, which are commonly known as "good bacteria" and have the potential to treat a variety of diseases.

Geva-Zatorsky, who holds a master's degree and a doctorate in systems biology, believes there is room for more research on the potential benefits of probiotics.

Her lab work has focused on the "good" microbes that live in the human intestines and protect our bodies by stimulating the immune system. Geva-Zatorsky will use her award to continue investigating what leads the bacterial molecule, known as polysaccharide A (PSA), to react this way.

"There are 10 times more bacteria than human cells in the body, and I'm learning how... we interact with them and what the impact is on our health," she said in a phone interview from Brookline, Mass., where she has been living since September 2011 with her husband, Amnon Zatorsky, and their two sons, Yonatan, 5, and Uri, 2.

Despite the growing popularity of probiotics in an array of products – think of kefir, a dairy product made of goat's milk and fermented grains, or the trendy tea-based drink kombucha, not to mention numerous frozen-yogurt confections – both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the European Food Safety Authority say most claims made for probiotic products are unproven.



Naama Geva-Zatorsky

"There's really a lot more that can be studied," Geva-Zatorsky said, noting that researchers already know that probiotics can be used to treat inflammatory bowel disease and now are investigating whether microbacteria can inoculate against multiple sclerosis, a chronic autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system.

Additionally, Geva-Zatorsky said, certain bacteria can make humans develop more fat cells. Someday, she said, researchers may be able to create a pill to help obese people lose weight.

The same bacteria affect emotions, she said, and eventually may be used to treat depression.

Once her postdoctoral work is completed, Naama Geva-Zatorsky plans to return to Israel to set up her own research team to probe how these bacteria can treat a myriad of diseases.

Weizmann biophysics professor Zvi Kam believes Geva-Zatorsky's determination will carry her far.

Noting that experiments are tedious and often fail, Kam said in an email that the young scientist "never complained, never was let down, and never gave up! Her optimistic spirit and joy of doing science was never broken by the tough reality."

Geva-Zatorsky's success is unusual in Israel given a dearth of women working in the fields of science and engineering.

Despite Israel's emphasis on research and development, a 2008 report by the European Commission on Gender Equality pointed out Israel's low proportion of female researchers in higher education – 25 per cent, compared to the 35 per cent average among EU member countries.

Women in the Israeli scientific community were recently outraged and re-energized to speak out about their important role as researchers after a highly publicized January incident in which Channa Maayan, a Hebrew University professor, received an award but was told by Israel's haredi health minister that a male would have to accept it for her.

There are glimmers of light, however, for female scientific researchers. Geva-Zatorsky was among 10 women last year who received a Weizmann Institute of Science Women in Science Award. And she sees momentum at Israeli universities to increase the numbers of women in the field.

She hopes that she can pave the way for others. "I encourage women to be brave and ask questions," Geva-Zatorsky said.

Geva-Zatorsky said gender bias alone is not the only reason that women are less inclined to do scientific research.

Geva-Zatorsky, who grew up in Moshav Ometz, a small cooperative village in central Israel, said her parents "nourished her curiosity and passion."

At 22, she arrived at Tel Aviv University and decided to study chemistry and biology. For her doctorate, she studied how cancer cells respond to drugs and therapies.

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# One rabbi's unforgettable lessons

**Elisha Porat**
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In October 1976 I went up to Jerusalem to study Judaism. Friends had recommended that I try to cure my ongoing shell shock, dating from October 1973, by immersing myself in the ancient Hebrew texts. My friend, the writer and thinker Yariv Ben Aharon, suggested that I also study with Rabbi Prof. David Hartman. Yariv had studied not under him, but with him, and they became a student-teacher pair who filled each other with knowledge.

That accursed war had stuck its claws deep inside me. Each of the others in my military unit returned to his home and his work, and they happily resumed their previous lives. I couldn't. The sights and sounds from the burning Golan Heights and the shelled enclave haunted me not only at night, but during the day as well. And even writing poems about memories of the war, to which I became addicted for a short time, didn't help. I walked around my house and the kibbutz like a sleepwalker. Until I took my friends' advice and went up to Jerusalem. The first meeting with David Hartman was moving. Seated opposite me was a man with excellent diagnostic abilities, who within seconds understood who sat before him. He spoke freely in three languages – English, Hebrew and Yiddish – and was surprised that I didn't know a word of our "mamaloshen." He made me a very generous offer, which included financial support for my studies. I found the man very interesting. I felt that he had a strong sense of mission in addition to a genuine passion for teaching. His words about the importance of secularism in Israeli life surprised me. As did his harsh criticism of the religious establishment. We sat in his spacious apartment on Graetz Street, and his wife and children passed through the room several times. He was very proud of them, and his gaze followed them even after they had left. On the spot he gave me a considerable sum of cash, and sent me off to purchase a basic library of Judaism.

That year I studied with him in two classes. One discussed the philosophy of Maimonides and the other dealt with the figure and teachings of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik. I was an independent student, far older than his young students. My curriculum was broader. I also audited Talmud classes, the lessons of Dan Pagis on medieval poetry, and those of Rabbi Menachem Froman, a unique poet and peacemaker.

**Rabbi David Hartman**
***[Photo courtesy SHI]***

Hartman's lessons soon became famous, and a class that would begin with a small group on the Mount Scopus or Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University would end up in a large auditorium. I had never seen anything like the students who would drag their chairs down the corridors in pursuit of their rabbi. His lectures were magical. His young fans sat under the lecturer's desk and recorded his every word. He had an amazing sense of linguistic maneuvering, and he would roam among his three languages with amazing artistry. The transition from Hebrew to English and the seasoning in Yiddish, all in a strong American accent, was fascinating. I often found myself speaking in this broken language with the young American students with whom I shared my tiny cubicle.

After one or two lessons, he had already identified the outstanding students, or those whom he wanted to single out, and he would suddenly turn to them, speaking very personally, above the heads of the other students. It may not have been democratic, but it was wonderful. I remember the respect he showed for Yoske Ahituv, a *talmid chacham* (outstanding Torah scholar) and member of Kibbutz Ein Tzurim. Yoske would regularly come late to class because of the bus schedule. Hartman would stop his lesson, introduce Yoske to his listeners, exchange a few words with him, and include in them respect for the man, his scholarship and his identification with the kibbutz.

Only one thing annoyed me at the time. I remember that suddenly someone would announce, "Gentlemen, Minchah!" and the kipah-wearers in the auditorium would gather for the afternoon prayer. It was embarrassing and unpleasant. We, the secular students, didn't join in. I mentioned it to him politely, and I think he accepted my opinion. He knew how to accept the other at his full value.

Jerusalem had turned into the capital of Israeli optimism, which was undergoing rehabilitation after the war. Gush Emunim was starting out, and Shimon Peres, to undermine the policy of Yitzhak Rabin, opened the doors of Samaria to the settlers. The settlement movement suddenly picked up speed.

**Continued on page B5**

# 'May the man enjoy a good and long life'

**Continued from page B4**

The city was filled with would-be prophets, self-appointed consolers, and all kinds of weirdos and cult leaders. The heavy depression that prevailed in the cities of the coastal plain did not ascend to Jerusalem. Here, semi-messianic visions of reforms and redemptions flourished, and groups of conquerors of the hills of Benjamin gathered there.

Even Rabbi Menachem Froman, the peacemaker, placed the roof of the house where he lived with his wife and two children at the disposal of the conquerors. I once went up to the roof by chance and saw the foam rubber mattresses rolled up and ready, and next to them the sleeping bags. Just like the equipment in the Israel Defense Forces emergency warehouses. About 35 years have passed since then, but I haven't forgotten the defiant, "despite everything" spirit in evidence in the renewed Jewish Quarter, among the cranes and the bulldozers.

My friend, the late Nehemiah Ginzburg, a member of Kibbutz Givat Haim Ihud, was an admirer of Hartman. He also admired the Orthodox philosopher and teacher Yeshayahu Leibowitz. He begged me to become even closer to Hartman and to listen carefully to his teaching. And that's what I did. I joined his select group of students, an elite chevrutah, a Jewish study group, that met at his home on Friday mornings. It was a genuine corrective experience for me, and one could even say purifying and cathartic. Hartman was even more brilliant in the intimate chevrutah than in the classroom. He permitted himself a surprising intimacy with his students, and the flattered chevrutah responded willingly to his overtures.

**Rabbi David Hartman in 1977** *(File photo)*

There's no question that the man is a great teacher. We studied chapters from the Schechter edition of *Avot d'Rabbi Natan* with him. He knew he had only a short time to teach before we all went home. And he did so with great charm.

The attractive house was already redolent of Shabbat, and his wife would come by, preoccupied with her preparations. Hartman would stop talking for a moment and send a long and lingering glance in her direction. Afterward he sighed and asked, "What does it say there, 'Three things enlarge a man's spirit,'" and we all completed the proverb with the words "a beautiful wife." He smiled to himself and returned to *Avot d'Rabbi Natan*. He didn't imagine, and neither did we, that he would suffer a harsh blow of bereavement when his son-in-law, a navigator in the air force, fell in Lebanon.

Once, I met him in the street, running. He stopped next to me for a short time and said, "Why are you surprised? In America, all the professors run." It may be the running that strengthens him, and, thanks to that, he celebrated his 80th birthday last year.

Some time after I returned to the coastal plain, dear Nehemiah summoned me for a consolation visit to Reb David's home. His two brothers, each of them a brilliant lecturer in his field, had passed away one after the other, before their time. We sat in his brother's house in Kiryat Krinitzi in Ramat Gan; visitors came and went, and they probably included people who were close to him and to the family. In spite of that, he found time for us and had a conversation with us, with Nehemiah and me, as though his lesson had ended just yesterday and we were still standing in the corridor of the humanities department. I give him credit for that, too. May the man enjoy a good and long life; there are very many people who owe him thanks for the spiritual wealth they acquired in his company.

*Elisha Porat is a poet, writer and journalist.*

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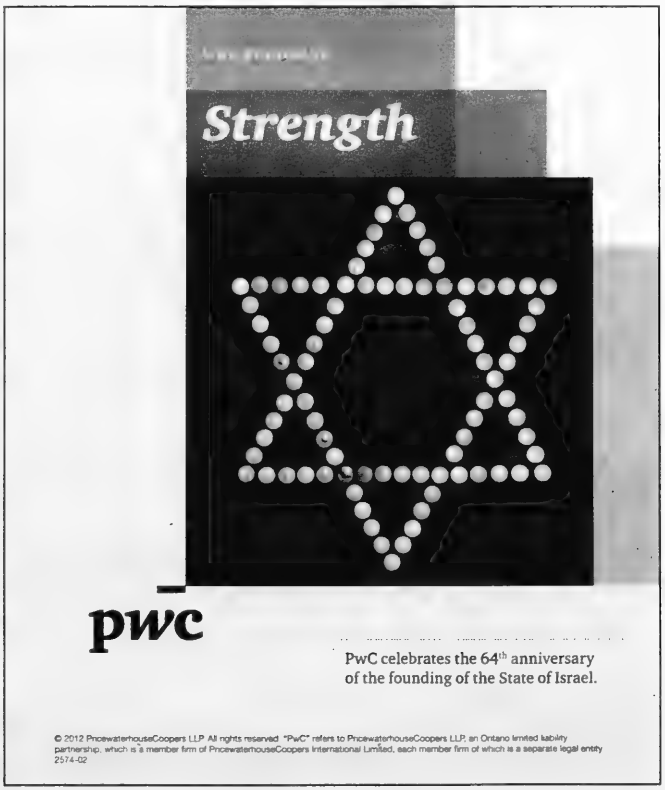
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# Canadians and Israelis work together through IsraAID

**Shachar Zahavi**
Special to the CJN

One one of the most devastating catastrophes in the history of Japan struck on March 11, 2011.

A massive earthquake and subsequent tsunami killed about 30,000 people, while destroying major parts of the country and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless.

Life, as these innocent men, women and children knew it, would never again be the same.

But, on March 11 the following year, a group of Japanese women – mainly teachers and social workers – from a small northern community met with an Israeli psychotherapist who specialized in treating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and is a member of IsraAID, an umbrella organization made up of Jewish and Israeli relief groups that provide aid worldwide. This was the first time these women had discussed PTSD with anyone.

In a country where expressing one's innermost feelings is far from being socially acceptable, IsraAID's direct yet sensitive approach was the right one.

The knowledge that Israel has acquired over the decades from trauma experience is being used in Japan – and, in fact, around the world – with the assistance of Jewish and Israeli professionals, and is helping people and changing communities.

"Necessity is the mother of invention" is an old adage, yet today this has a new meaning. Global innovation is often born from our experiencing man-made and natural disasters.

In the 64 years of its existence, Israel has faced numerous challenges and difficulties, including an arid climate, social instability, a complex security situation, wars and an influx of new olim.

And yet, over the years, IsraAID's partnership with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the largest financial supporter of IsraAID's initiatives – be they in Burma, Haiti, Japan, Kenya, South Sudan or any other country – has helped transform the lives of thousands of people worldwide and has strengthened and deepened the connection between Israeli and Diaspora Jews.

Israel's own need for urgent yet long-term sustainable solutions in challenging circumstances throughout its history has made it a world leader in various fields.

Israel has matured into an economic powerhouse, a technological and agricultural innovator, the creator of conveniences that we take for granted, a producer of live-saving devices and an expert in rapid response humanitarian relief and sustainable development, and a true leader of the Jewish world.

Toronto's federation saw IsraAID as a meaningful partner and directed its global humanitarian aid programming into an Israeli-led initiative, rather than a Diaspora-led initiative. Federation supports IsraAID's search-and-rescue efforts and its first-rate team of medical experts in their life-saving efforts around the world, wherever lives are in jeopardy.

IsraAID's innovative response teams have brought a whole new dimension to the world of development work and the concept of tikkun olam. The combination of Jews from all around the world bringing professional skills, know-how, experience and passion, and working in cooperation with the local community, has created a new realm of action and activity.

**IsraAID workers offer help in Japan.**
*[Mickey Alon photo]*

Like the State of Israel, the development of these programs was – and still is – a long and complex one.

Israel evolved from a desert to a startup nation listed third in the world for registered patents per capita. Japanese people are now discussing PTSD through song, dance and art, and Israelis are training social workers in Africa's newest nation, South Sudan, to address gender-based violence.

In today's world, continents and communities with thousands of miles and vast cultural disparities between them see themselves as being part of a global community.

Although more connected than ever, we are still faced with numerous challenges, including conflicts over natural resources and land.

But rather than looking at the difficulties, we must seize the opportunity, strengthening not only the Israel-Diaspora connection but the global community connection, too.

By reaching out to countries in need and sharing Israel's hands-on approach and experience, we are also creating a platform where Diaspora and Israeli Jews can connect and co-operate.

We must continue our efforts to better the world. Canada and Israel are unique in the sense that we are compassionate toward others, we listen and we are always willing to use our skills to work with the needy to better the world.

*Shachar Zahavi is the founder of IsraAID*

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# *Hunger Games* Israeli video hits jackpot

**Alexandra Halpern**
JTA

**NEW YORK** — It's post-apocalyptic America and you're in District 12 of Panem. With your bow and arrow, you are helping Katniss Everdeen hunt for meat and berries to bring back to your family. President Snow, the evil dictator, is planning the next Hunger Games, in which children are placed in an arena to fight to the death – and you might be chosen.

This is the world that Funtactix, a company founded in Israel, has created on Facebook along with Lionsgate and *Hunger Games* author Suzanne Collins.

With social network games – typically played online through a social network such as Facebook or on a mobile device – replacing the console system as the standard in recent years, Funtactix finds itself well positioned.

The Hunger Games Adventures is just the latest conquest for a company that has been receiving plenty of hype from gaming experts for integrating social gaming with big brand marketing. Last year, Funtactix partnered with Paramount Pictures and Warner Bros. to create Facebook games centered on *Rango*, *Mission: Impossible* and *New Boyz*.

Now it seems to have hit the jackpot: Funtactix is the first company to launch a Facebook game released on the same date as the movie on which it is based.

Half a billion people play social games, according to Funtactix CEO Sam Glassenberg.

"Traditional console-based movie games reached only those hard-core gamer movie fans that both loved the film and owned a specific gaming console," he said. "With social games there is no barrier to entry, no expensive game console required."

Funtactix began as a startup company in Tel Aviv in 2006, and now has offices in New York, Jerusalem and Los Angeles.

So how did this young company born in Israel, which is second only to Silicon Valley in its per capita concentration of startups, connect with big names such as Paramount, Warner Bros. and Lionsgate?

"Convincing a film studio or director to bring their upcoming film to the medium of social games is no easy task," Glassenberg said.

But his team of Israelis had decades of combined experience building games for movies and was able to parlay existing relationships with Hollywood.

The company has carved "out a unique niche," said Scott Steinberg, who heads the technology consulting firm TechSavvy Global.

Funtactix may be making it big at the box office, but its technology is standard, according to Ron Weaver, a faculty member at the Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy.

Several Facebook games have been set up in conjunction with TV shows, and content and technology updates are common for all games, as there are no barriers on the Facebook platform.

**A scene from *Hunger Games***

"Funtactix's implementation of console-quality graphics within Flash is not a lone effort," Weaver told JTA. "Kudos to Funtactix for helping to lead the charge, but fortunately they are not alone."

Glassenberg, who had worked for Microsoft, says one of the reasons he left the company to join Funtactix in 2008 was to help build the games industry in Israel.

"From personal experience, I know that Israel has the potential to make a huge contribution to the global games industry," he said, noting that the $100-billion-a-year industry will serve to enhance the nation economically and culturally, providing education and talent retention.

His Zionism and Funtactix's Israelis roots were among the things that drew him to the company.

"Israel has a great deal to contribute to the global games industry. Funtactix is just scratching the surface," Glassenberg said. "We have established a reputation in Hollywood for Israeli game development. We hope this will serve as a catalyst for a much larger games ecosystem in Israel."

Indeed, he'd like to see Funtactix pave the way for other Israeli startups.

Pointing to the powerhouse Google, which recently announced its plans to set up an Israel-based "incubator" to host and fund about 20 entrepreneurs, Glassenberg says big companies want access to Israeli talent.

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# Volunteer retiree program celebrates 30 years

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Twenty-nine years ago, a group of Canadian Jewish retirees decided they had had enough of winter vacations in Florida. Looking for a new, active and productive way to spend the cold Canadian winter, they eventually settled on Israel as the perfect destination.

This decision led to the birth of the Jewish National Fund's (JNF) Canadian American Active Retirees in Israel (CAARI) program, which is gearing up to run its thirtieth annual cycle in January and February 2013. To prepare for this milestone year, co-ordinator Susan Horwitz visited from Israel in late May for a CAARI information session.

"We tour all over the country – from the Galil to Eilat," said Horwitz to the crowd of interested retirees, many enthusiastic returning participants, at Temple Emanu-El in Toronto.

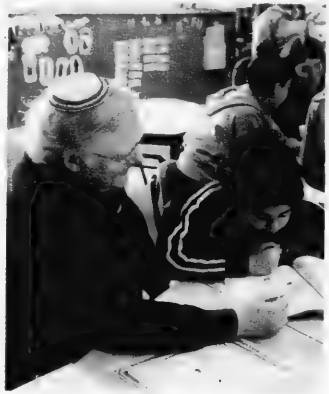
The program includes tours of historic sites and lesser-known points of interest, and also includes community volunteering, speakers and of course, socializing. "To me, it's one big family," said Horwitz, adding that the participants make the program what it is. "I love their enthusiasm, I love their spirit," she said.

CAARI participants range in age from their 50s all the way into their 90s, and the program offers options to join at various points for as little as two weeks or as much as seven weeks.

For Frances Dvorchik, who has participated six times, CAARI was her introduction to Israel. "It felt like home," she said of her first visit, adding that the warmer weather and stimulating program make for a good winter getaway. "I love the program," she said, explaining that each year brings new speakers, new sites and new experiences. "There's a lot of variety."

About 60 participants each year enjoy camel rides, folk-dancing lessons, trips to museums, tours of chocolate and cheese factories and visits to various JNF projects throughout the country. There are also special talks by Members of Knesset, professors and archaeologists.

But for most returning participants, volunteering in Israeli schools is the most memorable. "It was a pleasure to see kids so keen," said Irving Green, who participated with his wife Barbara two years ago. Green said spending time tutoring young students in English was not only a joy, but also a new way to see Israel as an insider and not just as a tourist.



**A CAARI volunteer helps an Israeli child with his homework.** *(Susan Horwitz photo)*

Anice Stark, CAARI chair for JNF Canada, first went on the trip in 1995 and has been going back ever since. "I don't think I've heard a bad word about the program in all these years," she told *The CJN*.

In recent years, Canadian participants have begun to outnumber those from the United States, a fact that Horwitz attributes in part to Toronto's tight-knit Jewish connections. "There's a different Jewish community here," she said.

Horwitz is looking forward to the thirtieth anniversary trip in January, eager to meet participants and to introduce or re-introduce them to Israel the CAARI way. "I love Israel, and I love showing people the land."

For more information on CAARI, please visit www.caarivolunteers.com.

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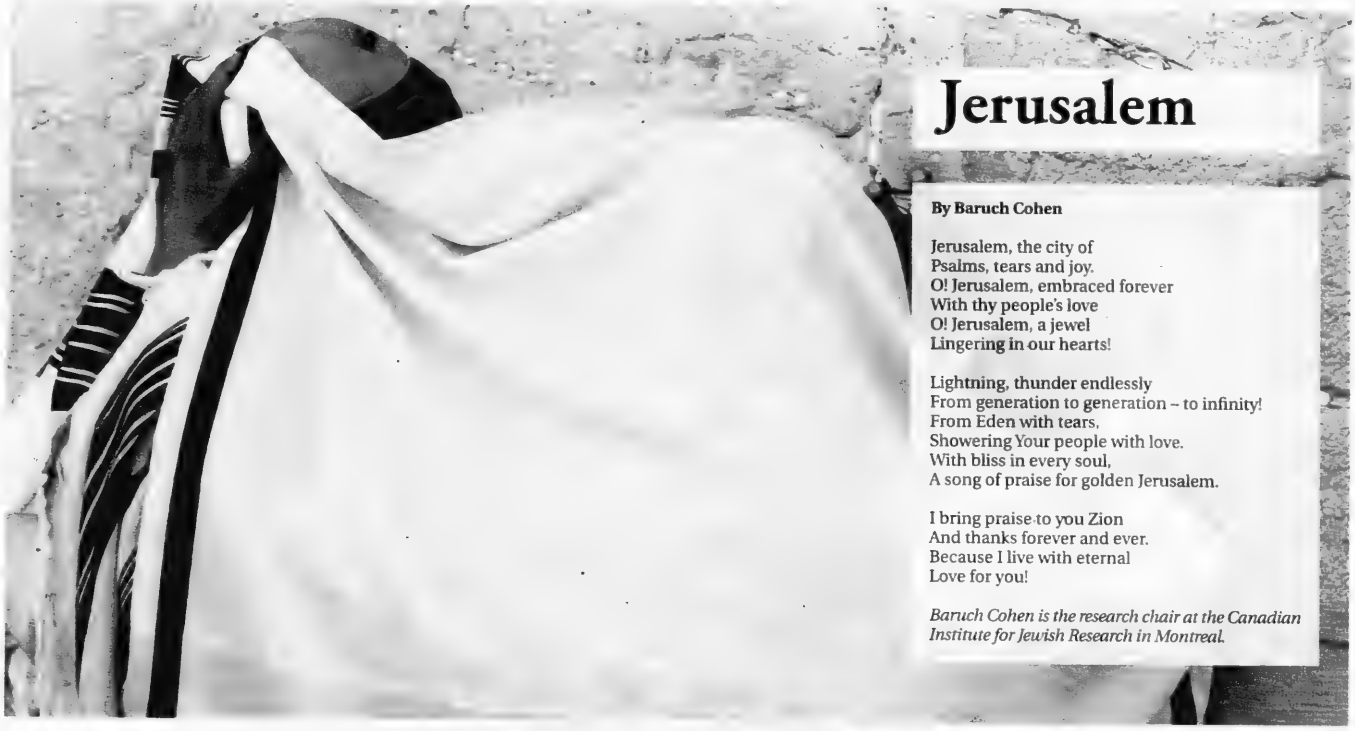

# Jerusalem

**By Baruch Cohen**

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With thy people's love
O! Jerusalem, a jewel
Lingering in our hearts!

Lightning, thunder endlessly
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From Eden with tears,
Showering Your people with love.
With bliss in every soul,
A song of praise for golden Jerusalem.

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And thanks forever and ever.
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*Baruch Cohen is the research chair at the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research in Montreal.*

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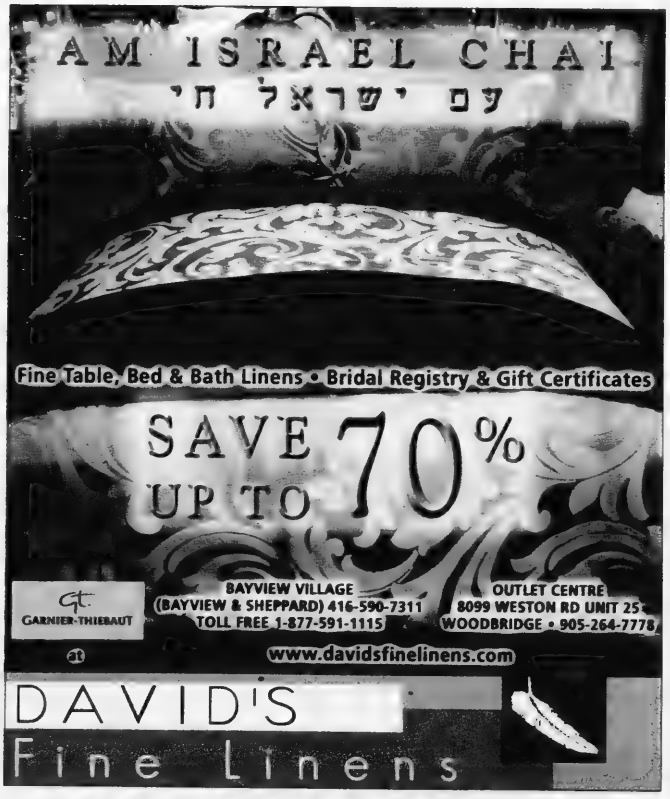

# Children with and without autism learn together

**Abigail Klein Leichman**
Israel21c

Visit Yad Hamoreh elementary school in Jerusalem on a Friday morning and you'll hear Shabbat songs, smell pizza and challah rolls baking in the oven, and see autistic children enjoying both activities with their "regular" peers.

"This school has been incredible," says Alana Goldstein, whose autistic fourth-grader recently won second place at a peer-judged A Star is Born talent show at the school. "These are low-functioning kids with behaviours that are not easy to deal with. And the regular children actually grow up with them. They learn to see the autistic children as part of their society."

Yad Hamoreh (teacher's hand) is a one-of-a-kind public elementary school. Founded in 1998, it now integrates 187 non-autistic kids in grades 1 to 6 with 49 severely to moderately autistic peers. Mostly separated for academics, the kids do everything else together, from eating to swimming. Regular kids even join in therapy sessions involving games, sports, music, animal care and horticulture.

**Students dancing at Yad Hamoreh**

Because hers is a model school with no exact counterpart anywhere, principal Ana Goren often hosts visiting educators from other Israeli municipalities, as well as eastern European countries, South America, China and the United States.

Zvi Shamir, uncle of an autistic niece and father of three normal daughters who have all attended Yad Hamoreh, explains that the first- through sixth-grade school was a parent-led initiative.

"It was based on a system developed by a kindergarten nearby that merged regular and autistic children," Shamir told ISRAEL21c. "This is a unique experiment in the world, we believe."

Judging by the enthusiasm of his second-grader, Lia, the experiment is a success. "What do you like about your school?" ISRAEL21c asked, and Lia Shamir broke into a grin. "Everything," she said.

Goldstein's son cannot verbalize quite as well, yet his mom can tell he's happy and she gets daily written reports from his teachers.

"When our son was in his last year of [special] kindergarten, this was the only offer we had for him," she says. "We were assured it would be the best place for him."

The Education Ministry handles placement for the autistic children at Yad Hamoreh. The other children, however, must apply to the school, and demand exceeds availability. You might not think parents would want their children exposed to the sometimes scary screeching and head-banging behaviours autistic children may display, but Goren's behaviour-modification approach appears to work wonders.

"Having regular children around makes the autistic children more aware," Goldstein says. "The regular children also gain because they have so many unusual things going on here. The facilities are like what you'd expect in a private school."

**Continued on page B11**

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# 'A belief that this is worth fighting for'

**Continued from page B10**

It's not magic, stresses Su Narodowski, an educational instructor who works with special education teachers, pupils and parents at Yad Hamoreh.

"It doesn't work easily or without hiccups. Our teachers have to be very flexible. The regular and special ed teachers have to think of activities that allow both populations to participate, and behind that is a belief that this is worth fighting for."

Shamir says his girls learned respect and tolerance not only for kids with autism but also for people with a range of differences. The school includes religious and secular, Jewish and Arab pupils, along with a multiethnic staff of administrators, teachers, therapists and community and national service volunteers.

"It's monumental that kids who leave this school have a value system, a social understanding, that is not an innate expectation," Narodowski told ISRAEL21c.

"At first they may be a bit wary of this kid who's wiggling his fingers and making weird noises. Then suddenly they realize, 'I want to go on stage and hold his hand.' When you grow day by day with someone for six years, you learn to see very clearly what a person is made of."

The choir at Yad Hamoreh

*It doesn't work easily or without hiccups. Our teachers have to be very flexible*

Shamir also said the social modelling at Yad Hamoreh leads to remarkable achievements for the special kids.

"When [autistic children] learn with regular children, they have to adopt the modes of behaviour of the regular society," Shamir said. "Based upon research at the Hebrew University, we have the basis for our assumption that these children reach much, much higher levels of participation in society."

Yad Hamoreh parents and siblings are welcome at school trips and events. "One of the main problems for the families of children with autism is their participation as a unit in the community," Shamir said. "The community created by this school is very good for both kinds of families."

The past two summers, Goldstein was pleasantly surprised when both autistic and regular classmates came to her son's birthday parties. "Even though it was in the middle of the summer, more than half the regular children came," she said.

Inclusive extracurricular activities are critical to the school's culture. A student choir of 43 kids includes four autistic children. When regular fifth-graders go for mandatory swimming lessons, their autistic classmates come along, although they have their own weekly hydrotherapy sessions. Narodowski said it took some persuasion for the Education Ministry to allow such an arrangement.

With everything going on at Yad Hamoreh, its school day is two hours longer than most other Israeli public schools. But Lia Shamir doesn't mind at all.

"What do you wish will happen today at school?" ISRAEL21c asked the second-grader.

"That the day won't finish," she replied with a giggle.

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# A search for books and roots

**Ben Sales**
JTA

The works of Shmuel Yosef Agnon, Israel's only winner of the Nobel Prize for literature, are on the shelves of nearly every Israeli bookstore. Readers seeking S.Y. Agnon's writing can access several editions of his novels, novellas and short stories.

Except one: the first edition of his first book.

This year, on the 100th anniversary of that book's publication, an Israeli organization is searching for the first copies of Agnon's first novella, *And the Crooked Shall Be Made Straight*. An unusual tale lies behind the book's first printing: Yosef Haim Brenner, who in 1912 was a more prominent Hebrew author than Agnon, liked the latter's writing and sold a pair of suspenders to fund the novella's publication. At the time, Agnon had published popular short stories but not longer works.

Brenner printed 50 editions of the novella in Jerusalem, sending 30 to a small community of Hebrew speakers in New York who had emigrated from Agnon's native Galicia, an area that overlaps the border of present-day Poland and Ukraine.

A century later, just two of those 50 editions have been located: one in Israel's national library and the other in the Agnon family's private collection.

Agnon House, the group that maintains the author's Jerusalem home as a museum, is on a mission to find others.

Although the writer, who died in 1970, lived in Jerusalem, *And the Crooked Shall Be Made Straight* is among his few works that were printed there.

"We saw a lot of symbolism in this," said Eilat Liber, director of Agnon House. "He wanted to live in Jerusalem. In his [1966] Nobel Prize speech, he said he felt 'as one who was born in Jerusalem,'" even though he was born in Galicia.

The hunt has taken Liber far from Agnon's beloved city, with Agnon House searching the United States for books. The search has yielded nothing – not even a few leads, although Liber hopes to find copies in American libraries and private collections. During a cursory search, *JTA* was able to locate copies of a later 1912 printing of the book from Jaffa, at Brandeis University and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, but not a first edition.

The search is one of a few efforts this year to celebrate *And the Crooked Shall Be Made Straight*, which follows a childless couple through tragedy in Agnon's native town of Buczacz, in present-day Ukraine. The novella's first English translation is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Michael Kramer, the translator, praised Agnon's rich and intricate language. Agnon's writing in the novella and in later works is laden with allusions to the Talmud, midrash, Bible and chassidic tales.

Using the book's first edition, Kramer said, will allow him to translate with greater accuracy and better knowledge of Agnon's intent.

"When I started translating the book, it was clear that it was a kind of mission impossible," said Kramer, a professor at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv. "On the one hand, I wanted to create a text that would render the story in an interesting and accessible way, but on the other hand, reading Agnon in Hebrew demands the kind of cultural literacy that is untranslatable."

Shmuel Yosef Agnon

To stay faithful to Agnon's textual references, Kramer is using the King James Bible and legalistic, talmudic language. He believes the story, despite the esoteric nature of Agnon's writing, is relevant to American Jews.

The window Agnon provides into the world of eastern European Jewry also has begun to attract a new generation of Israeli readers to the author, said Liber.

"For many years, Israelis didn't want to know about Jewish life in the Diaspora, and now there's more interest in Yiddish and in the generation of Agnon," Liber said. In another aspect of the celebration, Liber plans to lead a trip to Galicia to explore Agnon's roots.

That world may seem alien to today's readers, but Alan Mintz, an Agnon expert and translator, said that *And the Crooked Shall Be Made Straight* was revolutionary to Hebrew readers a century ago, when most books about eastern Europe satirized life there.

"He took a chance writing his first longer work going back to eastern Europe and showing that this is a world in which serious ethical and human dilemmas could be portrayed," said Mintz, a professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. While the translation's publisher, Matthew Miller, thinks Jewish readers will enjoy the novella, he expects that many copies will be bought for college classes on Hebrew literature.

Miller's Toby Press has published some of Agnon's better-known works, such as *To This Day* and *A Simple Story*.

Lamenting a decline in Jewish literacy among American Jews most likely to read novels, Miller hopes that this book will introduce readers to the wide variety of Jewish texts.

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# South Koreans show high interest in Israel

**Michael Orbach**
JTA

It's become a mainstay of Saturday nights on the Ben Yehuda Street pedestrian mall in Jerusalem.

Between the crowds of Israeli revelers and American teens at the frozen-yogurt shops, a group of Koreans singing hymns vies for attention.

It's one of the most public signs of Israel's small but growing Korean community, many of whom come to the Holy Land because they are evangelical Christians. Not far from Ben Yehuda, there is a Korean restaurant on nearby Shamai Street and five small Korean churches.

"Israel reflects the truth of the Tanach," said Yung Doo, using the Hebrew word for Bible. A Korean man in his late 30s, he moved to Israel two years ago with his family to pursue a graduate degree in Bible studies. "This is the land of David and Saul."

Ilsoo Kim, South Korea's ambassador to Israel

While official estimates are hard to come by, South Korea's ambassador to Israel, Ilsoo Kim, estimates that there are about 800 Koreans in about 300 families living in Israel. The number, he said, has been growing in recent years. They mainly reside around the French Hill and Pisgat Ze'ev neighbourhoods in the Jerusalem area.

"Many have lived here quite a long time," Kim said. "This reflects their feelings."

Most Koreans in Israel are visitors on multi-year student visas. Many study Bible at Israeli universities or at Holy Land University, a Christian graduate school that caters to Asians. Roughly 30 per cent of Koreans are Christian.

A handful have come to Israel to stay. Kim OK Kyung, 67, is a gregarious Korean-American transplant who arrived from New Jersey three years ago with her husband, a pastor, who had just retired from his church.

"There is no place in the world like Jerusalem," said Kyung, who calls herself Hannah, after the mother of the biblical Samuel, and peppers her speech with quotations from the Bible.

"He who blesses the children of Abraham will be blessed and he who curses Israel will be cursed," she said, citing a passage often quoted by evangelical Christians. "The president of Iran cursed Israel. I want to see what will happen to him."

Some Koreans here have had difficulties adjusting to life in the Jewish state.

"It's not easy to approach Israelis," said Eunah Hur, who spends her day learning Hebrew in Jerusalem and attends a messianic church near her apartment. But it's possible "to have good relationships. Israelis are warm and loyal," she said. "We have a specific word for these relationships – 'jung.' It's different from love and friendship."

There are a number of similarities between Israeli and Korean cultures: a strong focus on education, a proficient high-tech sector, compulsory military service for males and, perhaps most importantly, an existential threat from neighbours.

"The North invaded [Korea] once in 1950," Kim said. "Then the 1967 war took place [in Israel] and people saw what Israelis were doing: overwhelming their enemies' forces. Our teachers told us to learn from Israel. If [the North] invades, we have to do the same thing. Our memory of Israel started that day."

Both Israel and South Korea also are in similar straits due to their limited natural resources, he said. "Without natural resources how can you have results? Human capital," Kim said.

South Korea and Israel established full diplomatic relations in 1962. Today, the trade volume between them is roughly $2.5 billion annually; it is especially heavy in automobiles and cell phones. In 2007, Korea-based Samsung acquired Transchip, an Israeli microchip design firm that specialized in image sensors in digital cameras. Israeli streets are filled with Korean-made Hyundais and Kias. Korea also buys Israeli weapons to the tune of almost $50 million a year, according to Kim.

Hyounju Ji, who lives in Kibbutz Kfar Menachem, is one of an estimated 40 Koreans in Israel married to Israelis. As a volunteer at the kibbutz 13 years ago, she met the man who would become her husband. She married him over her parents' objections.

"Korea is a really closed society. They don't like mixed couples," she said. "Israeli and Korean character is very similar. They're both so proud of their people and want to keep their uniqueness."


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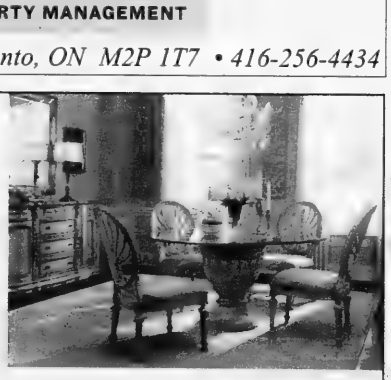

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# Israel shows off its homeland security technologies

Mati Wagner
JTA

**JERUSALEM** — Israel's security technologies were on display as the country hosted two separate international contingents last month.

An Interpol European Regional Conference brought 110 senior law enforcement officers from 49 countries to Tel Aviv, while a homeland security conference drew 37 mayors from two dozen worldwide cities to sites throughout Israel last week.

"Israel has been forced to overcome difficult circumstances, including war and terror, in order to survive," said Alfred Vanderpuije, mayor of the Ghana capital of Accra, following a visit to Elbit Systems, a defence electronics company based in Haifa. "And this has put the Israelis in a unique situation to develop security technologies."

In the decade following the terror attacks of 9-11, Israeli security exports rose from about $2 billion a year to more than $7 billion, according to data supplied by SIBAT, Israel's Defence Export and Defense Co-operation Agency. Part of the rise was attributed to the growing international demand for more effective homeland security systems.

At Elbit and other security firms such as Magal Security Systems and Elta Group, a subsidiary of Israel Aerospace Industries, Vanderpuije and the other mayors saw presentations on defence technologies.

Originally developed for the Israel Defence Forces to fight wars and terror, many of the systems are being modified for civilian use, such as securing large cities.

Called the "digital army project," Elbit's technology connects all military forces to a single communication network that enables the free transfer of audio and video information.

"From the individual soldier to entire divisions on the land, in the air and on the sea, all our forces are interconnected," said Dalia Rosen, Elbit's vice-president of corporate communications.

"In the past few years, we have begun adopting the tools we have developed and applied on the battlefield for use in a civilian context to create what we call 'safe cities.'"

The basic tools that are used to fight terror can be used to fight crime and help officials react more efficiently to natural disasters, said Amnon Sofrim, who heads Elta's homeland security projects.

"Instead of endless patrols, we can use strategically placed cameras or electronic devices connected to a situation room to detect the beginning of a robbery or a fire," said Sofrim, former chief of the IDF's intelligence corps. "And this allows us to use a limited amount of security forces or firefighters only where they are really needed."

There were signs that the meetings between mayors and Israeli security experts might lead to business ties.

"I was very impressed with what I saw and am even thinking about bringing some of these ideas back to Ghana," Vanderpuije said.

While private Israeli firms were showing the mayors homeland security technologies, a similar show-and-tell was taking place in Tel Aviv at Interpol's 41st regional conference, the first time Israel has hosted such a conference since it joined the international police organization in October 1949.

Jack Rosen *[ACWJ photo]*

Among the Israeli innovations on display were the "skunk," a liquid with a putrid odor, and the "screamer," a hand-held device the size of a bullhorn that emits a sound so loud that it can paralyze.

Israeli police developed both as non-lethal means of crowd control in the wake of the October 2000 riots that left 12 Arab Israelis dead.

The Or Commission, an Israeli panel of inquiry set up after the riots, criticized the police for being unprepared and possibly using excessive force to disperse the mobs.

"The skunk and the screamer are more ethical than your average police baton, since they don't cause long-term injuries," said Cmdr. Oded Shemla, who heads research and development for the police technology division. "They also happen to be more effective."

An interactive simulator capable of constructing realistic scenarios, from soccer game riots and violent demonstrations to kidnappings and sniper attacks, also was on display.

"What is unique about our technology is that it is developed by police for police," said Shemla, who previously was a police helicopter unit pilot.

Interpol officials were not authorized to comment on Israel's innovations vis-a-vis other member countries.

Shemla said, however, that senior police officers from Europe were particularly impressed that the Israeli technologies presented at the conference already were in use and had proven to be effective in real-life situations.

"We were not showing them an abstract concept," he said. "We were showing them things that actually work in the field."

Jack Rosen, who chairs the American Council for World Jewry that organized and sponsored the international mayors' conference, said there is room for more security export growth.

"One of the goals of this year's conference is to break down prejudices [toward Israel] and overcome feelings of hesitation about doing business here," Rosen said. "We have to be proactive in allowing access to Israeli know-how and in countering anti-Israel sentiment."

Rosen said that political leaders such as Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who has claimed that Israel plans to "terminate" the Palestinian people, are "obstacles to openness" when it comes to economic ties with Israel.

However, Rosen noted that Venezuela should not be seen as monolithic. Antonio Ledezma, who beat a pro-Chavez candidate to become mayor of Caracas, attended the conference.

Otto Perez Leal, the mayor of Mixco, Guatemala, and son of Guatemalan President Otto Perez Molina, said his municipality already was implementing security cameras and other technologies developed in Israel.

"Our army and police use this equipment to integrate our forces and improve our ability to respond to natural disasters and other challenges," Leal said.

"It's not just about training people and it's not just about technology. It's about combining them both. And that is something that we are learning from you."

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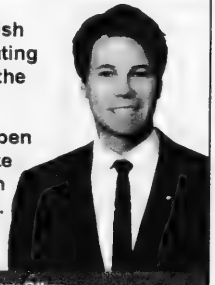

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# Greener ties between Jordan and Israel

**Karin Kloosterman**
Israel21c.com

In wealthy western countries, renewable energy developments are a source of progress, pride and smart business. For Israel and Jordan, two Middle Eastern countries severely lacking in water and energy resources, renewable energy is a matter of survival.

That's why there's been a new green twist to the Trilateral Industrial Development Foundation (TRIDE), founded in 1996 as a pilot project under the wing of the BIRD Foundation – the Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation — to create joint ventures between Israeli, Jordanian and American companies.

The co-operative project will now support water, agritech and renewable energy companies in the two neighbouring nations, which have a peace treaty but only limited dealings.

BIRD executive director Eitan Yudilevich said that Jordan is supported heavily by USAID because the U.S. State Department considers it important to contribute to a stable and prospering Jordan for the sake of peace and economic development. TRIDE, run out of BIRD's Israel office, gives matching grants of up to half a million dollars to three partners with mutual goals.

TRIDE has already funded a handful of partnerships, most recently a research project started in 2009 to produce a second-generation synthetic diesel biofuel from organic raw materials.

**The Trilateral Industrial Development Foundation (TRIDE) brings together U.S., Israeli and Jordanian companies in joint ventures such as producing renewable energy.**

The Israeli company MME IL, the National Energy Research Center in Jordan and the Florida-based Nibor Enterprises set out to "map the existence of raw materials in Jordan and in Israel and to build a model to see if the process can be financially viable," Yudilevich said.

"I think in this type of project it is important to mention that there were a great many visits from both the Jordanians into Israel and the Israelis into Jordan," he stressed. "There were thousands of e-mails between them, and Skype calls every week."

The next stage is to use the results to set up a plant close to the raw material sources, whether in Jordan, Israel or on the southern border between the two.

The biofuel can be produced from forest residues, olive-processing waste, digester sludge, chicken manure and all types of organic raw materials, Yudilevich said. Right now, the companies involved are looking for financing to build the pilot plant.

"We are now in touch with both an Israeli and Jordanian company on energy efficiency. They already have a relationship, and we are waiting for their proposal. It's a very promising project in agricultural technologies to improve the quality of seed plants."

The so-called Arab Spring hasn't made any difference in how Israeli and Jordanian partners do business, said Yudilevich, who frequently makes the trip over the border.

He said that looking at the trends, trade has actually improved between Israel and Jordan over the last year. He believes that investing in, and participating in, projects like TRIDE can further advance the peace process in ways that government negotiations cannot achieve.

"There are two aspects to this," said Yudilevich, a Chilean-born Israeli Jew. "The clear aspect is that we have neighbours, and if we have trade with our neighbours, it is good for our economy. Now, it won't be a huge amount of trade in economic value because other markets are larger, like China. [However,] clearly economic value is no less important than creating this relationship which makes the peace treaty [between Israel and Jordan], still relatively cold, into a peace treaty among the people."

# Jerusalem's buried Roman legacy

Nir Hasson
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

If you look at a map of the Old City of Jerusalem, you'll notice something odd. While the vast majority of the Old City's streets form a crowded casbah of winding alleyways, there are a few straight-as-a-ruler streets that bisect the city from north to south and east to west.

The best known of these straight roads are Beit Chabad and Hagai streets, exiting through the Damascus Gate; David Street, exiting the Jaffa Gate; and the Via Dolorosa.

Like the rest of the Old City's streets, these straight roads are narrow but, unlike the others, they preserve a historical skeleton of sorts that forms the basis of the Old City we know today. This skeleton was created, most archaeologists agree, not during Jewish, Christian or Muslim rule, but during the Roman period, when the city of Aelia Capitolina was built on the ruins of Jerusalem following the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD.

Ironically, it is actually the streets of this imperial and pagan city – which supposedly left behind no cultural or spiritual heritage for modern Jerusalem – that have bequeathed to the city the skeleton structure that has survived to this day.

A remnant of a thoroughfare from Aelia Capitolina in the Old City of Jerusalem

In the history of Jewish Jerusalem, Aelia Capitolina is the very embodiment of defeat and destruction – a reminder of the humiliation of the Second Temple's destruction, which erected a pagan temple in its place. This image has distanced Aelia Capitolina from the fathers of Israeli archaeology, who were naturally drawn to the ornate, Jewish city that preceded it. "No one concealed Aelia Capitolina, but we wanted to talk about the Second Temple," says Ofer Sion, of the Antiquities Authority. "Aelia Capitolina was an accursed city, a city from which we were banished. It was more idealistic to excavate the Second Temple."

Almost all of the archaeologists who study Aelia Capitolina call it "an elusive city." As opposed to the Jerusalem of Second Temple times that preceded it, Aelia Capitolina has not been entirely unearthed during the many excavations that have been performed in the city since 1967. The residents of Aelia Capitolina did not leave written texts like the works of Flavius Josephus during the Second Temple era or of Christian travelers in the following period.

It is known that the Roman city was established by Emperor Hadrian between 130 and 140 CE. After the Bar Kochba revolt of 135, Jews were forbidden to enter the city. Its most important inhabitants were the soldiers of the 10th Legion, who would remain encamped in Jerusalem for 200 years.

Following the latest wave of excavations, which began in the mid-1990s, more and more archaeologists have become convinced that Aelia Capitolina was a much larger and more important city than was once thought, and its influence on the later development of modern Jerusalem was dramatic.

Aelia Capitolina has sprung to life in a significant way through no less than four extensive excavations that have taken place in the Old City area, and in a number of other digs in other parts of Jerusalem. Most of these digs have been rescue excavations by the Antiquities Authority, salvage digs carried out before new construction and development goes ahead. In a few more years, Aelia Capitolina could again be covered over by new buildings.

In the rear section of the Western Wall plaza, in the spot where the Western Wall Heritage Foundation intends to erect a large building that it calls "the Core House," Antiquities Authority researcher Shlomit Wexler-Bedolah discovered an ornate and broad Roman street, complete with shops on each side. This is the eastern cardo, along whose path Hagai Street would later be paved.

Continued on page B17

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# Temple Mount was used for pagan worship rites

A bust of Emperor Hadrian *[Wikipedia photo]*

Continued from page B16

Three hundred meters to the south, another Antiquities Authority researcher, Doron Ben-Ami, discovered the place where the Roman street apparently ended. The corner of the street is adjacent to the Givati parking lot at the top of the Silwan valley – the spot where the Elad organization intends to build a large visitors center. In a large rescue excavation at this location in recent years, Ben-Ami exposed a large, fancy Roman villa unlike any other structure from its time in the entire country. He estimates that the villa he uncovered was the home of the regional governor or some other central authority.

In another excavation, in the tunnel under the Western Wall, Wexler-Bedolah and archaeologist Alexander Onn re-estimated the dating of a large bridge leading to the Temple Mount. As with other ancient monuments, this turned out to be of Roman origin and not from the Second Temple period. Another example is the Roman bathhouse and swimming pool discovered by Sion a year and a half ago. "It's a tremendous spa, a country club," Sion says, comparing the bathhouse to similar facilities found in other parts of the Roman Empire.

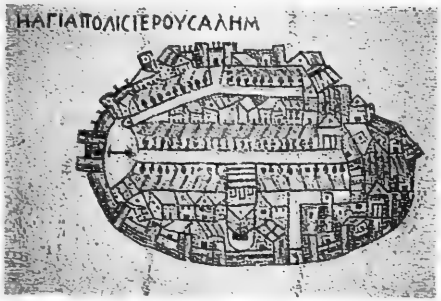
This increasing number of Roman-era discoveries strengthens the notion that the Temple Mount, even after its destruction, did not lie totally barren, but was used for pagan worship rites.

But not only the Old City and its immediate surroundings have turned up new findings from Aelia Capitolina. Excavations made a few years ago in the area near the Binyanei Ha'uma international convention center, carried out in preparation for the expansion of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, uncovered a large pottery-workers village that served as the legion's central clayware manufacturing plant. Along the route of Jerusalem's new light rail line, remains of a large water facility serving the legionnaires were discovered, and in the area of Shuafat, a Jewish settlement from the same period was discovered.

The latest excavations give archaeologists much greater insight into Aelia Capitolina than was possible even a decade earlier. Experts agree the city was planned extraordinarily well, based as it was on designs of other cities in the empire and according to orders that came directly from the emperor. It included broad streets, numerous and magnificent entrance gates, temples and infrastructure, and it even housed a new elite of army officers and free soldiers who turned Aelia Capitolina into a thriving city.

"When I began to study the history of the Roman city, it was a barren field," says Prof. Yoram Zafrir, one of Israel's most veteran archaeologists. "Today, it is clear that the basic structure of Jerusalem is that of Aelia Capitolina." Zafrir describes the process by which, after the Roman period, beasts of burden replaced wagons, the central government became weak and streets became "privatized." This process led to the city that we know today.

"Similarly to the British Mandate, which lasted just 31 years but had a significant impact on modern Jerusalem, from the perspective of architecture, the Roman period established a whole new, imperial language that still holds sway today," archaeologist Guy Stiebel concludes. Stiebel even notes the irony of history: "Aelia Capitolina effectively saved Jerusalem. It raised her once again onto the stage of history. She returned like a phoenix from the ashes."




A sixth century mosaic tile map of Aelia Capitolina

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# The top 12 ways Israel feeds the world

**Abigail Klein Leichman**
Israel21c.com

Food security is a major concern for our rapidly growing planet. As resources dwindle and population rises, smart solutions for better agriculture and safer food storage are essential.

No other single country – certainly not one as young and as tiny as Israel – has contributed more breakthroughs in this area.

Since the 1950s, Israelis have not only been finding miraculous ways to green their own desert but have shared their discoveries far and wide through channels including MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Here are 12 of the dozens of food-related advances pioneered by Israelis to help feed the world.

**1. Drip irrigation**

Probably no other advancement has been quite as significant. While the concept of drip irrigation existed well before Israeli statehood, it was revolutionized by Israeli water engineer Simcha Blass, who serendipitously discovered that a slow and balanced drip led to remarkable growth. He created tubing that slowly released water where it was most effective, and in 1965 Kibbutz Hatzerim built a whole new industry, Netafim, based on his invention.

Using a Tipa kit in Senegal

Israeli drip and micro-irrigation solutions rapidly spread worldwide. The newest models are self-cleaning and maintain uniform flow rate regardless of water quality and pressure.

Just one recent example of how this method has impacted food supply in foreign countries is Tipa, literally "Drop," an Israeli-developed kit that has allowed 700 farming families in Senegal to reap crops three times a year instead of just once, even on infertile land.

Tipa is "a simple drip irrigation system that uses gravity when there is no water supply or water pressure coming to rural areas," MASHAV's Ilan Fluss said. Similar programs are at work in Kenya, South Africa, Benin and Niger.

**2. Grain cocoons**

Israeli-designed GrainPro Cocoons have provided a surprisingly simple and cheap way for African and Asian farmers to keep their grain market-fresh.

The huge bags, invented by international food technology consultant Shlomo Navarro, keep both water and air out. They're used all over the developed world, including Africa and the Far East, and even in countries that have no diplomatic ties to Israel, such as Pakistan.

As much as 50 per cent of every grain harvest and 100 per cent of every pulse harvest is commonly lost to pests and mould, said Navarro. Subsistence farmers in developing countries tend to store their crops in primitive baskets or bags, which are not effective in keeping hungry bugs and micro-contaminants out. The Cocoon solves that problem, even in extreme heat and humidity.

**3. Biological pest control**

On Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu, a company called Bio-Bee breeds beneficial insects and mites for biological pest control and bumblebees for natural pollination in greenhouses and open fields. Subsidiary Bio-Fly sells sterile Mediterranean fruit flies to control this major pest in fruit trees.

R&D manager Shimon Steinberg said the company's top seller worldwide is a two-millimetre-long, pear-shaped orange spider that is a highly efficient enemy of the spider mite, a devastating agricultural pest.

"Sixty per cent of California strawberries since 1990 are treated with this predatory mite from the Holy Land," he reported. In Israel, Bio-Bee products have enabled sweet-pepper farmers to reduce chemical pesticides by 75 per cent.

Bio-Bee exports eight different species of biological control agents, plus pollinating bumblebees, to 32 nations from Japan to Chile. Bio-Fly collaborates with Jordanian and West Bank Palestinian Authority agricultural experts.

**4. Dairy farming**

Hof Hasharon Dairy Farm, SAE Afikim and SCR Precise Dairy Farming all make advanced systems for herd management, monitoring and feeding used on dairy farms worldwide.

SAE Afikim is one of 10 Israeli companies involved in a five-year project in Vietnam to implement a vast $500 million dairy farm, the largest of its kind in the world.

Involving 30,000 cows at 12 state-of-the-art mega-dairies and a milk processing plant supplying 300 million litres per year, the operation is expected to produce 500,000 litres daily by the end of 2012.

In the meantime, China is sending groups of dairy farm manager trainees to Israel to learn how to boost milk production there as well.

**5. Tailor-made farm solutions**

Kibbutz-based Agricultural Knowledge On-Line (AKOL) makes unique software to help producers grow fruits and vegetables, raise poultry and dairy cows, manage vineyards and make olive oil.

Hosted in IBM's "cloud," AKOL's latest project gives farmers anywhere in the world access to information from Israeli experts. Hundreds of thousands of farmers can obtain tailor-made solutions, arrange group purchases of supplies and communicate with colleagues.

CEO Ron Shani said AKOL applications can advise farmers on when to plant, irrigate and harvest; how to cope with drought; how to choose the crops best for their area; how to implement ideal storage and temperature control procedures based on climate; and how to track the growth of chickens, livestock and fruit, among other ideas for running a modern, professional farm.

**Continued on page B19**

Dairy farm trainees from China

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# Sharing discoveries

Continued from page B18

**6. A better potato**

It took nearly 30 years of research, but Hebrew University's Prof. David Levy has developed strains of potatoes that thrive in hot, dry climates, and can be irrigated by saltwater.

Potatoes are one of the top sources of nutrition in the world, but they've never grown well in hot, desert regions like the Middle East. Now, farmers in these regions can grow potatoes as a cash crop.

Levy said he also intended his research to enhance understanding between Israel and its neighbours, as scientists and officials from Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Morocco meet with Israeli scientists to share knowledge and build bridges of information and technology.

**7. Squeezing water from the air**

Tal-Ya Water Technologies has developed reusable plastic trays to collect dew from the air, reducing the water needed by crops or trees by up to 50 per cent.

The square serrated trays, made from non-PET recycled and recyclable plastic with UV filters and a limestone additive, surround each plant or tree. With overnight temperature change, dew forms on both surfaces of the Tal-Ya tray, which funnels the dew and condensation straight to the roots. If it rains, the trays heighten the effect of each millimetre of water 27 times over.

Inventor and CEO Avraham Tamir said the trays also block the sun so weeds can't take root, and protect the plants from extreme temperature shifts. "Farmers need to use much less water, and in turn, much less fertilizer on the crop," which translates to less groundwater contamination.

**8. Unparalleled crop protection**

Two years ago, Hebrew University's tech-transfer company teamed up with Makhteshim Agan, a world leader in crop protection products, to develop and commercialize slow-release herbicides and a targeted insecticide that doesn't harm beneficial insects.

The total worldwide herbicide market is valued at more than $15 billion, of which approximately a quarter is dedicated to soil-applied herbicides and other pesticides. The Israeli approach incorporates herbicides into micelles or vesicles, microscopic capsules which are absorbed onto negatively charged clay minerals to enable a slow and controlled release, reducing leaching to deeper soil layers. This enhances efficiency and reduces the required doses. The novel insecticide kills caterpillars of night-flying moths – a common scourge for farmers worldwide – but unlike common commercial preparations, has minimal or no effect on any other creatures. High levels of control can be achieved with much less product, greatly minimizing environmental impact.

**9. Fishing in the desert**

Overfishing is a serious threat to the food supply, a grave situation since fish is the main source of protein for hundreds of millions of people. But what if fish could be raised virtually anywhere, even in the desert? That is just what the Israel's GFA (Grow Fish Anywhere) Advanced Systems has made possible.

The Israeli "zero-discharge" system eliminates the environmental problems in conventional fish farming, and doesn't depend on electricity or proximity to a body of water. Specially developed microbes purify fish waste byproducts right in the tank, with no need for spillage and refilling. The largest facility using GFA technology, in New York, produced about 100 tons of sea bream, bass and tilapia in 2010.

**10. Food from greenhouse gas**

Israel's Seambiotic clean-tech company recently launched a commercial algae farm in China and does business in the United States and Italy as well.

While people don't eat algae, algae ponds nourished by power-plant effluent can generate 30 times more feedstock (raw materials) for biofuel production than land-based crop alternatives, thus conserving farmed produce for human consumption.

Plus, the tiny plants, which thrive on carbon dioxide and sunlight, produce a valuable "nutraceutical" food additive that is especially popular in the Far East.

**11. Reintroducing carp to Africa**

Half a century ago, Lake Victoria carp was a significant part of the diet of the nearby Ugandan villagers. But when Nile perch was introduced to the lake, it drove smaller fish, including carp, to near-extinction. Villagers had neither the equipment nor the expertise necessary to start fishing the huge perch, and symptoms of protein deficiency started becoming apparent in their children.

Prof. Berta Sivan of Hebrew University came to the rescue with a multi-year project to help these African families. Her team has applied techniques developed over many years for Israeli fish farmers.

The Israeli project not only successfully spawned carp on Ugandan fish farms, but also provided training on how to dig and fill ponds to raise the small fish. Now local children have an abundant supply of protein to eat with their fruit and vegetables.

**12. Hardier seeds for better crops**

Hebrew University agricultural scientists Ilan Sela and Haim D. Rabinowitch developed TraitUP, a trademarked technology that enables the introduction of genetic materials into seeds without modifying their DNA. This method immediately and efficiently improves plants before they're even sowed. The university's Yissum Research Development technology transfer company licensed the seed treatment technology to Morflora Israel for curing fruit-tree diseases in orchards and groves, and for seedling treatment in the nursery.

"The new ability to deliver traits within days instead of years, and to offer a treatment with results similar to breeding to all current species, answers a long-unmet need that will revolutionize modern agriculture and significantly impact the vegetable and commodity crop markets," said Dotan Peleg, CEO of Morflora.

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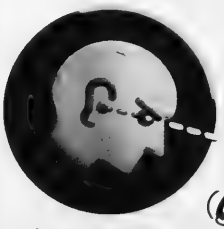
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## This Week

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# Putin visits Israel

**Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and Israeli President Shimon Peres, centre, with an unnamed Israeli veteran of Russia's wars, attended a ceremony in Netanya on Monday that unveiled a monument commemorating the Red Army's triumph over Nazi Germany. Speaking to a crowd of some 600, Putin said: "The white rock dove [of the monument] symbolizes the triumph of good and peace. May these values always serve as the basis for friendship between our nations." Peres responded that the "monument is a beacon of hope. Russia, which so greatly helped win the war, is the same Russia that can help achieve peace in the Middle East."**

***[Israel Sun photo]***

# *Canadian rabbis respond to Rabbi Amar*

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

Both the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly have issued statements condemning comments made by Israel's Sephardi chief rabbi about non-Orthodox Judaism and its practitioners.

On June 17, Rabbi Shlomo Amar said in an interview with the haredi Kol Berama radio station that he would fight Israel's recent agreement to pay the salaries of some non-Orthodox rabbis who lead their communities.

"The greatest danger for our generation is the danger of assimilation, and we need to be strong and steadfast in our fight," Rabbi Amar said. "It is forbidden to remain silent because there is nothing more serious than this measure."

He also said the decision to recognize non-Orthodox rabbis could "uproot all the foundations of the Torah."

JFNA president and CEO Jerry Silverman said in the organization's statement that it's "a fundamental Jewish virtue to 'love your fellow as yourself.' We condemn comments that disparage fellow Jews and, in particular, well-established branches of Judaism that represent 80 per cent of North American Jewry."

The Rabbinical Assembly expressed concern over what it called Rabbi Amar's "incendiary language [which] can result in devastating consequences." The RA's statement recalls the 1995 assassination of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was killed by an Orthodox Jew.

**Continued on page 23**

Rabbi Shlomo Amar

**Chukat**
**Candlelighting: 8:45**
**Havdalah: 9:48**
*Greater Toronto Area*

**Canada seeks role in developing Israel's natural resources – please see page 25**

## CANADA

### Home Started

**EDMONTON** — Mayor Stephen Mandel joined 200 people June 14 to break ground on Edmonton's first Jewish seniors home. The $30-million building is slated to open in 2014. To be called Beit Horim – Our Parents' Home – it's being built next to Beth Shalom Synagogue on land the shul once owned. The 13-storey home will have 135 units. The Beit Horim Society began fundraising in 1996. It gave $10 million to the project, while the province gave $7 million. A mortgage will cover the rest of the cost, the *Edmonton Journal* reported.

## WORLD

### Hadassah Sells HQ

**NEW YORK** — Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, has sold its midtown Manhattan headquarters for $71.5 million. The sale was approved by its board May 1, and a contract was signed a month later. Members will be asked to approve the sale at a special meeting in Dallas July 17. The deal gives Hadassah the right to use the building for up to three years. Hadassah, which has 300 members, marks its 100th anniversary in 2012. In late 2010, it returned $45 million it made in the Bernard Madoff ponzi scam. In early 2009, it laid off a quarter of its staff.

### Yemeni Jew Buried

**JERUSALEM** — The body of a Yemenite Jewish leader stabbed to death in an anti-semitic attack was brought to Israel for burial. Aaron Joseph Zindani, 46, was stabbed in a market in the capital Sana'a in May. His Muslim assailant reportedly accused him of casting a spell on and ruining him. Zindani's wife and five children flew with the body.

### Wiesel Returns Prize

**BUDAPEST** — Elie Wiesel has returned Hungary's highest honour because the country honoured a Nazi sympathizer. The Nobel Peace Prize winner repudiated the Order of Merit, Grand Cross, in a letter to the speaker of Hungary's Parliament published in the weekly *Magyar Narancs*. Wiesel, an author and Shoah survivor, received the award in 2004.His action was sparked by the participation of several Hungarian lawmakers in a May 27 memorial event for Jozsef Nyiro, a World War II member of Hungary's parliament who backed Hitler. "Hungarian authorities are encouraging the whitewashing of tragic and criminal episodes in Hungary's past, namely the wartime Hungarian government's involvement in the deportation and murder of hundreds of thousands of its Jewish citizens," Wiesel wrote. "I do not wish to be associated in any way with such activities."

### Shchitah Under Review In Poland

Andrzej Seremet

**WARSAW** — Poland's attorney general has asked the country's Constitutional Court to investigate the constitutionality of ritual slaughter.

Andrzej Seremet said he believes the minister of agriculture, who allowed an exemption to Polish law to accommodate ritual slaughter, violated the constitution.

Polish law requires animals to be stunned before slaughter. The only exception is ritual slaughter. Islamic and Jewish law require animals to be conscious when slaughtered.

The Polish ministry of agriculture authorized ritual slaughter several years ago, but animal rights activists say a Polish animal protection law forbids it. Activists who had been protesting against shchitah last month asked the country's prosecutor to investigate whether the ministry is violating the law by allowing it.

The chief rabbi of Poland, Rabbi Michael Schudrich, said he trusts Poland's legal system. "We are convinced that the Constitutional Court shall consider the matter also in the context of the freedom of religion."

Earlier in June, the Dutch government signed a deal with Jewish and Muslim leaders to allow ritual slaughter after parliament passed a law forbidding it.

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# Survivors celebrate their prom decades later

**Cara Edell**
Special to The CJN

It was better late than never when almost 300 Holocaust survivors celebrated their prom last week along with more than 100 young adults.

Chaired by Elise Kayfetz and Sara Lefton, the Senior Prom: An Intergenerational Celebration of Life, was held June 20 at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.

The evening featured a beauty bar where survivors could have makeup applied, prom pictures against a special backdrop, a four-course dinner by Uptown Catering, a raffle with prizes, music by the Joe Star Band and Yiddish singer Mitch Smolkin, and dancing.

The event was presented by the Yellow Rose Project and supported by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Community Connect, Baycrest, Circle of Care, Bernard Betel, the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, Jewish Family and Child Services, March of the Living and JUMP.

The Yellow Rose Project helps promote intergenerational relationships between Holocaust survivors and young adults, ages 16 to 40, through programs such as the Senior Prom.

**Freda Peck and her granddaughter Courtney Peck**
*[Cara Edell photo]*

Other programs include young professionals visiting survivors one on one, young people calling survivors on the phone, and small groups of young adults meeting with survivors so they can pass on their stories.

Kayfetz and her friend Andrea Rowan first created the prom experience in 2005 for residents of Shalom Village, a seniors home in Hamilton, Ont. Kayfetz, who is also a gerontologist, held a second one in 2007 at Baycrest.

"The prom is now an annual event that gives survivors the chance to get dressed up and dance the night away with younger generations," Lefton said.

"So many Holocaust survivors did not have a chance to enjoy large parts of their youth and certainly did not have a chance to go to their senior prom or high school dance. The Senior Prom is an opportunity for them to step back in time and experience the innocence of youth."

**Continued on page 22**

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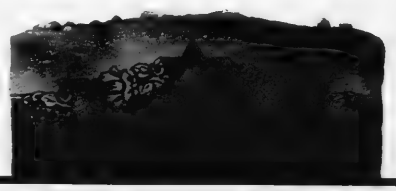

# Building Jerusalem (4)

*From the editor's desk...*

In ancient times, it was the road from Jerusalem to the port of Joppa, as the Romans called it, or Yaffo as it was known by the Jews. Today it is one of the iconic streets in the Jewish capital. A light rail train was recently installed on it to diminish the flow of vehicular traffic heading into downtown Jerusalem. Because of its prominent place in the psyche of Jerusalem, most of the suicide bombers who struck Jerusalem during the second intifadah did so somewhere on that street.

The street is Rehov Yaffo.

Not sarcastically, but quite reverentially, it has been called "the spine of Jerusalem, of the Jewish people, of the world" by a man who has made the well-being of that "spine" and the well-being of the countless men and women who are supported by its supplety and strength, his life's devotion.

It is easy to imagine Uri Amedi as a biblical prophet. One need only change his manner of dress. For he looks the way one might see a prophet in our mind, with a stern countenance but tender eyes. He is guided by the values and the traditions of the Jewish people. He speaks with the calm, thoughtful gravamen of a philosopher. And he is single minded in his preoccupation for the well-being of the city of Jerusalem and its vastly diverse people.

*The CJN* met with Amedi last month at his office in the community council of Lev Ha'ir (the city centre). He is the director of the council.

Amedi has lived in Jerusalem all his life. For more than 40 years he has been a community worker, organizer, activist, social worker, healer of wounded honour, dissipater of inter-ethnic tensions and mediator between quarreling sides. The last 30 of those years, he has focused his efforts in lev ha'ir (the city centre).

He knows its alleyways, its playgrounds, its public spaces and its hidden backstreets. He knows where people stroll and where people hide. He knows what shines in the city's sun and what lies only in shadow, what hums from constant use and what has been cast aside, neglected, broken, needing repair, needing attention.

But, just as humanity's problems do not stop at the artificial boundaries between neighbourhoods, neither does Amedi's work. He is involved in many different neighbourhoods all along the spine of the city that he loves so very much, where services need upgrading and residents need strengthening. Thus he is often seen strolling the streets of Nahlaot, the storied open-air market of Machane Yehuda, further east and south through the city centre to Morasha and even in Silwan in east Jerusalem.

"Every day I ask myself if I am worthy to live in Jerusalem," Amedi told *The CJN*. That is the starting point of his sense of duty toward the people who live in the city. And such is his reverence for the city.

Some 800,000 people live in Jerusalem. Nearly one third of the population (30 per cent) is haredi; 19 per cent are Arabs; and 51 per cent are everyone else. They are all his concerns if not actually his clients.

And his key purpose, he reiterated over and over again, is to help improve their lives.

One particular example he recited was in the restoration and restructuring of Machane Yehuda. Once it was a disorganized, decrepit, unkempt, but colourful replica of a medieval Middle East bazaar. Today it is a still colourful, but efficiently run, clean, modern incarnation of a Middle East bazaar. As part of the market's restructuring, he established a vendors' council and he took under his wing the young Arab boys, some as young as eight years old, who had left school to work in the market. They were called the children-of-the-baskets in reference to the heavy bags and parcels of merchandise they would carry to and from the market countless times a day. Amedi organized them into a guild-like grouping, providing them opportunities for education and a minimum standard of payment even as they chose to continue working rather than going to school.

**Uri Amedi**

"Building Jerusalem is hard work," he told *The CJN*. "Two qualities in particular are required: "Wisdom that flows from experience, and chesed - the desire to help the next individual. Our behaviour determines everything," Amedi said.

The Jerusalem Foundation agrees with him. That is why it assists Amedi in his unflagging work by providing him with the resources and the encouragement that are at least a start and often much more in his determination to build the city and its people.

(Fourth of a series)

**– MBD**

SeeJN

***BIALIK GROUNDBREAKING***

**Bialik Hebrew Day School head of school Shana Harris, left, president and CEO of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Ted Sokolsky, centre, and Joseph Lebovic break ground June 18 for Bialik's new northern campus, to be called the Ben and Edith Himel Education Centre, at the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan.**

***[Michelle Bitran photo]***

# Speakers expose dangers of 'lawfare'

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

The Lawfare Project defines "lawfare" as "the use of law as a weapon of war."

Canadian Brooke Goldstein, director of the New York-based Lawfare Project, says that in distinguishing a legitimate lawsuit from lawfare, you must look at the intention behind the legal action.

Brooke Goldstein

"Is it to pursue justice, to apply the law in the interests of freedom and democracy, or is the intent to undermine the very system of laws being manipulated?"

For Goldstein, it's clearly the latter, and in a recent speaking engagement before 75 people at the Jewish Urban Meeting Place (JUMP), she outlined several instances where lawfare was used to subvert western constitutional principles.

The state of Kentucky, for one, is being sued for considering a law that places the constitutional rights of its citizens above the requirements of foreign law. In another case, the International Court of Justice, in ruling Israel's security fence is a violation of international law, refused to hear evidence of its effectiveness in preventing terrorist attacks or accept the testimony of victims of terror. And at the United Nations Human Rights Council, a resolution was passed declaring blasphemy of Islam a violation of international law.

Law cases have been launched to chill critics of Islamic extremism, she suggested. Goldstein, 31, along with retired senator Jerry Grafstein, described the dangers of lawfare and outlined steps individuals could take to oppose it. Grafstein said the practice of lawfare "is all about words," and he devoted seven years of his time as a senator to see to passage of a private member's bill that added the words, "suicide bombing," to the Criminal Code definition of terrorism.

By including the term in Canadian domestic law, it sets "a civic standard" and "it compels police and the justice department to do something.

"If you incited suicide bombing in Canada, it's a criminal act," he said.

While a criminal act in Canada, in the Muslim world, it's something children are encouraged to embrace.

State TV and radio stations, educational authorities and many others are, in effect, practising child abuse, convincing children to relish death and murdering others, Goldstein said.

On Palestinian state TV, she said, kids as young as 10 are interviewed and congratulated for saying their greatest aspiration is to become a martyr.

Goldstein said she first felt a disconnect between what she was taught in law school and the reality experienced by Muslim youngsters. She was especially struck by the image of 15-year-old Hussam Abdo, a mentally challenged Palestinian boy wearing explosives, who surrendered to Israeli forces at a checkpoint. He had been recruited by the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, given the equivalent of $20, had his "martyrdom" photo taken, and was driven to a checkpoint near Nablus where he was told to blow himself up among Palestinians waiting there.

The Abdo incident led Goldstein and Alistair Leyland to investigate child abuse in the Palestinian territories and produce a film titled *The Making of a Martyr.*

# Former CJC head named to bench

Compiled by CJN Staff

Edward M. Morgan, a former president of Canadian Jewish Congress, was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Justice.

In making the appointment to the bench last week, Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, said that Morgan would be replacing Justice A.M.Gans, who elected to become a supernumerary judge as of April 1.

Morgan received a bachelor of arts from Northwestern University in 1976, a bachelor of laws from the University of Toronto in 1984 and a master of laws from Harvard University in 1986.

He was a law clerk to Justice Bertha Wilson of the Supreme Court of Canada in 1984-85. He was admitted to the Bar of Ontario in 1988.

Morgan has been a full professor with the faculty of law at the University of Toronto since 2008, an associate professor from 1998 to 2008, and an assistant professor from 1986 to 1989. He practised with Davies Ward & Beck from 1989 to 1997 and thereafter maintained a litigation practice. His main areas of practice were commercial litigation, constitutional litigation,private international law and human rights law.

Morgan is married to former *CJN* staff reporter Anna Morgan.

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# Mount Kilimanjaro climb to aid Toronto hospital

**Susan Minuk**
Special to The CJN

Thirteen fundraisers will climb Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain peak, on Sept. 4, as part of Mount Sinai Hospital's new initiative, Summit for Sinai.

The summit of Kili, as it is known, is at 5,895 metres or 19,340 feet. Each "peak performer" will climb for an area of care at the hospital.

The initiative is the brainchild of Mark Gryfe, president of Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation, and David Cynamon, executive chair of K2Pure Solutions and chair of Summit for Sinai.

"The broad range of individuals who were selected to participate needed to meet the goal of raising a significant amount of money and have the determination and passion to withstand the elements associated with the climb. From the base to the peak, there will be major fluctuations in weather and terrain," Cynamon said.

The goal is to net $1 million total for the hospital as a team effort.

Kilimanjaro is one of the largest volcanoes in the world with three main volcanic peaks: Kibo, Mawenzi and Shira. The dormant volcano is located in north-eastern Tanzania, near the border of Kenya. Although the mountain is at three degrees south of the equator, an ice cap covers the crater of Kibo year-round.

There are inherent risks in any mountaineering trip. Reaching the top of Kilimanjaro involves negotiating technically difficult terrain and the need to watch each other closely for the effects of oxygen deprivation with the high altitude.

Climber Corey Mandell, president of Mandell Entertainment Group and owner and director of Camp Timberlane, said that "altitude sickness is the x-factor. Altitude sickness affects everyone differently, and there really is no way of knowing how your body will react."

The 13 Summit for Sinai climbers are David Cynamon, Derek Frankfort, Gary Goldman, Jonathan Goldman, Zak Goldman, Evan Green, Corey Mandell, Jamie Salter, David Morrison, Robert Morrison, Mark Nashman, Richard Pilosof and Ronnie Tal.

They will fundraise for areas at the hospital including the Schwartz-Reisman Emergency Centre, the Highest Priority Needs department, the Avery Goldman Special Fund for the neonatal intensive care unit, the thyroid cancer initiative, cancer research, women's and infants' heath, the neonatal intensive care unit and diabetes research.

**Dr. Howard Ovens, director of the Schwartz-Reisman Emergency Centre of Mount Sinai Hospital, left, and David Cynamon, chair of Summit for Sinai and executive chair of K2Pure Solutions** *[Annie Tong photo]*

Two doctors from Mount Sinai Hospital, Dr. Howard Ovens, director of the Schwartz-Reisman Emergency Centre, and Dr. Bjug Borgundvaag, an emergency physician, will also climb Kilimanjaro as part of the team, but they are not fundraising.

Climber Zak Goldman, a partner in the Sterling Park Financial Group, is raising money in memory of his son, Avery.

"The team is making a very large commitment to go and climb a mountain for 10 days, and I think when people hear about that level of dedication, they will step up to donate," Zak Goldman said.

"Climber Jamie Salter, CEO of Authentic Brands Group, lost his brother to cancer, and I, too, have lost family members to cancer, so we are raising money for cancer research at Mount Sinai," Mandell said.

There are six official trekking routes up Kilimanjaro. The one the Sinai climbers will use is the Machame route – it's considered steep but manageable, and the most scenic. It will take seven days to reach the Uhuru Peak – the highest point in Africa. The group will be travelling with the Adventure Consultant's International Expedition Guiding Team.

"Once I reach the top, I intend on being the first person in the world to lay tfillin at the summit of Kilimanjaro," Mandell promised.

The Machame route winds around the skirt of the mountain, slowly gaining altitude and giving the climbers glimpses of the entire south side of the peak. The climbers will go through various climate zones every day, each with unique and different views and highlights.

Climber Derek Frankfort, general manager of Home Lumber Inc., said, "It is the adventure, the physical challenge, the exotic location and being in one of the seven summits of the world that lured me in. However, the crux of the fundraising initiative is to raise money for the hospital, and that just pulled it all together for me."

Sponsors will have an opportunity to log in and view their climber daily via webcam.

For more information or to donate, please go to www.summitforsinai.ca.

On behalf of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, we offer our sincere congratulations to Judy Feld Carr who was recently bestowed with the Presidential Award of Distinction from Israeli President Shimon Peres.

It is an honour she is highly deserving of for her decades of work on behalf of her fellow Jews who suffered in silence for far too long in Syria.

It says in the Talmud, "...whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world". Imagine then, the impact Ms. Feld Carr's courage, strength, and determination have had on the Jewish world, and the world-at-large, by demonstrating that Herculean tasks, against seemingly insurmountable odds, can be accomplished when one has the will to do so.

We thank Ms. Feld Carr for her commitment to *tikkun olam* and for standing up as a shining example for others to emulate.

Mazel Tov,

Elizabeth Wolfe
Board Chair,
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Ted Sokolsky
President & CEO,
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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CANADIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

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*Now more than ever, there's a need to demonstrate Israel's humanity and its commitment to peace*

Shalom Friends,

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Our success depends on partnerships with people like you. By investing together, Israelis and Diaspora Jewry can further develop our humanitarian initiatives that influence attitudes to Israel and are positive steps in the quest for peace. Our 'Saving Children' project, a cooperative Israeli/Palestinian venture, and our 'Fellowship Residency Program' for Palestinian doctors, reflect our commitment to help change the narrative for Israelis and Palestinians. They demonstrate how the Peres Center is breaking down cultural barriers and defusing social antagonism.

At The Canadian Peres Center For Peace, we share the belief of our founder, Israeli President Shimon Peres, that a fair, durable peace between Israel and its neighbours is possible. We hope you agree and will join us in our pursuit of this noble goal.

Thank you and shalom.

Dr. Michael Dan
Honorary Chairman

Arie Raif
Vice-Chairman

Mark Freiman
President

Hon. Joe Volpe
Former Federal Cabinet Minister

"When people ask me how I'd like to be remembered in history, my answer is simple: As a man who has saved the life of one child. I can't think of anything more noble and more moving than the idea that I helped save the life of a child. Thousands of Palestinian children have received vital medical care with help from The Peres Center in Israel. Many of these children would have died if they hadn't received such treatment."

**Shimon Peres**
**President of Israel and Founder of The Peres Center**

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# Wary times

The Muslim Brotherhood has climbed to the pinnacle of power in Egypt. The party controls nearly half the seats in parliament, and its candidate, Mohammed Morsi, was last Sunday officially declared the country's president.

In the past, Morsi has usually referred to Israel as the "Zionist entity," it being very hard for him to pronounce the actual name of the Jewish state. He was also a founding member of the Muslim Brotherhood's Committee to Fight the Zionist Project. Morsi is a hardcore Islamist. Yet, he is also a shrewd, practical man. Thus, after he was declared the country's president, he vowed to recognize all agreements that Egypt has signed with other countries. This was a clear reference to the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt.

Once the results were made known, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office issued a welcoming message of sorts to Morsi. "Israel appreciates the democratic process in Egypt and respects its outcome," the statement began. And it continued, "Israel expects continued cooperation with the Egyptian administration on the basis of the peace accord between the two countries, which is in the interest of the two peoples and contributes to regional stability."

Israel, justifiably, is wary of the election outcome.

The United States congratulated Morsi and the Egyptian people "for this milestone in their transition to democracy." But clearly, the White House, too, is wary, concerned that the natural political and theological tendencies of the Morsi government will add to the exceedingly large changes already stressing the region. The Coptic Christians of Egypt are wary, too. They fear for their freedom of worship. They fear mostly, however, for their lives.

Even though they are reported to have voted for Morsi in preference to the generals' candidate, most of the women of Egypt and the young, secular or moderately religious Egyptians are likely quite wary as well. What will be the extent of their personal and civic rights in a country whose Islamist government has vowed to pass no law that "offends the laws of God"? Former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak lies dying in a prison hospital. His family is also wary.

The military council is certainly wary. Even though there is not yet a constitution in the country, the interim powers of the president have been diminished and 166 seats still remain to be elected in parliament, the council must be fearful that it will soon entirely lose its grip on the reigns of power.

And though now atop Egypt's pyramid of power, the Muslim Brotherhood itself, are probably very wary, too, not especially sanguine that the generals and the military council will simply step aside to accommodate a democratic process they (and indeed the Brotherhood itself) have always abhorred? These are wary times in Egypt and for the region. The entire world is on watch hoping that the new regime will care for its people as much as it does for its theocratic ideology.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Canadian Jewish Congress expressed disappointment at a Supreme Court of Canada decision not to grant Ontario Jewish schools the right to government funding. It had argued that equality provisions in the Charter of Rights require the province to extend funding to Jewish schools if it did so for grades 11 to 13 in Catholic schools, as proposed under Bill C-30. The court ruled 7-0 the Charter doesn't override the 1867 constitutional bargain.

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## The IOC's duplicity

The column "IOC still rejects Munich remembrance" (June 7), by Lawrence Hart, dealing with the refusal of the International Olmypic Committee (IOC) to hold a memorial service in honour of the Israeli athletes who were murdered at Munich in 1972, is a further illustration of the inherent duplicity of the IOC in pretending to adhere to the spirit of the Olympics, but at the same time bowing to political pressures from those countries that have disagreements with Israel.

The *Globe and Mail* recently reported that an Algerian athlete refused to compete against an Israeli at the World Cup canoeing regatta in Germany and that likely all Algerian athletes will refuse to participate in the London 2012 Olympics if they are forced to compete against Israelis. This, as the article points out, would be in complete contravention of the Olympic charter and should result in Algeria being thrown out of the Games.

At a previous Olympics, an Iranian athlete refused to compete against an Israeli, and notwithstanding a courageous condemnation by sportscaster Brian Williams, no steps were taken to punish the Iranians. In fact, on his return to Tehran, the Iranian who refused to compete was given a substantial monetary reward for his actions. I call on the head of the Canadian Olympic team to issue a statement of condemnation and for the IOC to state categorically that such acts of antisemitism will not be tolerated at the London Olympics.

**Bert Raphael**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

### *LET THEM GO...*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

• • •

## Mount Sinai retains kosher kitchen

Mount Sinai has recently received questions about our decision to provide patients with kosher food supplied by the well-established COR-supervised catering services in our community. The Jewish community, which has played such a vital role in the founding and continued leadership of our great hospital, should feel absolutely and unequivocally confident that the high standards of kashrut will continue to be met at Mount Sinai Hospital. Both the Kashruth Council of Canada and I have been engaged in this new approach of providing kosher meals.

Contrary to inaccurate information in the community, Mount Sinai will maintain its kosher kitchen facility for the distribution of catered and sealed trays and, when needed, the Kashruth Council has committed to us that they will provide a mashgiach. Mount Sinai's commitment to the Jewish community is total and complete. We provide additional services such as a Shabbat elevator, a sukkah, Minchah services and more. I know the board, the CEO and the whole Mount Sinai community are committed to quality and maintaining and meeting these and other needs of the Jewish community.

**Rabbi Bernard Schulman**
**Director of Chaplaincy**
**Mount Sinai Hospital**
**Toronto**

• • •

## Small archives lose gov't support

I read the article "Archivists denounce federal budget" (June 14), about the scrapping of a federal program that supports small community archives and museums, with great anticipation. As the former director of the Ontario Jewish Archives, I was involved in the creation of the Association of Canadian Jewish Archives and Museums and was very pleased that the institutional members rallied together to support the National Archival Development Program.

There is one error that I wanted to address. The minister of culture's press secretary describes Library and Archives Canada (LAC) as a Crown corporation. He obviously is not very familiar with the ministry, since LAC is not a Crown corporation. I also wanted to note that beyond the loss of grant funds to Jewish heritage institutions, which is indeed significant, these cuts have been a near-fatal blow to the Canadian archival infrastructure – this includes the Canadian Council of Archives and the provincial councils – which support archives across Canada. In turn, the loss of dozens of archival and library jobs within LAC and the termination of most private acquisitions will also have devastating implications. In a recent article in the *Globe and Mail*, historian Jack Granatstein condemned LAC's decision to abdicate its responsibilities in this area, which is a violation of its mandate, as showing "nothing so much as contempt for the past and, regrettably, for the future as well."

With the largest institutions turning away private collections – even those from provincial or nationally acclaimed leaders and celebrities – who will care for these treasures as the budgets of smaller institutions have drastically been reduced over the last several years and there are no archival grants available anymore? This is something for the community to ponder.

**Ellen Scheinberg**
**Toronto**

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# Looking at Israel's strategic situation

**Maj.-Gen. Amir Eshel**

The Middle East is going through a time of dramatic change. Looking through the lens of national security, this creates many new challenges and unknowns that we have to take into consideration. We have two options: one is to sit on the fence and see what will happen and try to prepare ourselves to address these new challenges. The second is to be proactive to try to have some influence on events, even though Israel's ability to address these changes is limited. The toolbox is not empty, but the tools needed to address the emerging currents are limited.

**Iran's Nuclear Aspirations**

When we look to the future, the first factor that we have to take into consideration strategically is Iran. We have to look toward Iran's ambitions, aspirations, and its journey to nuclear capability, and the potential of this to create a dramatic change in the Middle East and beyond. Iran's nuclear aspirations are really the leading edge of the whole package. It is easy to understand that a nuclear Iran is going to create a dramatic change in the region, first, by having such a capability and because of the outcome of having that capability. Second, this will create a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, because other countries will try to acquire such a capability. It can create a process that will lead to a global nuclear jungle, because if Iran dared to do it, others will also.

The first lesson certain leaders learned from the Arab Spring is to get nuclear capability and become immune to outside pressure. They consider ousted Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi to have made a big mistake when he gave up his nuclear program. No one would have dared to use force in dealing with him if he had nuclear capability. No one would have dared to use force against Saddam Hussein in 1991 or 2003 if he would have had a nuclear capability.

Next we have to imagine the behaviour of radical non-state actors under an Iranian nuclear umbrella. They will be more aggressive and will dare to do things that perhaps right now they are not willing to do. After the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack, a senior Indian military officer replied to our question of why India did nothing when everyone knew who was behind the attack. He said that when the other side has a nuclear capability and a will to use it, you think twice. This means that strategically you are more limited and more restrained, because you do not want to get into that game. Therefore, this will create a dramatic change in Israel's strategic posture, because if we are forced to take action in Gaza or Lebanon when they are under an Iranian nuclear umbrella, it might be different.

**Regional Turmoil**

From Israel's perspective, the regional turmoil is not a "spring." A year ago our assessment was that these revolutions would be hijacked by others, and this has come true. The picture is not monochromatic, meaning there are opportunities and there are risks, but when we assess all of those, we think the risks for the mid-term and long-term are greater than the opportunities. These revolutions were hijacked by well-organized groups with a solid agenda and ideology, and the dominant tone is Islamist, coloured by the Muslim Brotherhood. This movement has been with us for many years, and some of their beliefs and values are not similar to those shared by other nations. They are pragmatic, and perhaps this creates opportunities, but we have to look at the core issues and, from our point of view, they are not positive, although they're also not completely negative. They have to deal with problems that are enormous, and the difficult issues do not have solutions right now.

What is their ability to address the internal challenges? I am not optimistic. Who is going to solve the economic problems in Egypt? But if they are not solved, the situation there could get worse. The victory of the Muslim Brotherhood is reflected in the whole region. During the next decade, we are going to see a rise in Brotherhood movements throughout the Middle East. Each country is a different case, but we will see their rise among the Palestinians, within Hamas, and in Syria, Jordan, and Turkey. I do not see them creating a new Sunni axis coloured by the Brotherhood, because they are focused on their internal issues right now.

Maj.-Gen. Amir Eshel

However, one country does affect the other. We do not consider Egypt as an enemy. There is co-operation between the IDF and the Egyptian military to face this new situation.

**Syria After Assad**

We do not know what will happen in Syria the day after President Bashar Assad's regime comes to an end. One thing we do know is that it is not a question of if, but when. There is a possibility that this major player will be removed from the radical axis.

Syria is not coherent like other countries. The Sunnis in Damascus and the Sunnis in Aleppo are different, and then there are the Druze, the Kurds and the Alawis.

One immediate cause for concern is the huge stockpile of strategic chemical and biological weapons capabilities inside Syria, coming mainly from eastern Europe. We do not know who will be in control the day after. What has been and will be transferred to Hezbollah, what will be divided among the factions inside Syria, and what this is going to mean are all major concerns.

On the military level, every component of our national security strategy faces challenges. First, there is the need for deterrence, with countries in the Middle East working to acquire weapons of mass destruction (and some having already acquired them). The growing numbers of surface-to-surface missiles and rockets are another major challenge to our deterrence. Our early-warning capability in the past was meant for a large-scale war. Today, one needs a warning for a single terrorist, and this presents a new strategic situation.

Another component being challenged is Israel's ability to achieve a decisive outcome in any conflict. We have the capability to hit any adversary very hard, but the last rocket may well be fired from the other side. There will be no more knockouts. In future conflicts, we may be exchanging fire until the last minute, and we will not see a white flag being waved. Today, achieving a decisive outcome is not like it used to be, not because it is not decisive, but because the image at the end will be different.

**A Security Strategy**

Israel is a small country, and our first prime minister's national security strategy was to strive to achieve a decisive outcome in a very short time and to transfer the war to the other side of the border. Now we are facing a campaign that is implemented between the big wars, and it is implemented on a daily basis by others.

Iran is not only fighting Israel, but also others on a daily basis in many dimensions – terror, political, economic. They have the long arm of the paramilitary Quds forces. What are they doing in South America? What are they doing in Nigeria? Iran has aspirations for regional hegemony, and they are working everywhere. There is an ongoing Iranian campaign using terror, as well as economic, legal and political means.

The IDF was built to protect Israel's borders, and we must address this campaign right now. This means being proactive in order to shape the situation and to decrease our enemies' capabilities. We have to deal with the smuggling of huge quantities of arms. It involves an ongoing campaign in which we have been required to change our organization. There are many fronts, not just military, but also political, legal, and economic.

**Direct Threats**

One of the challenges to Israel's national security strategy is to deal with direct threats. We have seen enormous efforts by our enemies to arm themselves with surface-to-surface missiles and rockets. We are talking about more than 100,000 missiles and rockets, which are now of longer-range and are more lethal and more accurate. There has also been a massive investment in air defences. Even Syria has invested more than $2 billion in air defences over the last few years, because its leaders understand they have a problem with the Israeli Air Force. In addition, huge quantities of anti-tank missiles have gone to terrorist organizations, and these have been fired at yellow Israeli school buses near Gaza. We have to deal with all of this.

The region is unstable. Other countries that have state-of-the-art western technology might change in the future, and we have to take this into consideration as well.

**The Palestinian Issue**

Unless an agreement with the Palestinians is based on solid security arrangements, it will not last. People tend to think that peace provides security, and that is true, but here in the Middle East, security also provides peace. Any Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement must be protected by a solid security arrangement because of the proximity of the West Bank and Gaza to Israel's heartland, and the exposure of our population to potential threats. The IDF continues to support the PA under the directive of our political leadership. There are many areas of co-operation.

**Preparing for the Unknown**

In order to prepare for future unknowns, you enhance your core, robust, versatile and flexible capabilities in order to address those challenges that you do not even know about today. More than that, it is crucial to have people who can adapt to new situations. We need to be flexible to change things as we see them emerging.

*Maj.-Gen. Amir Eshel is commander of the Israeli Air Force and former head of the IDF Planning Directorate. This essay is based on a presentation to the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs in January 2012.*

# Call me a proud 'Zionist firebrand'

A blogger on the Maclean's magazine website has deemed me a "Zionist firebrand" – and it was most assuredly not intended as a compliment. "Firebrand" is Canadian for extremist, fanatic, a most non-academic and far too aggressively American combatant in the Middle East wars.

My crime, apparently, was writing a "fiery" defence of a delegation of Canadian comedians who were heckled in east Jerusalem. Their crime, apparently, was mentioning the word "Israel" in front of a group of Palestinians in east Jerusalem.

*Gil Troy*

*in Montreal*

The story begins in Toronto, when Mark Breslin, the founder of the Yuk Yuks chain of comedy clubs, decided he wanted to help the Jewish state. "I could write a cheque," he explained to me, "but so could a dentist." He wanted to use his particular skills as a comedian and an entertainment entrepreneur to help Israel.

He therefore decided to lead a delegation of six young talented comedians to Israel on a goodwill tour, which took place in June and was sponsored by Canada's Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs. In the spirit of a good comedian, who knows no boundaries – geographic or verbal – and abhors censorship, when he heard that few comedians play east Jerusalem, he volunteered to bring his troupe there.

The comedians appeared in east Jerusalem on a Friday night and ran into trouble immediately. Within seven seconds, Sam Easton was heckled. In typical comedians' style of acknowledging the site of their gig, Easton, the MC for the evening, had begun by saying, "Man, what a beautiful country. We are having such an incredible time here in Israel."

People hissed and booed. They shouted out "Palestine." At least one person shouted that Israel doesn't deserve to exist. The next comedian, Jean Paul, also was attacked for telling an innocuous joke – what does a polite Israeli magician say? *TO-dah*! Some westerners in the audience called Jean Paul, a black man, "racist" for making the joke. Some Canadian diplomats attending told Breslin that Israel "stole" Palestinian land.

My supposedly "fiery" response involved chiding the Palestinians for forgetting the Middle East tradition of welcoming strangers and suggesting that this kind of Palestinian intolerance and rudeness made Israeli democracy look good.

The Canadian comedians were innocent non-combatants. We should not become so inured to conflict that we accept the politicization of every evening and every innocent joke. So, yes, if defending these kind comedians, who meant no harm, makes me a "Zionist firebrand," I will wear that designation proudly. And if defending the Jewish state makes me "fiery" and non-academic, I accept those labels too.

But it's worth exploring the underlying subtext here. At work is the delegitimizers' delegitimization of the legitimizers. Part of the systematic strategy to attack Israel, isolate Israel, read Israel out of the community of nations, involves making the very act of defending Israel illegitimate. If any defence of Israel, no matter how innocuous, is labelled extreme, the defence of Israel is undermined. And using the term "Zionist" pejoratively, in a world that increasingly demonizes the movement for Jewish national liberation, makes the attack more dismissive.

These attacks often have a chilling effect, putting defenders on the defensive. If I were untenured, or more sensitive, I might be intimidated – which was the intention. Instead, I wear the attacks as a badge of honour – and call out the attackers for their methods. I am a Zionist – not merely an anti-anti-Zionist. And I make no apologies for my passion, even as I back it up with evidence and reason.

On a deeper level, this incident offered a classic example of the pathologization of Israel. If every trip to Israel becomes controversial, if every conversation about Israel becomes headache-inducing, we lose and the anti-Israel forces win. The true, important, resonant headlines about the comedians' mission to Israel had nothing to do with their rude treatment in east Jerusalem. These comedians loved Israel – they loved the spirituality of Jerusalem, the normalcy of Tel Aviv, the Israelis' indomitable spirit. They laughed and learned from the Dead Sea to Masada, from the ancient tunnels of Jerusalem's Western Walls to the chic shops of Tel Aviv's Kikar Ha'atzmaut.

In short, as the boyish, charming, exuberant Easton said: "Man, what a beautiful country. We are having such an incredible time here in Israel."

So will other visitors, both Jews and non-Jews.

# *Why I'm marching in the Pride Parade*

The other day I was mentioning to someone that I'm marching in Toronto's Pride Parade on July 1, under a City Shul banner. We'll be next to Kulanu, Toronto's Jewish lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered social, cultural and educational group. We'll be wearing rainbow kippot knitted by Mayan women in Guatemala.

"But you aren't gay!" the person exclaimed. Right. And I guess if I'm not homeless, I shouldn't march for better conditions for homeless folk. And if I'm not Darfurian I shouldn't march for Darfur. And if I don't eat meat, I shouldn't care about the kosher slaughtering scandal in Postville, Iowa. And if I don't keep kosher, I shouldn't worry when they start talking about outlawing kosher slaughter in Denmark. And if I'm a man, I don't see sexism all around me. And if I'm a Christian, I don't care what they say about Jews – you get the picture.

No, I'm not going to the parade to outshout Queers Against Israeli Apartheid. They may or may not be there, but their presence won't determine whether or why I go. And I'm not going to be politically correct. There are many things about the parade I don't like – the sexual and immodest nature of some of the clothing, the excess, the plastic beads lying around the city for days afterward, the proof of your being "properly PC" if you go. I actually don't even like parades – they're often long, hot, dusty, loud and filled with over-the-top revelry, and I'm not really into crowds. But I'm going, and I'm marching.

I'm marching because as a Jew I support pride in being who you are. So many Jews have no pride in being Jewish. So many Jews are ashamed of their Jewishness, and they let the world's caricatures and ignorance define them. Shame, self-loathing and self-doubt are in the Jew's spiritual vocabulary and lived experience. So "pride" is a Jewish concept I really "get." We champion it for every minority, every oppressed group, every human who feels stripped of his or her selfhood in the light of the vast and strong "other." Yet when it comes to Jews who aren't heterosexual, we suddenly become squeamish.

If pride is an awareness of our own dignity and worth, a deep pleasure from our own and others' achievements, and a delight in who we are and what we do, then I can't help but feel aligned as a Jew.

As Gabrielle Orcha wrote in the *Jewish Women's Archive*, "At its best, it's inherently part of the Jewish make-up, the feminist fabric, minority's manuscript... for thousands of years systematic attempts have been made to strip us of our pride, and yet, we are here, all of us standing, many of us wearing the mantel of our Jewish identity with: *pride*."

We Jews have had to reclaim our self-worth time and time again. We too have been closeted, shut out, trying to "pass," expected to assimilate and "fit in," advised to tone it down, change our style, be like everyone else. Our very existence has been a thorn in many sides.

*Rabbi Elyse Goldstein*

*in Toronto*

I'm marching because I know what it's like to feel like a thorn.

I'm marching because I remember as a woman what it meant to be told I cannot, should not and must not. I remember breaking glass ceilings so that others would not have to cut their heads. I remember the fear, the surprise, the shock, the anger, the verbal and public dismissals of my personhood and my place in the Jewish community time and time again, and not so very long ago.

I'm marching to say that Jewish life doesn't look just one way or like just one type of person. It's not all mom, dad, 2.2 kids and a dog. We don't all wear shtreimls, and we don't all eat gefilte fish. We aren't all white. We aren't all married. We aren't all successful, middle class businesspeople. We aren't all heterosexual. The Jewish community is as complex as we human beings all are. I'm marching because the Jewish community should – and could – be as vibrant and diverse as this wonderfully diverse city.

I'm marching because it stretches my own envelope, my own comfort zone. And I'm marching because it reminds me that God's image is mysterious and diverse, and doesn't look only like me.

# Turkey: a major player in the Middle East

Turkey, the successor state of the Ottoman Empire, was once a comparatively marginal player in the Middle East, placing a premium on cultivating relations with nations outside the region. But in the past decade, in a dramatic shift, Turkey has become a significant power in the Mideast, having upgraded ties with the Arab world and Iran, adopted a more activist approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict and extended its influence into Turkic countries in Central Asia.

"Turkey wants to be a major actor in the old Ottoman lands," explained Sami Kohen, an influential Turkish foreign affairs newspaper columnist.

For decades after the emergence of the pro-western secular Turkish republic in 1923, Turkey, under the leadership of its founding father, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, largely limited its involvement in Middle Eastern affairs. But since the Justice and Development party's accession to power in 2002, Turkey – a Sunni Muslim state and the sole Islamic member of the NATO alliance – has upgraded relations with countries it once ruled.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Ankara*

And since the Arab Spring, the rebellions in the Mideast that have toppled a succession of authoritarian Arab regimes, Turkey has been regarded as a model for aspiring Arab democracies thanks to its democratic traditions, thriving economy and growing diplomatic clout.

The revolution in Turkey's foreign policy is driven by a desire to consolidate and expand its $1-trillion economy, promote regional stability and increase its profile in the Middle East. The chief architects of Turkey's new activism in the region are Abdullah Gul, the president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the prime minister and Ahmet Davutoglu, the foreign minister.

All three men are members of the Justice and Development party, which is rooted in Turkey's Islamist movement, hews to a conservative social agenda and is dedicated to promoting liberal market policies. Founded 11 years ago, the Justice and Development party has won three consecutive elections since 2002, most recently in 2011.

Until about a century ago, the Ottomans dominated the Middle East, exerting control in such colonial outposts as Palestine, Syria and Iraq. With its catastrophic defeat in World War I, the Ottoman Empire, aligned to Germany, was partitioned by the Allies. Turkey emerged from the smouldering ruins as an independent nation. The new regime jettisoned the caliphate, secularized the nation, appropriated the Latin alphabet and moved closer to Europe.

Turkish governments from the 1920s onward generally looked beyond the Middle East, but in recent years, Turkey has strengthened links with Arab countries, Iran and Central Asian nations ranging from Kazakhstan to Turkmenistan. Of the 30-plus new embassies and consulates Turkey has opened since 2000, more than a dozen have been in Muslim lands. During this period, Turkey's volume of trade with Islamic nations has nearly doubled.

Since his appointment as foreign minister in 2009, Davutoglu, a political scientist by training and Erdogan's former adviser, Turkey has deepened its connections to its old Ottoman clients. Although Davutoglu is associated with the concept of neo-Ottomanism, he denies that Turkey is attempting to rebuild a neo-Ottoman order in the Mideast so as to gain regional hegemony.

"We want good relations with all countries in the Middle East," said a top-level Turkish diplomat in Ankara, Turkey's capital. "But we have no desire to dominate anyone."

In pursuit of its interests, Turkey has sought to create a "zero problems" policy with its neighbours. But since the Middle East is riddled with problems, this policy has not been entirely successful.

Turkey, having supported successful Arab uprisings in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya, has reaped tangible benefits in those countries.

But in Syria, where a bloody revolt threatens to spark a civil war, Turkey's influence has crumbled.

Turkey, having almost gone to war with Syria in the late 1990s over its support of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), renewed ties with Damascus after President Bashar Assad cracked down on the Kurds. Trade relations boomed, Turkey and Syria conducted joint military manoeuvres and Erdogan established close personal bonds with Assad.

But when Assad reneged on a promise to liberalize his totalitarian regime, Turkey openly sided with the Syrian rebels, sheltered thousands of Syrian refugees in tent camps near the border and even threatened armed intervention.

Erdogan has called for "moral intervention" in Syria to end the bloodshed and has predicted that Assad's government will not last. More recently, the Turkish interior minister accused Syria of permitting Kurds to reestablish bases on Syrian territory. On May 30, Turkey expelled Syria's ambassador in Ankara.

Discord between Turkey and Iraq has grown since Ankara allowed Iraq's vice-president, Tariq al-Hashimi, to settle in Istanbul. Hashimi, charged with terrorism, is considered a fugitive by Baghdad.

Turkey has cultivated its relationship with Iran, its largest supplier of natural gas after Russia and one of its most important trading partners. Nearly two years ago, after Turkey became the sole NATO member to host Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad during a visit, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed concern that Turkey was gravitating toward Iran.

**Turkey's foreign ministry in Ankara.**
*[Sheldon Kirshner photo]*

Turkey, though, has been critical of Iran's support of Assad, while Iran has castigated Turkey for agreeing to participate in a proposed NATO missile shield program designed to track missiles launched from Iranian territory. Turkey has also upset Tehran by reducing crude oil imports from Iran.

Turkey backs Iran's right to peaceful nuclear energy, but opposes a militarized nuclear program. A few years ago, Turkey and Brazil co-sponsored a plan to outsource Iranian uranium enrichment to a third country, a plan the United States rejected. Turkey has voiced opposition to an Israeli pre-emptive strike on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Turkey's quest for "zero problems" with neighbours has also hit a wall with respect to Israel. Bilateral relations have frayed since the Gaza war in 2008-09 and the storming of the Mavi Marmara, a Turkish vessel that tried to break Israel's naval siege of the Gaza Strip.

Before the latest troubles, Turkey earned Israel's gratitude by mediating four rounds of indirect talks with Syria that took place in 2008. But the Turkish leadership angered Israel by inviting Hamas leaders to Turkey, hoping to moderate its policy, and by supporting the Palestinian Authority's unilateral gambit for United Nations recognition of Palestinian statehood.

Although Turkey was the first Muslim state to extend recognition to Israel, Turkey voted against the 1947 UN Palestine partition plan and has since been a keen supporter of the Palestinian cause.

Yet Turkey firmly opposes Palestinian terrorism. As a Turkish official said, "Our message is clear. We reject violence, and dialogue must be the way to settle problems."

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# Stashover-Slipia honours innovative leader

## *Educator has been running services for 30 years*

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

Jack Lipinsky has been leading services at the Stashover-Slipia Congregation for 30 years, a job he says he fell into.

He was honoured by the shul on June 17 at an afternoon program, where he was presented with the Ontario Historical Society's Joseph Brant Award.

Thirty years ago, Lipinsky – now a 55-year-old historian, author and educator – was at a service at Adath Israel Congregation when he was invited to read Torah at the Stashover by another minyan-goer. He hadn't heard of the small shul, located on Sultana Avenue just off Bathurst Street south of Wilson Avenue. "It may as well have been Mars, for all I knew."

After his first Shabbat there, he was told, "You're hired."

The population of the 102-year-old synagogue was "a bunch of older guys," mostly in their 60s and 70s, Lipinsky recalls.

In time, he was asked to lead services, and his role continued to evolve.

He remembers suggesting that someone ought to say a few words about the Torah reading, and one of the regulars told him, "Fine, go up there." The feedback he received, to the best of his recollection, was: "That's pretty good. You can start doing that, too."

A teacher at Robbins Hebrew Academy, Lipinsky, who is married with three grown children, is also an award-winning textbook author. Explaining how he juggles all his responsibilities, he said he sleeps only five hours a night.

**Jack Lipinsky**

As well, he added, he becomes bored if he's not doing something intellectually interesting. In 2003, he received his PhD in history from the University of Toronto, and he's planning to work on another book this summer, about Jewish farmers in Ontario after World War II.

"I do what I do because I find certain things in life are pleasurable to me, and I believe they can be made more pleasurable to other people."

About four years ago, after consultation with members, he and the Stashover board instituted changes in the Saturday morning service, which has mixed seating but uses an Orthodox prayer book.

Now, women are permitted to have aliyot, and the service is shorter. It's preceded by coffee and *rugelach*, and is followed by lunch and an interactive Torah class. Typically, about two dozen people attend.

Lipinsky believes the changes, particularly the pre- and post-service programs, have helped enhance the shul's sense of community.

The synagogue has about 115 member units, up an estimated 10 to 15 per cent in the last few years, he said.

Jay Safer, president of the congregation, told *The CJN* that Lipinsky has "helped the Stashover thrive over the years by listening to people, being a continuous learner, and wanting to share what he's learned."

The Saturday learning sessions sometimes run longer than expected because people don't want to leave, Safer added. He said Lipinsky is non-judgmental and has "a tremendous knowledge base."

Earlier this year, in January, Lipinsky officiated at the wedding of Safer's son – yet another expansion of his role. Both bride and groom had a connection to Lipinsky as former students.

Over the years, the average age of Stashover congregants has dropped, as an increasing number of original members passed away. This year, Lipinsky said, the shul held two children's programs – one at Passover and one at Shavuot. Fifteen children attended one, while 18 were at the other.

Lipinsky describes both himself and the shul as "traditional," but also favours the term "intelligent Judaism" to describe the Stashover's approach.

"It means that one has to understand what one observes... and stay away from rote observance, which is why we do so much learning."

However, he noted, both as an educator and in his work at the shul, he believes that "observance seems to be in the end what determines continuity.

"So I want people to feel shul is a community and a place they can feel totally comfortable. People have to feel that what they're doing is accessible and speaks to the heart and to the head."

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# Kulanu calls for support for Pride

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Toronto's main Jewish gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered organization, Kulanu Toronto, is asking the community to come march with it during the July 1 Pride Parade.

Justine Apple, Kulanu's executive director, said she's looking forward to celebrating the city's cultural diversity and bringing more joy to the Pride Festival this year.

She said it was time to refocus on the positive aspects of the gay community and let go of the negativity that had surrounded her group's battle to prevent a controversial, anti-Zionist organization from marching in the parade this year.

Kulanu had filed a complaint against Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA) on June 8 using Pride Toronto's new dispute resolution process, but it later dropped out of the process, saying the mechanism was inherently biased.

QuAIA didn't participate in Toronto's 2011 Pride Week, bowing to pressure from Pride organizers and the city's gay and lesbian community to ensure that the city's annual grant of nearly $104,000 flowed to the festival after an acrimonious public debate threatened to see the city cut its funding.

**Kulanu revellers celebrate during the 2011 Pride Parade.** *[Kulanu Toronto photo]*

Toronto city council has condemned the phrase "Israeli apartheid" and is scheduled to fully review its anti-discrimination policies in September.

Apple said she hopes many people in both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities will come out to support her organization at the parade.

"We would love everyone to join us. After all, we are the daughters, sons, brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers and colleagues to so many," she said. "Gay or straight, we all belong in the colourful mosaic of the Jewish community. We want people to march with us for a positive, hate-free parade."

Apple said she's had confirmation from numerous community organizations that intend to send representatives to march with Kulanu, including the City Shul, Shir Libeinu, Hillel of Greater Toronto, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), and Jewish Family & Child.

Kulanu's booth at the parade will be located at the corner of Church and Gloucester streets, Apple said.

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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (HONORIS CAUSA)

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2012

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The University of Haifa is proud to confer the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Honoris Causa) upon Jason Kenney in appreciation of his revered leadership as Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism and in recognition of his steadfast position against antisemitism, racism and intolerance, for his solidarity with the State of Israel, and for his condemnation of Israel Apartheid Week.

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# My experience with Ve'ahavta

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

**From left are writer Michelle Bitran, outreach worker Lauren Gostick and volunteer Caroline Karam with the Mobile Jewish Response to the Homeless van.** *[Josh Kaplan photo]*

I'll start by admitting something that I am truly ashamed of.

When I walked into Avrum Rosensweig's office two weeks ago, and he said, "The truth is, we all ask the question, 'Could it be me?'" I thought to myself, "I never asked myself that question in 23 years – until last night."

Rosensweig was referring to Ve'ahavta's new campaign to help Toronto's homeless. The "Could It Be Me" campaign aims to show people that homelessness is not about the person, but about their circumstances and support system, and that homelessness is something that could happen to anyone.

Rosensweig is the founder and president of Ve'ahavta – the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, a Toronto-based organization dedicated to tzedakah and tikkun olam, or repairing the world, both in the city and abroad.

The night before meeting Rosensweig, I volunteered with Ve'ahavta's Mobile Jewish Response to the Homeless (MJRH), a van that drives through Toronto distributing food, drink, clothing and personal hygiene supplies to the city's homeless population. Volunteers, often for the first time, speak to the people they meet on the street.

I had no idea what to expect. The most interaction I'd had with Toronto's homeless was passing by them on the way to class and occasionally offering them some food or coins. I never stopped to talk to a homeless person. I never spent much time thinking about how they ended up on the street.

I certainly never considered that any of them could have once come from a comfortable, loving home like mine.

"People who are poor are empathetic, more so than people who are comfortable," Rosensweig told me, and after what I saw that evening, there was no way I could argue.

While I found myself unable to imagine what it's like curling up under a thin blanket on the concrete courtyard of Toronto's City Hall, the homeless people that I met had a very clear understanding of their neighbours' discomfort.

Time and time again, I watched in surprise as people who didn't know where their next meal would come from refused second helpings of sandwiches or chocolate. Unlike me, they thought of the next person down the street who would need that extra sandwich, maybe more than they did.

"Ask someone who lives on the street about giving and you will get a real dvar Torah," Rosensweig said, and seeing the thoughtfulness with which the people I met treated Ve'ahavta's generosity, I recognized that he was right.

The moment when the "could it be me" message really sank in was close to midnight in the heart of downtown Toronto. I was offering chocolates to two young people under a blanket covered with designs and doodles. The man and woman, who couldn't have been older than me, were funny, bright and sweet – like many people I met that night. But at their age, with their sense of humour, they reminded me of my friends – and I couldn't help but think that their lives might have started off similarly to my own.

I wasn't bold enough to ask about their pasts, but just the possibility that I was right was enough to make me think, "What's the real difference between us? Could I just as easily be the one sleeping outside tonight?"

Ve'ahavta partners with the law firm Torkin Manes for a week each year, and I found that the associates from the firm had their eyes opened in much the same way I did. One, Zoe Kalmanson, said that her experience with the homeless community left her "questioning how these bright, intellectual individuals had fallen through the cracks."

Later, I asked Lauren Gostick, the young community outreach worker who drove the van, about her work. "Homelessness is a human problem – we are all human and responsible for picking up the pieces. I just happen to have made a career out of it," she wrote in an email, explaining that the work she does is not about feeling good but about doing what she can to help.

Ve'ahavta also helps to get the homeless out of their situation in the long term. In fact, Theresa Schrader, a community poverty-relief associate at Ve'ahavta, was homeless for a decade. After winning Ve'ahavta's creative-writing contest, Schrader made the decision to turn her life around, end her addiction to crack and to do something positive for the community.

She went to school for social services, and now works full time at Ve'ahavta, where she founded the Ve'ahavta Street Academy, a program that partners with George Brown College to help the homeless in Toronto gain access to education as a way to end the cycle of poverty.

"I'm very driven by the work that I do because I believe that some of the smartest people in the world live on the street," Schrader said.

For Rosensweig, the work Ve'ahavta does is a way to create justice. A more accurate translation of the Hebrew "tzedakah," which is often loosely translated to "charity," is "justice," he said. "Justice is a way of creating balance in the world," he said, adding that the Torah commands us to help the strangers among us.

Like me, you may never have asked yourself if you could be in the same position as the homeless person you pass in a downtown street. You may even feel that you have nothing to do with them, but as Rosensweig reminded me, "One day you could be the stranger."

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# *The choice is ours*

***Midrashic Moments***

***Rachael Turkienicz***

Among the most interesting portions in the Torah are the upcoming chapters that tell the story of Balak, the Moabite king, and Bilaam, the foreign prophet.

Balak hires Bilaam to curse Israel as they travel through the wilderness. Repeated attempts by Bilaam fail to elicit a curse. After each attempt, Bilaam moves to another mountaintop and tries again to curse Israel's camp, unbeknownst to Israel and Moses.

There is also an extraordinary narrative involving an angel blocking Bilaam's path and Bilaam's donkey who sees the angel. The donkey eventually explains to Bilaam that the angel is causing the donkey to stop. The donkey not only sees the angel, but it can speak in a language Bilaam understands. The sages say this is the same donkey that Abraham used in the binding of Isaac and is the one the Messiah will use when he arrives. Yet despite all the deterrents, Bilaam is entirely committed to his mission: cursing Israel.

In the end, not only is Bilaam unable to curse the Israelites, he issues a beautiful blessing that we use to begin our prayers. "How good are your tents, Jacob, your dwelling places, Israel." Such an ill-intended journey resulted in such a beautiful blessing.

The entire story is very unusual in almost every aspect and detail. But one of the greatest questions raised by the sages and Jewish commentaries isn't about the details, but about the story as a whole. Why is it in the Torah? It deals with a foreign leader commissioning a foreign prophet to do evil to Israel, and yet these plans are thwarted by God and result in a blessing. All of this remains unknown to Israel and Moses, who don't interact with Balak, Bilaam or God throughout. Weren't there hundreds of incidents that happened around the Israelites that they were unaware of? No other such incident is recorded in the Torah, and yet this one is not only recorded, it's rich in detail.

The midrash addresses this question and tells us more about Bilaam. According to the sages, Bilaam was not only a prophet, he was one of the best of the ancient world. According to one midrash, God shared everything with Bilaam, making him an exemplary prophet. In the Torah portion, God and Bilaam disagree about whether or not Bilaam can complete his mission. It's a struggle between human free choice and Divine Will. We're told of this, because it creates perspective for us in our relationships with God and our fellow human beings.

The sages note clearly that we're not the privileged ones of the world. We had a great prophet in Moses who could lead and direct us, and other nations had their great prophets. The example we're shown is Bilaam. He's not a false prophet or a trickster, but a true prophet of God.

Covenant isn't about privilege, but rather about choosing our direction. Bilaam had a tremendous gift of prophecy and misused it. There is potential for spiritual connections and supportive moments all around everyone all the time. The question isn't whether or not God provides opportunities. It's more what we choose to do with them.

*Rachael Turkienicz is director of rachaelscentre.org.*

# The search for David

***Past Forward***

***Alex Gropper***

David is one of the great figures in the history of Israel. Both scholars and laymen have been searching for extra-biblical references for David. For the faithful, evidence of David would validate their belief. For scholars, it would help to correlate the textual evidence with the artifacts.

During the first half of the 20th century it seemed that there was an accumulation of archeological evidence supporting the existence of a Davidic and Solomonic golden age in the history of ancient Israel. Much of this evidence was due to William Foxwell (W.F.) Albright and his disciples who were occupying some of the most influential teaching posts in North American universities by the middle of the 20th century. Their influence even extended as far as Israel, where the legendary Yigael Yadin and his father, Eliezer Sukenik, the first head of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, were disciples of Albright.

Simply put, Albright believed that the discipline of archeology could provide evidence for the biblical past. Albright began his long and distinguished career just after World War I when he first came to excavate in Israel. He would help to transform the study of archeology with his technique of dating pottery, known as pottery chronology, and correlating it to key historical events.

Obviously, one of the most important historical personages in the history of Israel was David. People such as Yadin claimed to have found evidence of David in some of the sites that they excavated. For example at Megiddo, evidence was found of a level that was attributed to David, and above it, scholars claimed to have found the stables of King Solomon, David's famous son.

At Hazor, an important mound in northern Israel, Yadin believed that he had found a gate built by Solomon. These scholars who believed that the veracity of the Bible could be proved by archaeology have been called maximilists.

But much of what Albright and his disciples, such as Yadin, had discovered, was dismissed by many scholars – called minimilists by some – over the past 40 years. However, the last few decades has slowly seen the pendulum once more begin to swing in the direction of the maximilists, thanks to some spectacular new discoveries.

The most important of these discoveries occurred in 1993 at Tel Dan, in northern Israel, where an inscribed stone was found mentioning the House of David. It was the first time that the name of David was found in an extra-biblical inscription. The inscription is ascribed to the king of Damascus who, although he was an enemy of Israel, recognized the importance of David in founding a royal lineage. Even though it was dated to a century and a half after the reign of David, this discovery was a major blow to the minimalists and helped to resurrect David from the realm of myth to that of a verifiable historical figure.

# From despair to rejoicing

**Rabbi Howard Morrison**

Soon, the Jewish people will commemorate the saddest period of the Jewish calendar, known as the Three Weeks of Distress, beginning with the fast of Shivah Asar b'Tammuz and concluding with the fast of Tisha b'Av.

According to tradition, the Babylonians breached the walls of Jerusalem during the First Temple period on the 17th of Tammuz. Three weeks later, on Tisha b'Av, both the First and Second Temples were destroyed, first by the Babylonians in 586 BCE and the second time by the Romans in 70 CE.

The Talmud contains a wide array of views explaining the causes of why our Holy Temple was destroyed. Many of the recorded positions posit failings in inter-relationships between Jews and fellow Jews. The most famous rationale offered, although it's not the only one, is called "*sinat chinam*," baseless self-hatred between Jews and fellow Jews. This particular explanation surrounds the discussion on the events that led to the destruction of our Second Holy Temple.

During the Second Temple period, we know that the Jewish People were divided into many smaller Jewish communites: Pharisees, Saducees, Essenes, Zealots, the Dead Sea sect, etc. Could it be that the *sinat chinam* between these various communities prevented our ancestors from seeing that they all comprised one Jewish people? If so, one can understand how the Holy Temple and the city of Jerusalem were taken from Jewish sovereignty.

***Rabbinic Reflections***

How would one assess the state of the Jewish people today? Rabbi Mark Angel, authored an essay, "Two communities – one destiny," that appeared in *Ha'aretz* on May 23. He wrote that the Jewish People today may be classified as those who do not abide by Halachah, those who abide by it rigidly, and those who abide by Halachah compassionately. He voices his concern that while there are different Jewish communities today, everyone needs to step forward and address the notion that we are all part of one Jewish people.

This month, I am completing my two-year term as president of the Toronto Board of Rabbis, which comprises rabbis from different communities in the GTA who recognize that we represent a single Jewish peoplehood. We are extremely grateful to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, which has actively supported our efforts. We also thank the *Canadian Jewish News* for enabling members of the Toronto Board of Rabbis to write their rabbinic reflections over the years.

As we prepare to commemorate the sad season of the Three Weeks, may we all do our best in trying to actualize the expression, "*Mi'yagon l'simchah*," doing whatever we can as a unified Jewish people consisting of many communities to transform the sadness and despair of this season on our calendar to joy and celebration.

*Rabbi Howard Morrison is spiritual leader of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue and president of the Toronto Board of Rabbis.*

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# Israeli hopefuls and the Olympics

We continue our look at the Olympics with a preview of Israel's team in London.

This year's Israeli delegation is far different from the one the country sent when it first competed in Helsinki in 1952. Then, the most notable achievement was by Yoav Ra'anan, who took ninth place in springboard diving. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp40]**

Over the next four decades, participating was Israel's main objective. It finally won its first two medals in 1992 in Barcelona, and athletes have brought back at least one medal in each summer game since. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp41]**

You can see the beaming faces of this year's hopefuls at the Olympic Committee of Israel's official site. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp29]** Most of the site is in Hebrew, but there are some English pages. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp30]** Even if you don't speak Hebrew, there are dozens of videos of athletes in action. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp31]**

The best English website for reading up about the current Israeli team is Wikipedia. Each competitor is listed, and many are linked to their own entries. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp32]**

So who are some of the athletes to watch? Here are some brief portraits.

Windsurfer Lee Korzits "made history by becoming the first female Israeli world champion at any sport, and the youngest surfer to ever win the world title." In 2009, her career was in jeopardy when she was hit by another surfer and broke two ribs. After rehabilitation, she returned to competition and will represent Israel this summer. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp33]**

Ariel Ze'evi is back. The three-time European champion won bronze in Athens in 2004 in judo. Watch him take on the competition in some great video at judovision.org. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp34]**

Last year, Neta Rivkin made history when she became the first Israeli to win a medal at the Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships. Her reaction: "Words cannot describe what I'm feeling and my joy. I have a powerful desire to bring more achievements to our small and beautiful land." **[http://bit.ly/jolymp35]**

***Jewish & Digital***

***Mark Mietkiewicz***

And you really have to admire the stamina of Sergy Rikter. The world-class shooter knows how to excel with an air rifle. But when training funds were short, Rikter took matters into his own hands and set up a website to solicit funds to help finance his Olympic dream. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp36]** Things seem to have worked out since Rikter has been selected for Israel's delegation to London. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp42]**

Over the years, Israel has won seven medals in three sports: judo, sailing and canoeing. That's not bad, but perhaps if other categories were introduced into the Games, Israelis and Jews everywhere could do even better. Ohr Somayach nominates: kippah Frisbee; the 18-blessing lip-sprint; the clean and jerk Torah lift; underwater shofar blowing. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp38]**

And if Stuart Spector had his way, Jewish events would include:

• Balance beam: The accountant or bookkeeper who balances my mother's chequebook in the shortest time will be declared winner.

• Oyga vault: A sound-enhanced pole-vault competition, in which the vaulter gains extra points for exclaiming, "Oy, such *tsuris* this is causing me!"

And my favourite competition, naches shlep – proud bubbies and zaides have two minutes to boast about their grandchildren. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp39]**

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# Sinai lawlessness is a growing concern

Recently, much of the international media have understandably focused on Egypt's uncertain political future, in light of the Egyptian military's assertion of its authority after the second round of presidential elections. However, relatively little attention has been paid to the growing lawlessness in the country's Sinai Peninsula. Yet a great deal is at stake there.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The Sinai has certainly deteriorated post-Mubarak, but it's wrong to assume that conditions were tame prior to his fall. As Tim Whewell of the BBC noted: "In the final years of President [Hosni] Mubarak's regime, Sinai was the most restive part of Egypt. Policemen were killed in armed clashes with Bedouin as they tried to crack down on the lucrative smuggling routes carrying weapons and building materials into the Gaza Strip, and illegal workers into Israel... There was also anger at the arrest of thousands of Bedouin after a series of bombings between 2004 and 2006 in Sinai's Red Sea resorts that killed 130 people. The Bedouin have said they were falsely implicated."

While the Sinai has long been home to contentious tribalism, the situation is taking on a whole new dimension. The concern, Whewell stated, is that conditions "will escalate because the peninsula is more awash with arms than ever, and because the police – driven from the streets in much of north Sinai during the revolution – are unable or unwilling to intervene."

The Sinai, three times the size of Israel, is home to about 430,000 people, of whom 300,000 are Bedouin. Since the 1979 peace agreement, which included demilitarization of most of the peninsula, Israel and Egypt have saved tens of billions in military expenditures. The 240-kilometre Israel-Sinai border remained mostly unprotected over the past 30 years.

However, following last August's terrorist attack across the southern Sinai into Israel (which killed eight Israelis and wounded 31), Israel decided to build a sophisticated fence along the entire border at considerable cost. The IDF has also needed to substantially beef up its forces in this sector to manage the growing threat. As seasoned Middle East analyst Jim Lederman notes: "The Israeli army has now created its first new infantry brigade in 20 years."

In recent years, the Bedouin have made a fortune smuggling arms, mostly from the Sudan, into Gaza through tunnels at the Egypt-Gaza town of Rafah. To the frustration of Israeli police, the Bedouin have also been involved in moving drugs, prostitutes, and African migrants into Israel. Such lucrative activities have been substantially impaired by Israel's construction of the fence – which poses a direct threat to the criminal livelihood of Bedouin gangs.

To compound the situation, Lederman observes, increasingly "Egyptian Salafists, affiliates of Palestinian Islamist organizations (Hamas, Islamic Jihad, etc.) and even Hezbollah have made efforts to convert the Bedouin tribes into active allies."

The radicalization of the Bedouin, especially young people, who have been involved the repeated detonation of the Egyptian natural gas pipeline to Israel, is a worrisome development.

No less a concern is the stationing of long-range rockets in the Sinai, some of which have already been fired into Israel. In placing missiles on Egyptian soil, terror leaders believe Israel will be far less inclined to attack such sites (as the IDF does in Gaza) out of concern for Israeli-Egyptian relations.

Perhaps most troubling is the introduction into the Sinai of outside Jihadists, including elements of Al Qaeda. Indeed, it was an affiliate of the world's most infamous terror group that claimed responsibility this month for another cross-border attack that killed an Israeli-Arab construction worker. Alarmingly, two of the attackers (killed by the IDF) were reportedly from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

This is Egypt's concern, not just Israel's.

Eli Shaked, former Israeli ambassador to Cairo, best summarized the issue, as quoted in the *New York Times* on June 19: "It is a clear interest of any Egyptian president [even one from the Muslim Brotherhood] to stop Sinai from becoming a launching ground for Al Qaeda-inspired groups or Islamic Jihad."

*Paul Michaels is director of research and media relations for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

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## L'hitraot to the teacher feature

By Frances Kraft

Seven years ago, in August 2005, *The CJN* published its first "teacher feature," a monthly column that ran during the school year, profiling teachers in Jewish schools.

The column ran with the tagline "They are our teachers..." but in the office, we always referred to it as the teacher feature.

The objective was to honour teachers, because of the important role they play in their students' lives.

We looked for teachers who were not only making a positive difference, but whose personal stories and/or classroom techniques would make for an interesting read.

This month, we wrap up the series with a guest column by Keren Henderson, whose mother, Yaffa Edenson, is retiring from Holy Blossom Temple after a 50-year career as an educator.

Henderson's article can be found at cjnews.com

## Corrections

The article "Fashion show raises $50,000 for seniors" (June 21) contained incorrect information. The funds raised will go to Healthy @ Home, an initiative funded by the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto that provides programming for seniors in apartment buildings on Bathurst Street. *The CJN* regrets the error.

• • •

In the article "Steinbergs give $12 M to North York General" (June 21), we should have said that Charlotte Steinberg is from Brockville, Ont., and is 77 years old. *The CJN* regrets the errors.

From left, bat mitzvah girl Hallie Rodney at her fundraising basketball tournament with Mitchell Rodney, Daniella Guitman and Alex Leslie. *[Jordan Rodney photo]*

# Toronto teen makes a slam dunk for Israel

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Hallie Rodney was determined to make her bat mitzvah a slam dunk. The 12-year-old competitive basketball player didn't just want to do that with a big party, she wanted to make a real difference.

"I think that it's really important to give back to people who have less than us," said Hallie, who raised more than $3,000 through a basketball tournament she organized as an "honourable baller" with Hoops 4 Israel.

Hoops 4 Israel works with the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto to help the vulnerable communities living in Bat Yam, Israel, and in Toronto. This year, the funds are going toward four programs that help underprivileged Jewish youths and communities: the Zipori Educational Warm House, Living Bridge Partnership, Centre Camp Scholarship Fund and JCC Chai Sports Scholarship Fund.

The June 17 tournament in Thornhill, Ont., brought out 34 children who played to the sounds of Sole Power DJ entertainment. Federation provided giveaway bags for the children, B'nai Brith donated trophies, and Hallie's grandparents helped to organize the tournament and referee the games.

"I wanted to make it fun," Hallie said of the idea to raise money through sports. She far exceeded her initial goal of raising $2,500. "I feel like I've made a difference," she said.

For Hallie's parents, Jordan and Julie, it was important that her bat mitzvah be about the Jewish value of tzedakah. They were thrilled that Hallie took the initiative to fundraise for an important cause. "She really loves it, she wants to be doing it," her mother said. "We're really proud that she's a role model for other kids."

Hallie, the eldest of three kids, hopes that both her friends and her younger siblings, Mitchell, 9, and Layla, 5, will be inspired to contribute to the Jewish community as well. In fact, Mitchell is already in awe of his big sister's example. "I'm really proud of my sister," he told *The CJN* in a phone interview.

"I 100 per cent hope that my friends will follow," Hallie said, adding that she feels it's very important "to give back to our community."

Hallie and her family plan to make the fundraising basketball tournament an annual event and to grow it in the coming years.

For the bat mitzvah girl, this tournament was not just an opportunity to raise money for charity, but also a learning experience about what can be done when people work together for an important cause. She said: "If everyone pitches in a little bit, then we can make a huge impact on the world."

Mazel Tov
מזל טוב
Happy special 80th Birthday Barbara Appel Lieberman, with love from your family and friends!
Congratulations to Ryan Kraft on graduating from George Brown College as an American Sign Language interpreter. Love from Mom, Dad, Sari and extended family.
Margie, Marc and Anna Socol announce the birth of Julia Rose in Denver. Grandparents: Christine & Edward Slawinski, Elaine & Harvey Socol. Great-grandfather Albert Socol.
Geoffrey Lungen is all smiles after being promoted from kindergarten to Grade 1 at Bialik Hebrew Day School. Congratulations big boy, from mom, dad and Matthew.
Mazel tov to Jason Mervin & Cheryl on their engagement. Parents Allen & Jan Mervin, Melvyn & Renee Klein. Grandparents Gertrude Spiegel & Roslyn Ungar.
Mazel tov to my beautiful granddaughter, Esther Estella Oziel on her sweet sixteen! Lots of love and kisses from Grandma!
Email your digital photos to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click the "Family Moments"

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# What's New

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HEEBONICS

**Deadline reminder: June 29 is the deadline for the issue of July 12 and for listings intended for July 19 as there is no issue July 19. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Saturday, June 30

**TORAH STUDY**

**Abe Birenbaum** speaks at Beth Tikvah's Torah class, 9:45 a.m., 3080 Bayview Ave.

## Sunday, July 1

**CANADA DAY DANCE**

Shaar Shalom Synagogue is holding a Canada Day dance for singles (45 and older), 7:30 p.m., 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill, with DJ **Dave Jones.** $8. Call **David**, 416-224-9494.

## Tuesday, July 3

**RUSSIAN FOLK CHOIR**

The Russian Folk Choir performs at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre, in Earl Bales Park, 7 p.m. In case of rain, the performance moves to the Earl Bales Community Centre.

## Wednesday, July 4

***LIVING KADDISH***

**Rabbi Gedalia Zweig** discusses stories from his new book, *Living Kaddish*, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill.

## Other News

**ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL**

Orillia Country Shul, 151 Creighton St. S., Atherly, near Orillia, resumes its summer services at 10:30 a.m. July 7, **Rabbi Tina Grimberg;** July 14 **Rabbi Ilyse Glickman.** All are welcome. 705-327-7069.

**YIDDISH PERFORMER SOUGHT**

New Voices for Yiddish is looking for a female performer with some knowledge of Yiddish for an upcoming show. Call **Nathan Garnick**, 416-633-6755.

**MOSAIC OUTDOOR CLUB**

Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America, for Jewish outdoor enthusiasts, is holding a Labour Day retreat in Colorado, Aug. 30-Sept. 3. Visit www.mosaicoutdoor.org or call 1-888-MOSAICS (667-2427) to register.

**TORAH IN MOTION TOURS**

Torah in Motion presents "Journeys through Jewish History" with **Marc Shapiro,** Italy July 9-19; Central Europe Aug. 2-12. 416-633-5770.

**JUMPSTART HEBREW**

JumpStart Hebrew is a program for children entering JK to Grade 2, Aug. 27-31 at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Children will be introduced to Hebrew through art, music and play. E-mail **Karen Goodis**, karen@bethsholom.net or www.bethsholom.net.

**Continued on page 21**

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The President, Board of Directors and Board of Governors of Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto moum the loss of our dear friend

Henry Zagdanski ז"ל

Member of the Associated Board of Governors, dedicated volunteer and donor
Supporter of numerous community organizations

We extend condolences to his children all of whom are alumni of Associated. They have, along with their spouses, followed in their father's footsteps. Many of them have served and continue to serve the school in key leadership positions and have provided their very generous support. To the entire extended Zagdanski, Posluns and Cohen families we offer our prayer that you be spared any further sorrow. We know that your father and grandfather's memory will most certainly be a blessing for you.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Sally Zigler, President
David Wm. Brown, Chairman of the Board

The Canadian Jewish news
Visit our blog
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**Continued from page 20**

**TORAH TOTS REGISTRATION**

Registration for Torah Tots, September 2012, at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham is now open. Call 905-886-0420, ext. 227.

**HOUSING REGISTRY**

List your basement apartment or extra room free with UJA Federation's Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto. If you're looking for a place to live, JIST can assist you as well. Visit JIST in the Lipa Green Centre, 416-635-5600 or e-mail: jinfo@ujafed.org.

## JF&CS GROUPS

**BEREAVED PARENTS**

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. Casino Niagara July 18. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts. Call **Morty**, 416-783-6078; 416-630-6487.

**The Bridge Club** at Forest Hill Library is seeking new members. Call **Lea** (evenings), 416-487-7630.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Bernard Betel Centre** 416-225-2112. June 28, **James Buttoo** discusses "The Myths and Facts of Immunization," 1:30 p.m. July 3, **Shlomo Schwartzberg** discusses filmmaker **Sidney Lumet**. 10 a.m.

**Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. July 5. **Rabbi Mitch Mandel** discusses "The Art of Happiness," 1:30 p.m.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526. **Colin Blayney.** Ongoing yoga, dance fitness and aquafitness classes.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

**Kevin Courrier** teaches a course on "The Man Who Would Be King – John Huston," June 27-July 25, 1 p.m..

**Hugh Innis** teaches a course on the 2012 U.S. presidential election. July 10-31.

Ongoing programs: Current events, Thursdays, 12:45 p.m.; Duplicate bridge, Thursdays 12:30 p.m. The Shalom Singers are looking for more singers, rehearsals Thursdays, 10 a.m.

Tickets on sale for *Beauty and the Beast*, July 3. Ext. 4255.

Fridays in June are free for fathers at the fitness centre.

## SCHWARTZ REISMAN CENTRE

The Schwartz Reisman Centre is now open, 9600 Bathurst St., Vaughan. 905-303-1821. www.srcentre.ca

Register now for programs. Call **Monique** for family and children's programs, ext. 3047; **Staci** for adults/ seniors, ext. 3037; **Tonya** for fitness and health, ext. 3016; **Nama** for daycare and preschool, ext. 3018, **Alex** for JCC Chai Sports ext. 4465.

The outdoor pool opens July 1. For swimming lessons, call **Yuri** at ext. 3034.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

Toronto IsReal Dance Festival June 29-July 1. Pre-registration required. 416-221-6280 or www.israelidancetoronto.com.

Summer Institute for Creative Adults offers adult vocal/choir camp, July 16-20. deannad@mnjcc.org or ext. 250.

Call for submissions to the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition. Deadline July 3, 2012. For submission guidelines, esthera@mnjcc.org or ext. 606.

The adult daytime choir runs all summer, Tuesdays 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

A summer evening choir is being offered, Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. Open to all, no auditions. music@mnjcc.org.

*Aging Is Living: Myth-breaking Stories from Long-Term Care*, photography and words by **Irene Borins Ash**, is on display in the gallery till July 22.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

**FOREVER CHAI FUNDRAISER**

**The Young Philanthropists division of the Forever Chai Foundation of Canada recently launched its new video and bar/bat mitzvah program, raising $13,000. Forever Chai supports the Shabtai Levi Home in Haifa, a residential and emergency centre for abused mothers and children. Since it was started, the foundation has raised $1 million for the home. From left are Sue Forberg, Sherry Adud, Tobi Liederman, Ronit Schiff and Eva Davis.**

**BAKE SALE FOR MAKE-A-WISH**

**The Black and Cohen families recently held a bake sale and raised $700 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. In the front row are Lauren Black, Jordyn Black, Charlie Cohen and Alexandra Cohen, and standing behind them are Noah Black and Zachary Cohen.**

***SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24***

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# MacKay pledged support for Israel, documents say

JTA

Newly released documents reinforce Canada's staunch support for Israel.

Papers cited in a June 19 Canadian Press story quote Defence Minister Peter MacKay as telling Israel's then-top military commander, Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, that "a threat to Israel is a threat to Canada."

Peter MacKay

MacKay's assurances, unearthed by a freedom of information request by a Queen's University researcher, came during a 2011 visit to Israel, where the minister also met with top government leaders.

His statement came a year after Canada's then-junior foreign affairs minister, Peter Kent, told a Toronto publication that "an attack on Israel would be considered an attack on Canada."

Last February, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said Canada is Israel's staunchest ally in the world, surpassing even the United States in its support.

On several occasions, Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper has voiced the country's unswerving support for the Jewish state.

Canada's military and industrial relationship with Israel has grown enormously. The two countries are negotiating or have signed a series of defence-based agreements over the past few years, details of which have been withheld.

But Paul Dewar, foreign affairs critic for the opposition New Democratic Party, said the Conservatives' one-sided approach to the Middle East will ultimately damage relations with the United States.

"It's fine to say we are friends of Israel and we support Israel. Sign me up, absolutely," said Dewar. "But Canada's role in the world is to be able to talk to people the Americans can't talk to and to go to places where the U.S. can't."

Comments such as MacKay's "have consequences," Dewar said.

MacKay's spokesperson, Jay Paxton, said that the minister "was making a statement of political solidarity with the Israelis and reminding our friends there that they are not facing global security threats alone."

He added that "Canada and Israel share the values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law. Our government has been clear over the past six years that Israel has a right to exist and we respect its ability to defend itself."

*With files from Andy Levy-Azjenkopf*

# *Nazi salute in House of Commons?*

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

A Conservative minister last week accused two Liberal MPs of giving Prime Minister Stephen Harper a Nazi salute in the House of Commons, but the legislators say it never happened.

In a June 18 statement, Minister of Natural Resources Joe Oliver claimed MP Wayne Easter, who represents the riding of Malpeque in PEI, and Vancouver Centre MP Hedy Fry made the gesture on June 14 in Parliament.

Oliver, who is Jewish, said he didn't initially come forward publicly with his complaint "as a matter of courtesy, because their gesture followed a very long day of votes," he said.

"Also, I did not mention the Liberal Party by name, since I did not believe then and do not believe now that their behaviour would be acceptable to the members of that party, and in particular its interim leader [Bob Rae], nor indeed to any party in the House."

Both Easter and Fry deny ever giving the salute and said they were insulted by Oliver's accusation. "I never gave a Nazi salute in my life," Easter said in a telephone interview. "The thing that bugs me the most is being falsely accused. It's a case of seeing something one didn't see."

What complicates the matter for him, Easter added, is that he considers Oliver a "wonderful" guy and believes he wouldn't say something so controversial unless he truly believed he saw it happen.

Easter said he's worked with Jewish groups for years and that in 2002, he put Hamas on the list of outlawed terrorist groups in Canada when he was solicitor general.

Fry was more outraged in her comments.

"Let me be absolutely clear: I did not make the gesture attributed to me by [Oliver]," she wrote in an email.

"This gesture represents such a heinous era in our global history and carries such painful memories for so many people that I am appalled and saddened that the minister would accuse of me of such an act."

She said she's fought "passionately" against hate, anti-semitism and bigotry throughout her career and has worked closely with Canadian Jewish Congress in the past to "combat all forms of antisemitism and neo-Nazi activity."

Requests to Oliver for further comment or clarification were not returned by *The CJN*'s deadline.

* * *

In related news, Papineau Liberal MP Justin Trudeau tweeted June 15 that he felt Harper and the Conservative Party don't "believe in 'tikkun olam.'"

The comment prompted Conservative MP for York Centre Mark Adler to rise in the House on June 19 and condemn Trudeau's statement.

"On this side of the House, under the leadership of this prime minister, this government acts everyday to uphold the Canadian values of freedom, human rights, democracy and the rule of law," Adler said. "Furthermore, considering the many awards and accolades that [Harper] has received from the Jewish community and other humanitarian organizations, I find this statement outrageous."

Adler and Oliver are two of the three Jewish MPs in Parliament. Liberal Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler is the third.

# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

### BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

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| Jack Guthole | Jun 10/12 | 10 Tokay Court |
| Cyril Collins | Jun 8/12 | 10 Sunny Glenway |
| Frederick Rose | Jun 9/12 | 3950 Bathurst Street |
| Sylvia Davidson | Jun 10/12 | 5575 Bonnie Street |
| Edith Teplin | Jun 11/12 | 650 Briar Hill Avenue |
| Shirley Scolnik | Jun 13/12 | 2121 Bathurst Street |
| Louis Kadlovski | Jun 13/12 | 15 North Park Road |
| Raphael Gabison | Jun 13/12 | 4 Mascot Place |
| Michael Greenspoon | Jun 13/12 | 258 Cedarmere Road |
| Florence Skelly | Jun 13/12 | 3303 Don Mills Road |
| Rose Goldberg | Jun 15/12 | 541 Finch Avenue, West |
| Mort Weisberg | Jun 14/12 | 65 Skymark Drive |
| Yetta Sternberg | Jun 15/12 | 343 Clark Avenue West |
| Henry Zagdanski | Jun 15/12 | Baycrest Hospital |
| Oscar Kofman | Jun 15/12 | 82 Woodland Avenue, W. |
| Mark Schwartz | Jun 16/12 | 36 Lindemann Street |

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| David Azar | Jun 12/12 | 167 Arnold Avenue |

### Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Riaboy, Pnina | June 1/12 | 6101 Bathurst St |
| Taub, Judith Barbara | June 2/12 | 65 Skymark Dr |
| Benkiel, Philip | June 1/12 | Private |
| Tenenbaum, Fannie | June 4/12 | 152 Brighton Ave |
| Sova, Rachel | June 5/12 | 21 Franklin Ave |
| Raiman, Chaye Claire | June 7/12 | |
| Kathnelson, Regina | June 6/12 | |
| Polakow, Sigmund | June 7/12 | 104 Ridelle Ave |
| Whitehouse, Eugene | June 9/12 | 3560 Bathurst St |
| Nicholaeff, Louis | June 9/12 | Private |
| Kozhukh, Nikolay | June 8/12 | 4300 Bathurst St |
| Lusthaus, Frances | June 9/12 | 205 Cummer Ave |
| Kozarinski-Talal, Nadya | June 10/12 | Private |
| Warson, Marianne | June 10/12 | Private |
| Khakham, Arkadi | June 12/12 | |
| Garr, Molly | June 13/12 | Private |
| Haiven, Eve | June 12/12 | 7601 Bathurst St |
| Smith, Magdolna | June 13/12 | 5444 Yonge St |
| Haiven, Eve | June 12/12 | 7601 Bathurst St |
| Tseitlina, Meri | June 14/12 | 18 Warbler Ave |
| Dobrutsky, Irving | June 14/12 | 64 Elderwood Dr |
| Goldberg, Risa Erin | June 14/12 | 500 Richmond St. W |

Watch this space each week for monument dealers & shiva caterers

# Many survivors live in isolation

**Continued from page 3**

Kayfetz said many survivors who attend the prom live in isolation. "It's important for them to know we care about them. Holocaust survivors are getting older and passing away, so while they're here, not only should we be dancing with them, we also need to remember them and their stories."

The event gives survivors "the opportunity to celebrate life while spending time with younger generations who will be able to carry their stories on in the future," Lefton said.

"I think that Franka Kon, one of the survivors who attended the prom last year, summarized the meaning of the event to survivors when she said, 'I used to be designated with a yellow star, but now I am celebrated with a yellow rose [her corsage].' This how the Yellow Rose Project got its name."

For more information on the Senior Prom and the Yellow Rose Project, visit http://theyellowroseproject.wordpress.com.

# Sephardi chief slams Reform, Conservative movements

**Elias Levy**
Staff Reporter

The Reform and Conservative movements "constitute a great danger for Judaism and Israel" and have done "enormous damage in the Jewish Diaspora" through conversion policies that have led to assimilation, Israel's Sephardi chief rabbi told *The CJN*.

Rabbi Shlomo Amar was the special guest at a June 4 gala organized by the Centre sépharade de Torah in Laval to honour Rabbi David Banon, the founder and spiritual leader of the centre.

In an exclusive interview with *The CJN*, Rabbi Amar spoke of his admiration for the Jewish community of Montreal, describing it as "a model of unity and solidarity for the entire Jewish People."

Rabbi Amar spoke in Hebrew through an interpreter. The interview took place at the office of the Chief Rabbinate of Quebec, where he was the special guest of Rabbi David Sabbah, Sephardi chief rabbi of Quebec.

**Canadian Jewish News:** *On May 29, the Israeli government officially decided that Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel will be paid from public funds, as are Orthodox rabbis. What is your opinion of that decision?*

**Rabbi Shlomo Amar:** For Israel, the problem of the Reform and Conservative movements is unquestionably greater than that of the Palestinians or the repeal of the Tal Law [which allows full-time yeshiva students to defer national service]. We should not delude ourselves. The Reform and Conservative movements constitute a great danger for Judaism and Israel. These movements have done enormous damage in the Jewish Diaspora. The very harmful conversion policies practised by the Reform and Conservative movements have led to the assimilation of part of the Jewish People.

Rabbi Shlomo Amar

After the Holocaust, there were some 14 million Jewish souls. Today, the number of Jews in the world has decreased to approximately 13 million. The dangerous ideology advocated by the Reform and Conservative movements has greatly contributed to that negative and very alarming tendency.

The two movements are not a religious force in Israel, but they are supported by rich American patrons and have succeeded in gaining political recognition by buying off several Israeli politicians. They are still a small minority, but if the government of Israel doesn't wake up, we will be facing a great danger that seriously risks mortgaging the future of the Jewish People and the people of Israel. We must not underestimate the enormous danger that is weighing down the Jewish People today.

**CJN:** *Doesn't the repeal of the Tal Law by the Knesset next July present a huge challenge to the Orthodox Israeli rabbinic world?*

**Rabbi Amar:** To reach an agreement on this important question, all parties concerned have to sit down around the table to talk and to find a satisfactory and equitable agreement for all Israeli Jews, regardless of their degree of religious practice. We absolutely must find a solution calmly and with mutual respect.

The replacement of this law became important, because the majority of Israelis were absolutely certain that general elections were imminent. Each party sitting in the Knesset wanted to make political capital by using the Tal Law for its own purposes... and it rapidly became a big political and electoral issue. Extreme, very unrealistic positions were firmly defended by politicians who were worried about solidifying potential election platforms. But now that the possibility of new elections has been put off and a national unity government is in charge, we hope that calm will return and we will be able to find an equitable solution to this problem together.

**CJN:** *Some 350,000 Russian olim are not considered Jewish by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel today. Many Israelis believe that the refusal of the Chief Rabbinate to convert these citizens, who have integrated perfectly well into Israeli society, is a deplorable, radical position. How does the Chief Rabbinate of Israel deal with this problem?*

**Rabbi Amar:** Conversion to Judaism is not a political or social question, but a religious one that falls within the realm of Halachah. This is not new. Throughout history, the Jewish People have faced this problem... Conversion to Judaism is a complex question that can't be resolved by waving a magic wand. It's a long, demanding process that requires perseverance and a lot of patience on the part of the non-Jewish person who has chosen to belong to the Jewish religion. It takes time. Conversion to Judaism doesn't mean receiving an honorary title or an Israeli identity card. To be a Jew means to agree to adhere with conviction to a certain number of halachic rules that are thousands of years old.

In Israel today, there are some 300,000 Israeli citizens of Russian origin whose fathers and mothers were not Jewish. Many of them are adults age 30, 35 or 40. We cannot ask them to radically change their way of life by converting to Judaism, a religion that is foreign to them.

What could motivate these Russian Israelis, who already fully enjoy all the civil rights that Israel offers its citizens, to embrace a religion with which they have no affinity? The process for undergoing conversion should have been begun in Russia, not after they made aliyah. Those who really wanted to immigrate to Israel would then have been motivated to convert, with strict respect for Halachah.

**CJN:** *But a number of these Israelis of Russian origin would like to convert to Judaism.*

**Rabbi Amar:** This question cannot be resolved except within the framework of Halachah. There is no other way. Quick conversions done on the fly would create divisions among Israelis. In fact, the majority of Israelis would never recognize lame conversions done outside the framework of Halachah. You must understand that a non-Jewish person can't be converted to Judaism in the space of one day or a few days. Conversion is a very demanding process that takes time.

*This interview has been edited and condensed. It appears in full in French on cjnews.com. Translation by Carolan Halpern.*

# *Remarks 'totally inappropriate'*

**Continued from page 1**

It describes Rabbi Amar's subsequent remarks in a letter issued on Israeli government stationery as a "threat to Masorti rabbis' physical safety, not only their personal integrity." The letter, addressed to Israeli rabbis, called for a rally at Rabbi Amar's office on June 26 to stop those "who uproot and destroy Judaism."

Rabbi David Seed of Adath Israel Congregation, a past president of the Rabbinical Assembly's Ontario region, said that Rabbi Amar's comments on the radio show that the chief rabbinate – which he described as an anachronism, "is really out of touch with so much of the Israeli Jewish population... Rather than bringing people closer to Judaism, they have turned people away."

Rabbi Martin Lockshin, one of the few Orthodox rabbis who belongs to the Toronto Board of Rabbis, told *The CJN* that while he disagrees with many stands taken by Conservative and Reform rabbis, they "have been instrumental in providing strong Jewish identity to many Jews who were not interested in what Orthodox Judaism has to say to them."

He said he thinks Rabbi Amar's characterization of Conservative and Reform rabbis is "totally inappropriate and inaccurate."

Rabbi Reuben Poupko of Montreal's Beth Israel Beth Aaron Congregation, who is also Orthodox, said the Conservative and Reform movements in Israel "do not pose any threat to Judaism. Their leadership is characterized by wonderful people who are intensely devoted to the future of Jewish life, but who have a different vision of religion."

He said Rabbi Amar's remarks "are an indication of a mindset which reveals an ignorance of what is really motivating young people."

Rabbi Poupko added that the funding of non-Orthodox rabbis in Israel, "while not fully equitable, is a move toward a more equitable position." However, he noted, he would prefer to see no funding of rabbis at all, because he believes religion and politics should be kept separate.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, newly elected president of the Toronto Board of Rabbis, said it is "ridiculous, and a distortion of history" to imagine that assimilation is a result of Reform and Conservative Judaism. Rabbi Frydman-Kohl added that he wasn't speaking on behalf of the TBR, which had not taken any position on Rabbi Amar's remarks.

Rabbi Michael Dolgin of Toronto's Temple Sinai Congregation, who has been following the issues in the Israeli press, is not surprised by Rabbi Amar's comments.

He said he finds it sad that the salaries for non-Orthodox rabbis in Israel have to come from the Ministry of Sport and Culture. "All the other rabbis are funded through the Ministry of Religion," he noted. That discrepancy, Rabbi Dolgin believes, "shows how far we have yet to go."

In an email to *The CJN*, Rabbi Steven Garten, spiritual leader of Ottawa's Temple Israel and president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis' Canadian region, also criticized Rabbi Amar.

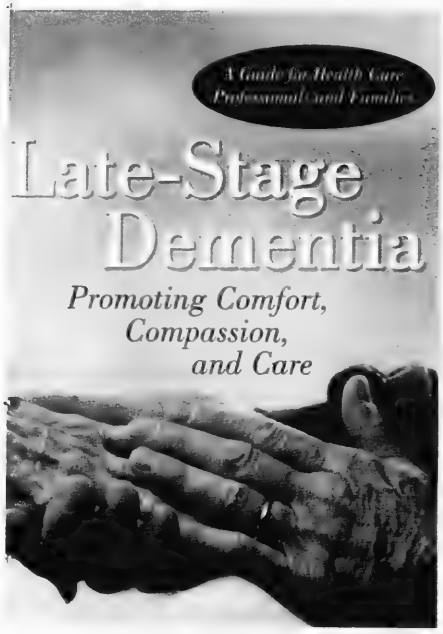
"Reform and Conservative congregations throughout the world bring Jews to Torah and the mitzvot. They reach out to those that Rabbi Amar would leave behind, because they will not affirm his narrow interpretation of Judaism," he said.

"Rather than see Reform or Conservative synagogues or their Rabbis as a challenge to the future of Judaism, one should see that the Orthodox establishment [in] the State of Israel is a danger to Jewish survival."

Rabbi Garten added: "Rabbi Amar does not have a monopoly on holiness... his arguments are not *l'shem Shamayim*."

*With files from JTA*

# Dementia in elderly forces hard choices: doctor




**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

Tending to elderly patients with dementia is a massive challenge, says Dr. Michael Gordon, medical program director of the palliative care unit at Baycrest.

Gordon, who is also a professor of medicine at the University of Toronto, recently wrote a guide for health-care professionals and families called *Late-Stage Dementia, Promoting Comfort, Compassion and Care.*

He said that people over age 80 have a one-in-three chance of developing dementia.

"It is a rising tide. The World Health Organization has highlighted the dramatic increase in the number of older people in the population that can expect [to be affected by dementia] in the next few decades."

Everyone in health care deals with older patients, Gordon said, and 20 to 35 per cent have dementia, which will inevitably progress.

He said that medication can't alter dementia, and "patients will ultimately end up needing full-time help. This places an unbelievable demand on the family."

Some families can care for patients themselves, he said, but a large number of patients end up in nursing homes. "Toward the latter part of the disease, there is no communication or self care, and difficult decisions have to be made.

In treating late-stage illness, Gordon said, families must decide whether to trade comfort for modern technology. "There is always [some treatment that will provide] beneficial effects, but at a high price."

Late-stage dementia is like terminal cancer with its stages of progressive deterioration, but family members have difficulty accepting the final stage of dementia in loved ones, he said.

"There seems to be more denial and disbelief about what is happening, or there may be strong cultural and religious obligations to maintain life at all costs. This can complicate matters when it comes to making the best care decisions for a dying loved one and lead to tensions between the patient's family and the medical care team."

Gordon advises families to consider their options carefully.

"When a person is no longer able to participate in the basic acts of life, they are often sent to a general hospital where they die a disheartening and uncomfortable death," he said.

"Many older people end of dying without [having their symptoms] treated. I have experienced it professionally and personally. It's easy to end up on the wrong end of the health-care system."

To avoid this, he said, families need to make sure they have conversations with their loved ones in order to learn about their values. "For example, 'This is when I want you to stop treatment.'

"Ask them how they feel about getting fed through artificial nutrition and hydration. Who would want that? Most people want comfort, not suffering."

A good time to have the conversation is when something happens to someone else, he said. "Ask your loved one what they would want in the same situation."

Gordon's goal, he said, is to prevent people "from spending their last days on earth in the jaws of medical technology, when the alternative can be comfort, care, and compassion."

# *Kids helping kids, new model for Herzog Hospital*

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital is trying a new way to raise awareness and funds for their cause. The organization hired 13 interns this summer, many of them students, to work together on developing and implementing the latest awareness campaign: The Windows to the World children's art competition.

The competition has Jewish and non-Jewish children from all over Canada submitting their artwork. The top 25 pieces, as judged by an independent panel, will be hung in the new children's respiratory unit of Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem and displayed at a gallery in Toronto.

"It's really Canadian kids helping kids," said Rhonda Wolfond, the project development director for the initiative. This is the first time Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital has run an art competition, and so far, they have more than 8,000 participants signed up. The competition deadline is not until the end of November, and many more kids are expected to enter.

"Everyone wants to participate, so we've had to expand and grow," said Jenna Himelfarb, 21, the student intern who has been spearheading the project since May.

She has helped put together the competition rules and recruit sponsors and participants. It has been a challenging experience, she said, but it has also been educational and rewarding. "I've learned how to work independently, how to be a self-starter," Himelfarb said.

Another student project intern, Ryan Peters, 20, feels that the learning experience of putting together the Windows to the World competition has been invaluable. He said it has reaffirmed his belief in "the power of informal education," as he has been learning on the job.

Peters has spent much of his internship creating a video explaining the competition's rules and goals to show in participating schools, as well as using social media to spread the word.

"They are under tremendous pressure and [they] deal with it incredibly," Lorne Saltzman, the executive director of Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital, said of the young interns.

Himelfarb explained that the children who participate in the competition are asked to make a drawing or painting of one of three topics: "a dazzling dream," "a beautiful place" or "a memorable moment." They are also asked to donate a dollar to the organization along with their submission, but participants won't be denied entry if they are unable to do so.

Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital has partnered with Busatti Home Toronto, a company that produces hand-crafted linens and fabrics, and the Woodbridge Art School, in order to provide prizes for the competition winners, including a year of art lessons. Artworks that aren't chosen as the top 25 still have a chance to be displayed on a poster that will be distributed across Canada, as well as at a gala in March, where the finalists will be announced.

**Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital student interns Ryan Peters and Jenna Himelfarb** *[Michelle Bitran photo]*

"I think it's a really special project," Himelfarb said, adding that it will allow children in Canada to connect with the children in the Herzog Hospital respiratory unit and to support them.

For Peters, that connection among young people is extremely important, as it often moves them to take action. "This is an awareness project and it's also a youth project, and I think the two are really powerful when you put them together."

For more information on the Windows to the World competition, please visit www.herzoghospital.ca.

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*Fitness Corner*

*Felyce Zomparelli*

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Dehydration can also cause fine lines and wrinkles in your skin. Water hydrates skin cells, flushing impurities and improving circulation, making your skin look younger. So go ahead: have a drink of water. Your body will thank you for it.

*To learn more, visit me at www.felycesfitness.ca.*

**DANI DONATION:** Grade 3 students from Robbins Hebrew Academy's Beth Tzedec campus raised $459.32 for DANI, whose mission is to create opportunities for young adults with physical or cognitive challenges to participate fully as valued members of the community. The Grade 3 class recently presented the donation to DANI participants.


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# דער יידיש ווינקל

## דזשערי קעין

### חג׳ געפינט מען היינט יידישע בעל-מלאָכות?

נעמען א גייט הינט בעז האָס נעקענט נעפינען פיל יידישע סיסטעמס, מענטשן שמיידער, קאָוועלערס, שלאָסערס, בולקעניס: אין סטאָלעמס. הייסט חול האָס יידישע ינגל נישט יידיש פֿיר אייערע אַרבעטן אוין הייבן קענן אַנגן עז איז נישט נעדענקט?

ס׳איז שווין נישט איין באָל אַז נייט דעפֿינידס מיז דער יידישער אַרבעטס אוין בייז האָס עז אייבעט. אין פֿילן אוין איין לוסט–דעז האָס דערמל האָס זיך איבערגעפֿוינדן צוים אַנדרעס צוויקענסקין יאָ הונדערט אוין זיבן האָבן עקזיסטירט פֿון סטעטעל אין די נידעסע סטעטס –תאָמעס, לאָוועס אייער ניי-יאָרק– האָבן מענטשן נעפֿונען אַן אייבעט. דער טעם פֿון נייט אוין הונעדט האָס דיי נעטערען צו פֿארשידענע פֿאָכן.

אַבער עס איז נישט נעדענק אַ גרונע לאָגע פֿאָר דעם יידישן פֿאָכמאַן וויל קרישטלעכע הונגס, אין אַלגעמיין, היינט נעדענק מער פֿעיק דיי יידישע הונגס אין די אייבעט נעבעי האָבן נעזוכט פֿעיקע הונגס. דער באָוויסטער פילאַנטראָפּ, פֿאַלישיזנע, איז יידישס נע פֿרילנקי. האָס אייזנבערט דעם פֿאָוועראָס פֿון דיי לאָגע. אין אַן ארטיקל אין דער האַרטפֿארדער טאָג טיימס, האָבענט פֿון 1911, האָס עי נעשריבן:

*"דער יידישער בעל-מלאָכה, ניט נישט האָבט אין האָבט מיט דעי אַלגעמיינע אַנשטרענגונג פֿון דאָבטהיינדיגי. יע איז נעבליבן דיעזע הינטערשטעלין, אים דעמען עים באַלוסט די נייטע רינאַסיבין אין דען פֿאָך, די מעכנישע פֿאַרבעסערונגען. אי די עטשטערשע פֿאַרנייענונגען. דער יידישער בעל-מלאָכה פֿאַרמאַכט די עדיוקעישאָנעל אַפּפּאָרטוניטי פֿון דאָבטהינדיגי. יע איז ניט פֿאַרשאַסט, עי עים אַרדיס די נרעבטע, די נעמיינסטע פֿאַבריקאַנטן. די אידעלע אַרבעט נעפֿינט זיך אין נישט־יידישע הענט...*

*איינע פֿון די חיכוס־סקעטע סיכות, פֿאָר חאָס דער קרישטלעכער אַרבעטגעבער אין כוי בפֿענאַלידס אין זיך פֿאָך, נעזולדיקער כיי זיין אַרבעט, אוין אַרבעט מיט מיר לוסט אוין כוס. מי דער יידישער אַרבעטער....אין די אוכאַידענע אין דער לערעיקס פֿון די יידישע ינגלעך. דאָס קרישטליכע ינגל, אַז כע עים אַוועק צו אַ כיסטער אויף די לעך, חעם ער נישט אַוועקגיין, כיי ער באַלוכט פֿון מיסטער א צערטיפֿינקאָס, אַז ער חאָס נעצערוקט זיין טערמין....דאָס יידישע ינגל חעם אין זיינע פֿאָר יאָר פֿון דער לער אינערחאַלפֿן זיך צו צוחאַנעיק כלאָכות..."*

אָפֿילו מיט אַן די פֿינקטן פֿון די קרישטלעכע פֿאָך מיסטערס, האָבן אונזערע יידישע לערמיינלער אינבעגעקומען די שערוויקייטן, כפֿענציעל אין קאַנאַדע אוין אַמעריקע. היינט נעפֿינט מען די זון אוין טעכטער פֿון די נישט אַזוי פֿינק יידישע פֿאָך אַרבעטער אין די אינטעלעקטואַלע נעבייטנדס: דאָקטוירים, נעזונטינרען, לערערס, אַדוואָקאַטן, פֿיזיקער. לחיפֿוך צו פֿרילנקס מיינאונג חענן יידישע לערן- ינגלעך האָבן אונדערע קינדער נעפֿונען דאָס נעזונדע אוין דיצפליס דיך צו לערנען אויף די הכנסת מדרגהות.

מיר קענען דיך באַרטען – אַבער דער אָכט איז אַז ס׳פֿעלט אונדז היינט פֿעיק פֿאָך אַרבעטער. אוין די פֿאַרשידענע רעגיונען זיינען קאָרג צו נעבן דאָס נעלט צו סובסידיזן אוין טעאַבלירן די מאַדערנע קונסן פֿאָר די ניע לערן יינגלעך. היינט קומען ניט נעגנוּ פֿעיקע פֿאָך- אַרבעטער רונד עמיגראַציע.

*אויב איר האָט נעדאַנקען חענן אונדזער חיינקל לאָזט חיינן, דונך פֿאָכט אַרויס בליק- פֿאָכט: info@cjnews.com*

Rick Hansen delivers convocation address to 2012 PhD graduates at Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

# Hansen gets honorary degree from Hebrew University

**Rita Poliakov**
Special to The CJN

When Rick Hansen found out that he'd be receiving an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, he didn't quite believe it.

"I went, 'Really? That's me? Are you sure? Can you verify that?'" said Hansen, founder of the Rick Hansen Foundation and an advocate for those with spinal cord injuries.

Having verified the information, Hansen not only received his doctorate on June 10 with fellow Canadian, international relations expert Janice Gross Stein, he also delivered the convocation address to the university's PhD graduates.

"I was asked to speak on behalf of all the other honorary doctorate and award recipients," he said. "We were all on our journey. I wanted to identify this. There are some elements on our journey where we have to work hard, struggle and emerge through."

This is especially true for Hansen, who lost the ability to walk when he was 15 years old. In 1973, Hansen was involved in a car crash that paralyzed him from the waist down.

Since then, he's become a well-known Paralympic athlete and, most famously, wheeled around the world on his Man in Motion World Tour in 1985.

The athlete travelled 40,000 kilometres through 34 countries to raise awareness and funds for spinal-cord injury research and treatments.

Still determined to do more for those with spinal-cord injuries, Hansen started the Rick Hansen Foundation, which promotes inclusivity for those with disabilities, and continued raising funds and awareness for his cause.

Hansen first got involved with Hebrew University last year, when he signed an agreement with the university's Institute for Medical Research Israel Canada, an initiative that encourages interdisciplinary partnerships between Israeli and Canadian scientists.

The agreement broadened the Rick Hansen Spinal Cord Injury Registry, an international database that collects spinal-cord injury information that may be useful to further clinical treatments. For Hansen, who's looking to work with other Israeli universities, partnering with Israel made sense.

"I think Canada and Israel have so much in common," he said. "Despite our geographic or cultural differences, we can build planks that will connect us and continue to help forge a global society where people are healthy and can live in an inclusive [community]."

Hansen was also impressed with the country's medical researchers and professionals.

"Israel is number 1. It's a tremendous place of learning. They hit way above their weight in their ability to come up with new discoveries in research," he said.

For those with spinal-cord injuries, quality of life could depend on this research.

"Our goal is to encourage research to happen. We want to see that translate to practical interventions," he said.

To reach this goal, it's crucial to involve younger generations, including the PhD students Hansen addressed, he added.

"The graduating students that were there, they've not only achieved their undergrad [degrees], but their doctorates. They've accumulated a significant amount of knowledge and are ready to launch into advanced research," he said.

"Each one of them will need to have that sense of inspiration and that sense of not just finding a job… but finding a meaningful job."

These meaningful jobs could lead to significant changes in all areas of medical research.

"The hope is… there's a chance to be able to make a difference," Hansen said.

For Hansen, the ultimate goal is to reverse injuries like the one he suffered as a teenager.

"[I] talked about one of my greatest hopes. Through the evolution of knowledge and human advancement in places like Hebrew University, perhaps [new research will] lead to a cure for spinal-cord injury, so people could walk again. Or [lead to the] advancement of new technology so a wheelchair would be something you see in a museum," he said.

But even without a cure, Hansen is determined to lead a full and happy life.

"I can't use my legs, but I can still focus on my ability, pursue my hopes and dreams and realize I don't need to be cured in order to be whole as a human being."

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# Mixed Israeli reaction to Islamist win in Egypt

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Israel voiced respect for the Muslim Brotherhood's victory in Egypt's presidential election, calling on the new administration in Cairo to maintain the countries' landmark peace accord.

"Israel appreciates the democratic process in Egypt and respects its outcome," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement after the Brotherhood's candidate, Mohammed Morsi, was declared successor to the U.S.-aligned Hosni Mubarak, who was toppled last year.

"Israel expects continued co-operation with the Egyptian administration on the basis of the peace accord between the two countries, which is in the interest of the two peoples and contributes to regional stability," the statement said.

In his victory speech, Morsi said he carries "a message of peace" to the world and pledged to preserve Egypt's international accords, a reference to the peace deal with Israel.

Israel's appeal to mutual expediency has been its refrain since Mubarak's ouster, which made way for the rise of Islamist movements repressed under his three-decade rule and hostile to the Jewish state, with which Egypt made peace in 1979.

An Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Netanyahu government hoped Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood's parliamentary bloc would put the need to tend to Egypt's ailing economy ahead of any revision of bilateral ties.

U.S. aid to Cairo hinges on keeping the peace with Israel.

"Looks like we were right when we said the Arab Spring would become an Islamic Winter, even though western nations laughed us off at the time," the Israeli official said. But he added that he hoped the Egyptian government would "try to be more 'statesmanly,' by working in the interests of the country."

**Mohammed Morsi**
*[Wikipedia photo]*

Eli Shaked, a former Israeli ambassador to Cairo, told Israel's Army Radio that Morsi's authority would likely be diluted by the powerful Egyptian army, which relies on Washington's defence grants.

Israel Hasson, a lawmaker with the centrist Kadima party who has served as a Netanyahu government envoy to Cairo, said the possibility of already chilly bilateral relations going into a deeper freeze meant Israel had to revive its peace partnership with the Palestinians after months of diplomatic stalemate.

Morsi's win was hailed by Hamas, the Islamist group governing Gaza, which is locked in a power struggle with the West Bank-based, western-backed Palestinian Authority of President Mahmoud Abbas.

"The immediate conclusion to be drawn from this [election] is that the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority have a common interest in quickly, quickly building a regional coalition," Hasson said.

Meanwhile, one Palestinian was killed on Sunday by celebratory gunfire in the Gaza Strip, as Hamas welcomed Morsi's win, hoping it would advance the Palestinian cause.

Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird issued congratulations to Morsi last weekend and said he hoped the president-elect would work to "fulfil the aspirations of all Egyptians" and quickly work to draft a new constitution "that will enshrine democratic principles and protect the fundamental rights of all Egyptians.

"We will continue to support Egypt's transition to democracy and the Egyptian people's calls for a better, brighter future," Baird said in a statement.

The United States also congratulated Morsi for his "milestone" victory and urged the Muslim Brotherhood leader to form his government carefully and respect the rights of all Egyptians as he takes power.

"We congratulate the Egyptian people for this milestone in their transition to democracy," White House spokesperson Jay Carney said in a statement, calling on the new leader to ensure that Egypt remains "a pillar of regional peace, security and stability."

"We believe that it is important for president-elect Morsi to take steps at this historic time to advance national unity by reaching out to all parties and constituencies in consultations about the formation of a new government," Carney said.

He stressed the need to respect the rights of all Egyptians, including women and religious minorities such as Coptic Christians.

*– With files from Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf*

# *Minister Oliver in Israel*

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver was in Israel this week looking to strengthen bilateral energy ties with the Jewish state.

On the heels of recently discovered massive natural gas reservoirs off the coast of Israel in 2010 and another shale oil field just south of Jerusalem – estimated to potentially contain some 250 billion barrels of shale oil – Canada wants to help the Israelis with technology and know-how.

**Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver**

Energy sector experts predict the finds could mean energy independence for Israel, which currently imports much of its oil from Russia, Khazakstan and other former Soviet-bloc states.

Oliver, who left for Israel last Friday, was scheduled to meet with "senior Israeli government officials and energy industry executives and discuss the potential for trade and investment between the two countries. He will reinforce Canada's role as a secure energy supplier and promote Canada's commitment to energy diversification and to modernizing major resource project approvals," according to the ministry's website.

Canada is one of the world leaders in the development of shale oil extraction technology.

In a June 22 *Financial Post* report, Oliver said Canada knows that Israel's energy security "is a critical strategic issue. I think it is for every country, but for them in particular."

A spokesperson for the ministry told *The CJN* Oliver was holding "high-level" meetings during his visit to Israel.

The minister is scheduled to conduct a media teleconference from Israel today to give more information about the trip.

He returns to Canada on Saturday.

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**JEWS OF DISTINCTION**

**Israeli President Shimon Peres last week in Jerusalem conferred the first issue of the Presidential Medal of Distinction on five people. From left are Hubert Leven, president of the Rashi Foundation; Judy Feld Carr, the Canadian who helped rescue Syrian Jewry; Peres; Rabbi Adin Even Yisrael Steinsaltz, one of Israel's foremost educators, and Uri Slonim, president of Variety Israel. Henry Kissinger received his medal at the Israeli Presidential Conference a day earlier.** ***[GPO/Israel Sun photo]***

# Canada walks out on Ahmadinejad at UN

Compiled by CJN Staff

Canada's delegation to the United Nations environmental summit in Brazil walked out when Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stood to speak last week.

The June 20 protest by the delegation, led by Environment Minister Peter Kent, was in keeping with prior Canadian walkouts on the Iranian regime's president.

Canada has boycotted or walked out on Ahmadinejad at numerous diplomatic events over the last few years, including whenever the Iranian leader has turned up at the UN's annual general assemblies.

Kent told *the Vancouver Sun* on June 21 that Canada would not listen to a leader of a regime that continues "to pose the most significant threats to global peace and security today."

***

In related news, the latest round of negotiations over Iran's nuclear program ended with no agreement.

Leaders on both sides said after the talks ended late June 21 that they remained open to further talks, and that technical-level meetings were needed before further high-level negotiations could be held.

The talks between Iran and the "P5+1" world powers – the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia and China – were held in Moscow.

"The expert meeting could provide clear ideas for the talks," Saeed Jalili, Iran's chief negotiator, said.

"Today they [the world powers] are facing a great test in order to obtain the confidence of the Iranian people," he told reporters, the BBC reported.

The lower-level technical meetings are planned for July 3, after new sanctions on Iran are due to take effect.

Iran denies it is enriching uranium for nuclear weapons purposes.

"A deal may be possible on paper, but the gaps between what Iran and the United States want on enrichment and sanctions relief can't be bridged," Aaron David Miller, a former State Department adviser on the Middle East to Democratic and Republican administrations, told *Washington Post*. "The negotiating process will remain just that because the urgency required for a deal just isn't there from either side."

*With files from JTA*

# Rockets fall on southern Israel

JTA

**JERUSALEM** — Rockets continued to fall on southern Israel despite a truce with Gazan terrorist groups.

The Iron Dome missile defence system intercepted five rockets fired at Ashkelon shortly after the truce, which was mediated by Egypt and went into effect at 8 p.m. Sunday. Several rockets also hit southern Israel on Sunday.

An Israeli man, 50, was seriously injured by shrapnel when a rocket exploded near a factory in Sderot. A school in Sderot also was damaged by rocket fire.

Israel struck several targets in Gaza over the weekend, according to the Israeli military, including a terror cell about to detonate a rocket. Hamas reported that at least three Palestinians were killed in retaliatory attacks over the weekend, including a child and a terrorist.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the start of the regularly scheduled cabinet meeting on Sunday, said "the IDF is taking strong action against those who are attacking us and it will take even stronger action if need be. Our policy is to use force in order to restore security and quiet to the residents of the south."

At least 150 rockets fired from Gaza have struck southern Israel since the cross-border attacks began last week, the Israel Defence Forces reported.

**A Qassem rocket heavily damaged a factory near Sderot. Shrapnel from the rocket penetrated the shelter at the factory injuring a man in his 50s.** ***[Israel Sun photo].***

# Peres's conference features eclectic guest list

**Uriel Heilman**
JTA

**JERUSALEM** — What do hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons, Google chairman Eric Schmidt, Zionist critic Peter Beinart and Dr. Ruth have in common?

If you're still puzzling over that one, you're not alone. So are the participants at this year's 2012 Israeli Presidential Conference, which featured those four among dozens of other panelists at the confab held this week in Jerusalem.

Titled "Facing Tomorrow," the conference assembled leading entrepreneurs, politicians, academics and Jewish community figures from around the world, and with them a bevy of publicists, journalists and myriad other hangers-on.

There was Dr. Ruth Westheimer, the octogenarian sexologist, opening the conference in a one-on-one, centre-stage discussion with Israeli technology investor and entrepreneur Yossi Vardi. There was Terje Roed-Larsen, the Norwegian UN diplomat who played a key role in the Oslo accords and now heads the International Peace Institute, looking lost in the exhibit hall.

In a corner near the bar, Noam Schalit, father of freed captive Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit, chatted with Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Stuck in the crowd, Alexander Mashkevich, the Kazakh-Israeli minerals oligarch and one of the conference's benefactors, smiled politely amid a scowling coterie of thuggish men wearing shiny white suits.

It was a conference of bold-faced names without a coherent theme. Some sessions focused on Israel's strategic threats and Jewish identity. Others were about the future of smartphones and cloud computing. A group of neuroscientists led a discussion on how machines can help the brain. Israeli President Shimon Peres, the conference's host, held a public work meeting with the president of Croatia.

Some of the first-timers among the 4,000 or so attendees – an overwhelmingly, but not exclusively, Jewish group – weren't quite sure what to make of it.

"I'm trying to figure out what the conference is even about," said Dov Waxman, a professor from the City University of New York who blogs on the Daily Beast and is writing a book about Jewish politics. "What is the purpose of this? Is it to pontificate about the Jewish future? It's like a shmooze-fest, I think."

**At the Israeli Presidential Conference, Israeli President Shimon Peres bestowed upon Henry Kissinger one of the inaugural President's Medal of Distinction.** *[Israel Sun photo]*

Indeed, perhaps more than anything else, the conference, now in its fourth year, aspires to be a sort of Jewish Davos – a gathering where the A-listers of the Jewish world can meet, network, exchange ideas and maybe have a good time. Except unlike the exclusive Davos World Economic Forum, it's a lot easier to get in and there's no registration fee.

The conference is a testament to the star power and vision of Peres. Its $2.7-million price tag is paid for largely by the 88-year-old president's friends and associates, including corporate and philanthropic sponsors, and its theme is something that Israeli politicians, at least, are not known for thinking too much about: the long-term future.

If it is to become a fixture on the annual Jewish conference calendar, the Israeli Presidential Conference will be the only real multidisciplinary one. What other Jewish forum brings together the likes of Cisco's CEO, Israeli singer-songwriter Achinoam Nini (a.k.a. Noa), Henry Kissinger, Paralympics swimmer Keren Leibovitch, Obama administration adviser Dennis Ross, Bank of Israel Governor Stanley Fischer, Quartet Middle East envoy Tony Blair and Israeli filmmaker Joseph Cedar?

Where else can you go from a session in which Cisco chairman John Chambers talks about the future of data on the Internet to a talk by Nobel laureate Daniel Kahneman, a Princeton University psychologist, about the inherent advantage hawks have over doves in political arguments? Or from a discourse by Leon Wieseltier, the literary editor of the *New Republic*, about the need for Israel to earn the conditional love of American Jews, to one in which Dr. Ruth offers tips about female orgasms?

## Israel Briefs

### *Woman with tallit detained*

Israeli police detained a woman wearing a tallit at the Western Wall and later questioned her for four hours. The woman was participating in a Rosh Chodesh prayer service held monthly at the Wall by the Women of the Wall organization. The woman was approached by police during the service and asked to wear the tallit as a scarf rather than a shawl. The woman complied with the request, according to Women of the Wall. As she left the Western Wall plaza, she was detained by police, who said she returned to wearing the tallit as a shawl, and taken to police headquarters, where she was questioned. Upon her release, she was ordered to stay away from the Wall for seven days. In 2003, Israel's Supreme Court upheld a ban on women wearing tfillin or tallitot, or reading from a Torah scroll at the Wall.

### *Israel brands itself green*

Israel has launched a global television campaign to brand itself as green. The campaign was introduced at the UNConference on Sustainable Development. Through the "Green Israel" initiative, promotional broadcasts on CNN highlight the country as a global leader in desalination and the use of recycled water. "Israel is offering to the world the pioneering green technologies that it has developed," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. "The goal of the campaign is to the show the world Israel's great abilities in the field of green technology."

*– JTA and JNS.org*

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# Jewish and Israeli apps

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

With mobile devices and other electronic gadgets taking over the world, even the most technology-resistant of us are giving in to the latest toys.

Tablets and e-readers have become widely accepted so quickly. When Apple launched its iPad in 2010, 14.8 million units were sold by the end of the year.

The phenomenon had my brother questioning whether it would be necessary for our toddlers – once they reach grade school – to be taught how to write on paper, or whether they'd be reading from Kindles instead of textbooks.

Of course, with the emergence of iPads, Androids and, most recently, Microsoft's Surface, applications (software designed to entertain, inform, and perform certain tasks) are what keep these devices current, relevant and evolving.

With more than half a million apps available to choose from, there are bound to be a few good Jewish and Israeli ones. Here are just a few of the many that are out there.

Recently, the Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Avigdor Liberman announced the launching of a new app called the Tourist Information app.

The idea is that Israeli citizens would receive information about their travel destinations, whether they're travelling for business or pleasure.

**The new iPad 3**

"I commend the excellent work and co-operation of the Consular Department and the Bureau for Information Technology and Communication Services who developed an application that enables Israeli tourists around the world to utilize the services provided by our diplomatic missions in the countries they visit, and to view all pertinent information regarding the country," Liberman said in a statement.

"This application is not static. It will continue to develop, and this is an additional layer added to other [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] initiatives designed to improve service to the public."

Travelling observant Jews will also benefit from the Shabbat and Jewish Holidays app, which automatically adjusts the candlelighting times of Shabbat and other holidays based on your location. You can also choose to show times for other cities by plugging in the city's name. Chabad.org also provides information for the app on the Jewish holidays and weekly parshiot.

If learning how to read and write Hebrew is an ambition, the Any1 Hebrew app is designed for beginners.

It introduces the characters of the Hebrew alphabet and uses flash-card modules, quizzes and interactive games to help you memorize.

It also provides audio to allow the user to hear the proper pronunciation of each letter, as well as video to show how each letter should be written.

Once you've mastered the Hebrew language, you might be feeling ready for the long list of apps that allow you to study the Torah and Tanach without cracking the spine of a book.

For a complete English translation of the Torah that integrates commentaries from Rashi and Ramban and has a full keyword search, there's I-Torah.

For regular shul-goers, there's another app called I-Torah Blessings that can help you practise for your next aliyah to the Torah. It features Touch-n-Read technology that lets you hear the word as you skim the screen, and you can also record and play back what you've just recited.

People who like to pray in private might enjoy the Pocket iSiddur, which offers every version of the siddur you can think of – although it's probably best to leave your iPad at home on Shabbat and the High Holidays and opt for a good old-fashioned prayer book.

There's only one iPad app that focuses on the Tanach's Nevi'im (Prophets) and Ketuvim (Writings), called iNach. It features English translation, a search option, as well as classic Jewish medieval commentaries.

For those who are more nationalistic than religious, there are a number of apps that appeal to Zionists who are interested in telling Israel's side of the story.

StandWithUs, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting a pro-Israel narrative, recently developed an app called ShareIsrael that promotes Israel in a positive light.

Michael Dickson, StandWithUs Israel director, said "anti-Israel groups constantly use misinformation on social media to demonize and defame Israel. This app uses Israeli technology to maximize sharing [and] helps people set the record straight via the content they share."

ShareIsrael allows information and images to be shared through Twitter, Facebook and email.

If your interest in Zionism is more superficial, Zionation, developed by the World Zionist Organization, will suffice, as it offers a calendar of important events and significant dates in the history of the State of Israel.

And if you're someone who loves to drop bombs like, "Did you know actor Scarlett Johansson's mom is Jewish?" there's the Jew or Not Jew app.

Although this app was banned in France after a French anti-racism group threatened to sue Apple, it's still available in North America. The developers insist the app is just for fun, allowing users to guess which actors, politicians and other public figures are Jewish and defining their religious background based on whether the celeb has a Jewish mother, a Jewish father or converted to Judaism.

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# Toronto Gypsy Girl plants her roots in Massachussets

**Joseph Serge**
Arts Editor

Kat Goldman seems to make a habit of disappearing.

A few years after she released her first CD in 2000, aptly titled *The Great Disappearing Act*, the Toronto singer-songwriter was forced to put aside her music career and plans to move to New York after a car smashed into a north Toronto bakery where she was buying a bagel and pinned her against a wall. She suffered severe injuries.

She resurfaced in 2007 with her critically praised *Sing Your Song*, and after a year of performing almost weekly in every nook and cranny of Toronto's music scene, she seemingly disappeared again.

Now, Goldman has emerged once again – this time in Cambridge, Mass., where she attends university and where she recorded most of her new CD, *Gypsy Girl*.

"I had this restless feeling that I had to leave Toronto," Goldman says over the phone from her new home. "Career wise, I was getting to a place where things were getting a bit tired and not very inspiring to me."

Plus, she says, she felt she couldn't fully recover emotionally from the accident unless she moved away.

So, after finding a sublet on Craigslist around three years ago, she drove down to Massachusetts "with my dog, a bag of summer clothes, my guitar and a vacuum cleaner!"

At 39, she enrolled at Boston University and Harvard and started looking for a new identity. "I was looking for a fresh perspective and definitely got one from coming here."

The songs on *Gypsy Girl*, most of which were written in Cambridge, are reminiscent of Joni Mitchell's *Court and Spark* era. Musically, the songs are acoustically driven, but backed by a full band, giving them an up-tempo feel. Lyrically, the songs are personal slices of life, confessionals that reflect her restlessness and wandering spirit.

"The record did develop a strong theme," she says. "Before I knew it, every song I was writing was about this restlessness, this feeling that there's more out there for me to explore."

At the same time, she discovered that she was finally becoming grounded in Cambridge. "I'm calling myself the Gypsy Girl, which implies I'll never be tethered to any one place, but I feel like I have really found my place now."

The 11 songs find her exploring how she fits into various situations in life. The song *World Away*, for instance talks about leaving Toronto and going back to school again in a new country.

"It talks about my confusion as a songwriter and as a new student, and I tried to capture that feeling of being on campus and all the young students walking around with knapsacks and wondering, 'Do I belong to them? Or do I belong to the world of songwriting?'"

Goldman says she feels comfortable writing deeply personal songs. "I think that now that I'm in my 40s I feel a little more confident in what I'm saying and how I'm saying it – with no apologies. I find by being truthful I connect with other people because it rings true with them and becomes universal.

"The record is meant to convey that a person can make a change at any point in their lives, no matter how drastic."

Goldman has been searching out different avenues to showcase her songs, some of which have appeared in TV shows and films. Artists such as American singer Dar Williams and Toronto jazz singer Sophie Milman have expressed interest in recording songs of hers someday.

Kat Goldman

One song she's had particular success with is *Annabel* from her first CD. It was covered by Winnipeg's Juno and Grammy-nominated folk band The Duhks on their CD *Your Daughter and Sons*.

Recently, she kept the melody and reworked *Annabel*'s lyrics for *Kenny's Song*, a song featured during the closing credits of the Showcase TV show *Kenny Hotz's Triumph of the Will*.

"Kenny Hotz is hilarious. Some newspaper once said he is the funniest Jew in Canada, and it was so brilliant when he asked me to do this song for his show," she says.

Even stranger is that the song's title ended up being the inspiration for a Governor General Award-nominated book by Kathleen Winter.

"That was so weird!" Goldman says. "She e-mailed me and asked if she could use one of my songs as a quote, and I said, 'of course.' Then a couple of years later, I'm at this bookstore at Spadina Village and I see this novel, *Annabel*, by Kathleen Winter. I opened it up and there was this quote by Kat Goldman, and I realized she had named the book after the song.

"I quickly bought the book and brought it to my parents to show them that I'm not a failure after all!"

Although she's moved from Toronto, Goldman promises she'll still return to perform here on occasion. In April, she launched *Gypsy Girl* at a sold-out show at Hugh's Room.

"That was one of the most exciting nights of my whole life," she says. "I had this whole band behind me, and it got me thinking that I have to get my travelling band together. I'll always be a performer and will do a couple of dates in Toronto a year – at least."

*Gypsy Girl* is released through Maple Records and can be purchased at maplemusic.com, Amazon and iTunes. You can find more information and stream her songs on katgoldmanmusic.com.

# An edgy Italian-Jewish farce

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

*Pizza Bagel*, one of the offerings at this week's inaugural Italian Contemporary Film Festival, is an edgy Italian-Jewish farce turning on the pitfalls of cross-religious dating.

Joe Mari's short, scheduled to be screened on Sunday, July 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the TIFF Bell Lighthouse theatre, is seriously funny. Tommy (Michael Pillarella), a young Canadian of Italian descent, has invited his Jewish girlfriend, Rebecca (Alona Metzer), to his father's house for supper, and he's a nervous wreck as he anticipates her imminent arrival.

Tommy's father, Dominic (Gina Cafarelli), a gruff restaurateur, is eager to please his son by cooking a first-class meal for Rebecca and her mother. But when Dominic opens his fridge, Tommy is mortified to find a profusion of pork products inside.

"They can't eat pork," he exclaims in exasperation. "They're Jewish!"

No problem, Dominic assures Tommy, saying he will fix things. Tommy proceeds to give him a shopping list of acceptable food he can buy for the occasion. But in a riposte, Dominic admonishes him not to be ashamed of his Italian background.

Gino Cafarelli, rear, and Michael Pillarella in *Pizza Bagel*

With tensions rising, *Pizza Bagel* segues to a scene in which Rebecca and her brash mother (Carla Collins) get into a late-model silver BMW for the drive over to Tommy's place.

In preparation for their visit, Dominic has decorated the house with Israeli and Italian flags and soccer motifs. More importantly, he has slapped together a number of suitable dishes, including pizza bagels. The question, of course, is whether the dinner will be a success.

*Pizza Bagel*, with witty performances from its cast, is a sardonic romp into the perils and joys of intercultural dating.

# Actor plays an egg in *One in a Million*

**Cara Edell**
Special to The CJN

After experiencing the "rush of performing," acting was Shaina Silver-Baird's only logical career choice.

"There were other fields that caught my interest, but nothing else excited and challenged me enough to keep me wanting to go into work every day," she said.

Silver-Baird, 22, is starring in *One in a Million* at the Randolph Theatre from July 6 to 15. A "micro-musical" written by Ron Fromstein, it's part of the Toronto Fringe Festival.

Silver-Baird's passion for theatre began in high school, when she auditioned for No String's Youth Theatre production of *Cinderella* at the Harold Green Theatre.

"I found myself in the role of Cinderella. I had no idea what I was doing at first, but by the end of the production I was absolutely addicted to the rush of performing, the intensity of the bonds forged with the team and the theatre itself," she said.

Silver-Baird continued performing throughout high school, but it wasn't until she worked with director Mark Wilson on a production of *Cabaret* at Toronto Youth Theatre that she decided acting was her calling.

"He was the first director who really challenged me to be honest as an actor. At the end of the production, he encouraged me to enter York University's theatre program, and subsequently the [York] Acting Conservatory, where I spent the next four years."

*One in a Million* follows the journey of a band of sperm on the quest to reach the one and only egg, Silver-Baird said.

"The catch of course lies in the fact that only one of them will make it. Conflict and hilarity ensue as they fight on, only to find that the one and only egg has two egg handmaidens, who only further complicate the process of natural selection."

Silver-Baird plays Grace, a handmaiden to The Egg. "She's a sweetly naive and romantic young egg, hopelessly excited about the whole event of fertilization and always pining for the distant day that she might become the chosen egg."

Silver-Baird said she's happy to be working on a musical for a change. "Most of the work I've done during and after school has been gritty dark drama, so it'll be nice to... tackle the challenge of a different style."

She's been part of several theatre productions, including *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare in Action); *Macbeth* (Shakespeare in Action); *Olga* (New Voices Festival); *Little Crickets* (Foundry Theatre/SummerWorks); *Program* (Theatre 4/4/SummerWorks).

Silver-Baird said three of her roles represent personal turning points for her. "The first is Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, because it was the role that made me determined to follow acting as a career path. The second is Scarlett in *Lion in the Streets*, which I performed during my time in the York Conservatory."

Her role as Scarlett, who has cerebral palsy, marked the first time Silver-Baird

**Shaina Silver-Baird**

played a character that was drastically different from herself. Silver-Baird had to transform herself physically and vocally without detracting from the character's "fierce intelligence and vibrant imaginative life," she said.

"The third role would have to be Juliet... It was such an amazing opportunity to play such an iconic role right after school."

Her role as Grace in *One in a Million* marks the second time Silver-Baird will be involved in the Toronto Fringe Festival. Last year, she performed in *Saved*, which was a co-production between Theatre Bassaris and Bound to Create Theatre.

As an emerging actor, Silver-Baird said she is "open to whatever opportunities the future brings," but hopes to perform on some of the major stages in Canada, including at the Stratford and Shaw festivals.

"I would love to be a part of the burgeoning film/TV industry here and establish myself as a creative force in new Canadian grassroots theatre," she added.

While she has a few dream roles, Silver-Baird said playing Anne Frank is at the top of her list. She said she would also love to play Eponine in *Les Miserables*.

Silver-Baird said her family and friends are very supportive of her career choice. "I remember deciding halfway through Grade 12 that I wanted to study acting and being nervous to break it to my family of very well-educated professionals. But when I broke the news to my mom, she just laughed and asked me what took me so long to realize. She knew before I did what I wanted to do with my life."

There was even a running joke in her class at the York Conservatory that the front two rows were always full of Silver-Baird's family.

Being Jewish has definitely influenced her work, she said. "It's a part of who I am, and as an artist I'm always drawing on myself and my own experiences."

On a more practical level, she said that studying with her bat mitzvah tutor, an accomplished singer, propelled her into the world of music, which in turn led her to theatre.

"My bat mitzvah was akin to my singing voice's coming out party."

For more information about the Toronto Fringe Festival, visit http://fringetoronto.com.

# *Cellist, 15, wins Marta Hidy Prize*

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Like many 15-year-old boys, Daniel Hass spends his time biking, reading and listening to music. But unlike most kids his age, he also spends about four hours a day practising cello.

"If I get into it, it's the most fun thing I can do," said Daniel of the hours he spends playing. "It's a lot of hard work, but I feel it's very fulfilling work."

The hours of hard work have certainly been paying off. Daniel recently won the Orchestra Toronto Concerto Competition Marta Hidy Prize, which awarded him a $1,000 scholarship as well as an opportunity to perform as a soloist with Orchestra Toronto at a concert for young people. Orchestra Toronto operates on a volunteer basis and is Canada's largest community orchestra.

In the two short years since moving from Tel Aviv to Toronto with his family, Daniel has already made his mark on the music scene in the city. In 2011, he won first prize in the concerto competition of the Toronto Sinfonietta, as well as at the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition. The latter honour gives him the opportunity to make his debut with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra next fall.

"It's wonderful," said Daniel's proud father, Kobi Hass, of his son's achievements. "We want our kids to know what they want to do and to pursue it," he added.

Daniel has been surrounded by music his entire life. His father is a professional bass player, and his older siblings play violin and piano. Daniel began playing the cello at four years old, wanting to play what he saw at the

**Daniel Hass** ***(Kobi Hass photo)***

time as being a bigger version of his brother's violin.

"I thought that everybody played the violin because I heard it so much," said Daniel of growing up in a musical family. He took an immediate liking to the cello, though he has also learned to play the piano.

In Israel, Daniel studied cello with Michael Bezem at the Israel Conservatory of Music, as well as with Zvi Plesser at the Jerusalem Academy of Music. At only eight years old, he became a soloist with the Ashdod Chamber Orchestra. He went on to win national first prize in an Israeli cello competition and later performed with the Israel Camerata Orchestra.

The move to Canada didn't slow Daniel down at all. He is home-schooled, which allows more time for his practising and performing, and has just completed the equivalent of Grade 9. Since 2010, Daniel has been studying with David Hetherington at the Royal Conservatory of Music in the Young Artist Performance Academy. Daniel is also the principal cellist of the conservatory's Academy Chamber Orchestra and of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra.

In the summers, he attends the Perlman Music Program in New York state, a six-week intensive music program for gifted youths from all over the world.

Even with his many accomplishments, the teenaged cellist remains modest and focused. "I just want to be the best musician I can be," Daniel said, adding that he makes a constant effort to improve his playing. "I always have new goals, and I work hard and try to reach them."

Daniel confessed that before performing he still gets a bit nervous, but once he begins to play, he is able to focus on the music and forget the stage fright. "The moment you start playing, it's a lot easier," he said.

Although he would love to become a professional musician as an adult, he said he's realistic about the challenges that face many talented musicians who wish to make a living from their art. Nevertheless, he plans to give it his best effort and is committed to continue playing the cello into adulthood. "I'm sure that music will always be a part of my life."

## EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

### DAVID SHORE, CANADIAN-BORN CREATOR OF *HOUSE* TV SERIES, INKS NEW TV DEAL WORTH MILLIONS

**David Shore**, the London, Ont.-born writer-director of the television drama *House* that concluded its eighth and final season in May, has signed a lucrative deal to develop new projects for television.

"The veteran 'showrunner' has inked a new three-year overall deal – said to be in the eight-figure range – with Sony TV," the *Hollywood Reporter* said on June 7. The 43-year-old Shore worked as a corporate lawyer in the mid-1980s before going to Los Angeles and breaking into television. He and his family now live in Encino, Calif.

In a recent interview, Shore said he was often asked, especially in the early years of *House*, to provide a succinct description of the show's main character, the eponymous, drug-addicted doctor played by Hugh Laurie. "I would find myself trying to be brief and failing... I was just rambling and not giving any good answers. Then I realized the reason I couldn't do it was because it couldn't be done. When I reach a point when I can describe a character in one paragraph, then the character is no longer interesting."

David Shore

* * *

**Last Call for Playwrights:** The submissions deadline for the 2012 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition is fast approaching on July 3. The winner receives a professionally acted and directed public workshop in a Between Stages Play Reading, plus a national press release. Guidelines: esthera@mnjcc.org, 416-924-6211, ext. 606.

* * *

**Fringe Festival:** Toronto actor **Tracey Erin Smith** presents two new theatrical offerings at this summer's Fringe Festival. The one-woman show *Snug Harbor* focuses on Smith and the wonderful time she spent with her father before he disappeared. CBC Radio's *The Current* recently produced a documentary on Smith and the effect of her father's suicide on her. The other show is *Soulo*, which teaches how to use material from your own life to create short solo theatre pieces. The Fringe offers more than 150 artistic creations between July 4 to 15, all for $11 or less.

* * *

**Names in the News:** Toronto theatre entrepreneur **David Mirvish** hosted a light dinner with entertainment on June 26 in support of the Toronto Fringe Festival. The exclusive party was held in the menswear section of Honest Ed's department store beside a display of iconic Honest Ed's signage curated by the Koffler Centre. (Tickets were $79 and $99.) No doubt it makes good business sense for Mirvish, who has parlayed popular hits at the Fringe, such as *The Drowsy Chaperone*, into award-winning successes on the international stage.

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• Enjoy light classical music performed by a string quartet. Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC, Thursday, June 28, 1:30 p.m.

• The Toronto IsReal Dance Festival offers a weekend of Israeli dancing with top international choreographers, plus a mini Karmiel Dance Competition. Presented by Israeli Folk Dance Toronto, with the MNJCC. Pre-registration required. Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, June 29 to July 1. 416-221-6280, israelidancetoronto.com

• Dancap Productions presents *Million Dollar Quartet*, the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical about the time music promoter **Sam Phillips** brought together **Johnny Cash**, **Elvis Presley**, **Jerry Lee Lewis** and **Carl Perkins** for one unforgettable night. Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St. July 10 to 29. 416-644-3665.

• The Summer Institute for Creative Adults invites advanced beginners or above to train in adult vocal, jazz, cabaret, opera choruses and more. $350. Miles Nadal JCC, July 16 to 20. 416-924-6211, ext. 250, deannad@mnjcc.org

* * *

**At the Galleries:** *Exploring Toronto by Night: Streets and Stages* is an exhibition of photographs by the **Untold City**, a collective consisting of **Aaron Miller**, **Joel Barnes** and **Nick Merzetti**. The works explore the buzzing nightlife and sometimes dark realities on Toronto's busy streets. Steam Whistle Brewing, 255 Bremner Blvd. Opens July 4, 7 to 11 p.m. On view through July. www.theuntoldcity.com

# Author will not authorize Hebrew version of *The Color Purple*

JTA

**JERUSALEM** — Alice Walker, author of *The Color Purple*, has refused to authorize a Hebrew translation of her prize-winning work, citing what she called Israel's "apartheid state."

In a June 9 letter to Yediot Books, Walker said she would not allow an Israeli house to publish the book, because "Israel is guilty of apartheid and persecution of the Palestinian people, both inside Israel and also in the occupied territories."

Alice Walker

In her letter, posted June 17 by the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel on its website, Walker supported the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement and offered her hope that it "will have enough of an impact on Israeli civilian society to change the situation."

It was not clear when Yediot Books, an imprint of the daily *Yediot Achronot* newspaper, made the request, or whether Walker could in fact stop translation of the book. At least one version of the book has already appeared in Hebrew translation, in the 1980s.

Walker said Israel's policies were "worse" than the segregation she suffered as an American youth and said South Africans had told her it was worse than apartheid in that country.

*The Color Purple*, which won the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, was adapted into a movie in 1985 directed by Jewish filmmaker Steven Spielberg.

The novel and the film, which was nominated for 11 Oscars, treat racism in the American South in the first part of the 20th century and sexism among blacks.

Walker has intensified her anti-Israel activism in recent years, travelling to the Gaza Strip to advocate on behalf of the Palestinians.

# A look at Irving Layton's early '60s efforts

*Reviewed by*

*Norman Ravvin*

In the late 1940s and early '50s, Irving Layton taught at a variety of schools, including Montreal's Herzliah High School. He raised a young family with his wife, the artist Betty Sutherland, and published his own work through the small press and little magazine he founded. Though he drew inspiration and support from a wide literary circle, Layton's early books were self-published and hand-sold one copy at a time.

His career underwent a shift in 1954, when the American poet Robert Creeley, who was based on the island of Mallorca, offered to bring out Layton's collection *In the Midst of My Fever*. In Creeley, Layton found an editor and international distributor of note who was not part of the closely knit new guard of Montreal poets and critics. Creeley's interest in Layton was matched by the glowing response his poetry received from the American poet William Carlos Williams.

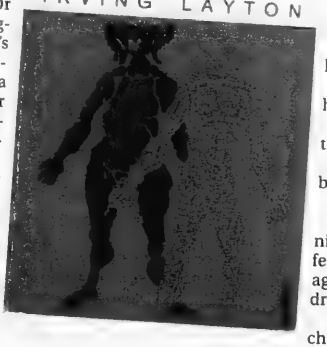
But in the early 1960s everything changed. Layton had found his Canadian publishing home at Toronto-based McClelland and Stewart, where the mercurial management of Jack McClelland aimed to position writing like Layton's at the vanguard of a new Canadian canon.

Among the early outcomes of this relationship were a 1961 prose and poetry collection titled *The Swinging Flesh*, and *Love Where the Nights Are Long: An Anthology of Canadian Love Poems*, which appeared the following year.

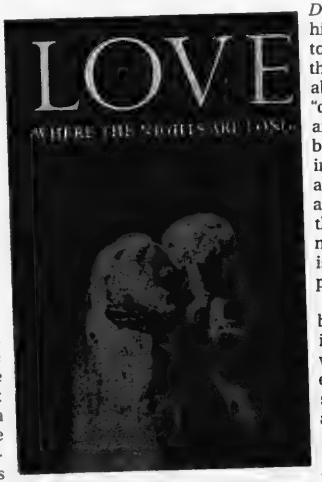
*The Swinging Flesh* opens with a strident and provocative foreword in which Layton accounts not only for his poetic and philosophical outlook, but opens an attack on targets that remained in his sights for much of his career.

"Philistine senselessness," he writes, "made self-assured by swimming pools and a string of lackeys I find repulsive. And pathetic. The philistine Jew is as depressing as the philistine Arab or the philistine Russian. I do not like his acquisitiveness, his love of show, his moneytheism. Or his hypocrisy and smugness." Included in Layton's list of dislikes are "Anglo-Saxon academics" and a bigger and vaguer target, "bourgeois-Christian civilization."

In now-familiar prophetic tones, he tells his readers that the "society of the future will have no more need for living, creative art than for religion. To the comfortable air-conditioned suburbanite of tomorrow, the intuitions of the one will appear as ludicrously pitiable and archaic as those of the other."




*The Swinging Flesh* represents an early effort by Layton and his publisher to place him at the forefront of Canadian letters. With *Love Where the Nights Are Long*, poet and publisher took a further step to redefine the idea of Canadian writing. For book lovers, this volume is an artifact in its own right. Slim, at just 80 pages long, it is a beautiful thing, largely because of its illustrations by the Toronto artist of the moment, Harold Town. These etchings and montages are oblique but erotic, somehow modern and antique in their look, punctuating poems by Layton, Cohen, Alden Nowlan, Louis Dudek, Fred Cogswell, F.R. Scott, Jay Macpherson, Ray Souster, Bliss Carman and others.




Layton's choices are canny, and retain a lightness and lyric intimacy. Many of the best poems in the volume feel as though they were part of a discussion about what a Canadian poem ought to be in the mid-20th century. Emblematic of this discussion is the poem Layton places first in the volume, Leonard Cohen's *As the Mist Leaves No Scar*. Readers today may hear it with its musical setting from the great, underrated 1977 album *Death of a Ladies' Man*. But in 1962, when Cohen was not yet 30 years old, it set the tone for an era of poetic innovation.

As the mist leaves no scar
On the dark green hill,
So my body leaves no scar
On you, nor ever will.

Other poets in the collection, now far less attentively discussed than Cohen, were making similarly small and lovely things. Layton, naturally, includes a few of his own. Alden Nowlan's *Canadian Love Song* is of a piece with Cohen's work.

To my love's bed, to keep her warm,
I'll carry wrapped and heated stones.
That which is comfort to the flesh
is sometimes torture to the bones.

Even A.J.M. Smith, a senior figure on the scene, offers something Cohenesque against the unromantic backdrop of Lachine.

There is a sorcerer in Lachine
Who for a small fee will put a spell
On my beloved, who has sea-green
Eyes, and on my doting self as well.

Layton introduces the poetry with one of his bombastic forewords. Under the title *What Canadians Don't Know About Love*, he informs his readers that poets are best placed to inform Canadians about what they have forgotten or never knew about love. Those who oppose them "can go to hell. So can Mrs. Grundy and her numerous evil-smelling brood of censorious prigs, sniggering boobs, tight-lipped matrons and frustrated nobodies found in all the cities, towns and villages of this land." According to Layton, Canadian culture is a joke; social life is consumed by "the excitement of professional sports and alcohol."

This past March, Layton's 100th birthday was celebrated with readings from Fredericton to Vancouver. But a return to his early '60s efforts is sufficient to refresh our sense of what he made of Canadian literature at the most energetic point in his career.

McClelland and Stewart is now wholly owned by Random House, and early Layton, like *The Swinging Flesh* and *Love Where the Nights Are Long*, are out of print. Used copies float about on the Internet. The Texas Book Depot is presently offering a copy for 39 cents plus shipping. Whoever gets there first wins the prize.

*Norman Ravvin's recent books are the novel,* The Joyful Child *(Gaspereau Press), and* Failure's Opposite: Listening to A.M. Klein *(McGill-Queen's), co-edited with Sherry Simon.*

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# Island Yacht Club considering merger

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

It was almost impossible for Jews to gain entry into gentile yacht clubs 60 years ago.

Recently, the largely Jewish Island Yacht Club (IYC) was approached by the prestigious Royal Canadian Yacht Club (RCYC), with a view to considering a merger or other possible arrangement.

The situation is certainly ironic, acknowledged IYC Commodore David Baskin, but it reflects the way the city of Toronto has changed. The RCYC has Jewish members today, and the IYC has a good number of non-Jewish members.

The IYC has struck a committee to investigate the proposal, and while no decision has yet been made, the offer is being taken quite seriously, Baskin said. There are upsides to a potential merger as well as downsides and the committee might suggest something in between, he suggested.

Interest is certainly high at the RCYC. Reporting online to his members, RCYC Commodore George Meadows said, "No negotiations have taken place. The informal discussion led us to believe there may be mutual benefit to both parties should we be able to reach agreement to get together."

Baskin said the RCYC approach came only a few weeks ago. The IYC has assets that the RCYC might want to utilize, while the RCYC has resources that IYC members could enjoy, he said.

For one, the IYC possesses 30 to 40 unused slips, while the RCYC has plenty of members but nowhere for many of them to dock their boats.

The RCYC, which was founded in 1852 and can boast Prince Phillip as its patron, has run out of slips for the 35-foot-plus boats that sailors today favour. The IYC has spare slips on Muggs Island, only a short ride away from the RCYC's facilities on Centre Island.

A merger or other arrangement would see RCYC sailors berthing their boats at IYC slips and IYC members taking advantage of RCYC facilities.

That could be advantageous for IYC members, who pay dues similar to those levied on RCYC members, but who enjoy the club's facilities from May to September. The RCYC runs year-round, with its club offering dining and health-club facilities at Bloor and St. George streets in Toronto all year round.

A merger would provide IYC members more for their money, Baskin suggested.

As for the downside, "We could lose our independence in a merged situation. They're much bigger than we are. We might lose our identity."

Those are issues the committee will have to consider, he said, adding any decision will have to be approved by a two-thirds vote of the members.

In his address to RCYC members, Meadows stated, "Our club is in good financial shape, but because of the economy we have been losing members. This is similar to other yacht clubs, golf clubs and other private clubs.

"The Island Yacht Club has also suffered the same effects with a number of their members, which could impact on the sustainability of their operation in the future. They have a great facility, with lots of available docks, especially for larger boats. There is a new clubhouse, a swimming pool and tennis courts, all housed in a lovely setting," he stated.

"At first glance there are numerous advantages to such a joining of forces. It is an opportunity worth investigating.

"The investigation may find that some IYC services could be combined with RCYC services (e.g. administration, membership, harbour and property, food and beverage) for cost efficiencies, but these details are not known at this time."

Baskin said timing of a vote is unclear, but if both sides approve a merger, it likely wouldn't be implemented until next year's boating season.

# *Special Olympian wins four medals at Ontario games*

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

His favourite stroke might be the freestyle, but it was in the 200-metre individual medley that Jeffrey Steiman really showed his mettle.

Steiman took home a gold medal in the event at the recent Ontario Special Olympics in Kingston, Ont.

The 22-year-old also earned medals in his favourite stroke, winning silvers in the 100-metre and 50-metre freestyle races. A bronze in the 50-metre backstroke rounded out his medal haul.

**Jeffrey Steiman**

Roughly 1,000 competitors participated in the Games, which included five- and 10-pin bowling competitions, bocce and basketball.

Jeffrey swims for the North York Eels swim club, his dad, Howard, told *The CJN*. He's been a swimmer since he was five. The Eels compete in local and regional events two or three times a year, and they take part in the provincial and national competitions, which are held every four years. At the last provincials four years ago, Jeffrey took home four medals, his dad recalled.

Jeffrey trained once a week in preparing for the Ontario Games, spending 2-1/2 hours in the pool. "Like everybody else, he's not that keen on training every week, but when it comes to the competition, he looks forward to it," Howard said. "He loves the accolades and the medals. Jeffrey likes to win, just like any other athlete."

In addition to swimming, Jeffrey enjoys karate and has earned a black belt. He's competed in bowling at other Special Olympics.

He goes "spinning" on a stationary bike with his grandfather once a week, and he does some weight training as well, Howard said.

When he's not competing in sports, Jeffrey has a job packaging bulk items, work he found through the MukiBaum Treatment Centres.

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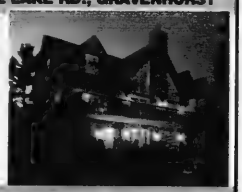

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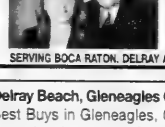

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# Dress well and feel good, style coaches say

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Whether you're a fashionista who's always dressed to the nines or a schlub who doesn't care whether your flip-flops match your sweatpants, there's one thing we all have in common.

We all have to get dressed in the morning. And style coaches Maytal Oziel and Shayna Lampert say the way you put yourself together matters.

Oziel insists that the effort you put into your look tells the world how you feel about yourself.

Dressing well "shows people that you respect who you are and it gives off an impression. You don't want to go on a job interview looking all dishevelled, you want to be put together. You have to know what goes and what fits your body and how to market yourself so that people want you."

Oziel, 29, a primary school teacher, said she was a teenager working a retail job at Hill Street Blues in Richmond Hill, Ont., when her fashion instincts came to the surface.

"I asked my boss if I could be the buyer of the store. I begged him for a long time to take me buying with them, and they wouldn't because they thought I was too young. As soon as they gave me a chance, the sales at Hill Street went up. People loved what I bought, and the customers were just buying and buying," Oziel said.

"That gave me the confidence to know that I can do this."

She said she was soon offered a buying position at another retail store, Buffalo Jeans, but declined the offer because she wanted to go to teacher's college to get her degree.

SHAYNA LAMPERT

[Meaghan Ogilvie photo]

Despite her teaching career, Oziel hasn't given up on her passion. She operates a service on the side called Tash Style and Image Coach (www.tashstyle.com).

"I offer my time to go shopping with you, go into your wardrobe to organize it for you. I can colour coordinte it for you, get rid of stuff that you don't wear anymore," she said.

"I can show you things in your closet that you should be wearing more and how to piece it together... and how to decide what style of clothing you should be wearing to flatter your body."

Thirty-year-old Lampert, who runs a fashion consulting service similar to Oziel's called Dresscode Styling Agency (www.dresscodeagency.com), started her fashion career in 2007 by working on commercial and music-video television shoots for different production companies around Toronto.

Lampert said she can relate to people who just want to be comfortable in their sweatpants all day, but agreed with Oziel that putting yourself together in the morning is more important than some people realize.

"You never know where or with whom you're going to end up at any point in the day," she said, adding that looking your best can alter your mood and boost your confidence.

"If there was a day that I wasn't feeling up to it and didn't want to go to school, my mother would tell me to pick out my favourite outfit, put on makeup, make myself look good and feel good and get my ass to school. That really did make a difference," Lampert said.

"The time that it takes to put on a nice pair of jeans and a white T-shirt is equivalent to the time it would take you to put on sweatpants, but you'll feel more put together and more confident in your daily interactions."

Oziel added that she understands that women who spend their days doting on their families often let their own needs fall by the wayside, but taking pride in the way you look is the least you can do for yourself.

"Even if you're going to the mall with your three kids and husband and you're in sweatpants, you'll feel like crap and show the world you feel like garbage and don't respect yourself," she said.

"It's not about impressing anyone else, but it's about making yourself feel good. When you dress up and look good, you're going to feel good."

Dressing well doesn't mean you have to splurge on designer labels. Finding clothes that fit properly and flatter your frame is enough to modify your look.

"Everything is about fit. You can wear anything you want, as long as it fits properly," Oziel said.

"If you're very busty, don't wear a low-cut shirt tucked into a skirt. You need to let it out so you look like your torso is a little bit longer and you're not all chest."

She said for those who have body types that are hard to fit, tailors can be your best friend.

"If you find jeans that fit you everywhere except the waist, you can cinch in the waist."

Lampert, who obtained a fashion merchandising degree from Seneca College and interned with designers Ian Hilton and Joseph Mimran, pointed out that most people aren't brought up with an education in fashion.

"Your mother may have told you about certain colours clashing, not to wear white after Labour Day – first of all, none of those rules apply anymore, but I've come up with a system of how to teach people to dress. It's a four-point system about how to put yourself together in the morning."

Lampert, who offers daily styling tips through her Twitter account @DresscodeAgency, said she thinks people should veer from wearing too much of the same colour at once.

"They might wear too much neutral or wear two shades of the same colour... One of my rules is to dress in contrasting colours. I'll always leave my clients with a colour wheel to put in their closet so they can see what brightens, and works together and compliments. If you work on the same side of a colour wheel,

MAYTAL OZIEL

it can wash you out instead of punch you up."

But for those not interested in following rules, Lampert said she gives credit to people who want to think outside the box when it comes to choosing an outfit.

"Even though they may not get it right every time, at least they're trying," she said.

"If you want to be bold, be bold. Just wear it confidently. If you didn't get it right that time, try again."

Being bold is right on track with this summer's trend of colour blocking, Oziel said.

"Colour blocking – taking two bright colours and putting them together – is very hot for the summer. So it could mean wearing a bright blue shirt with coral shorts. But you have to make sure that your accessories are neutral," said Oziel, who also tweets daily style tips @tash_style.

Although religious women who are concerned with dressing modestly may have a few more restrictions when it comes to shopping for the latest trends, both Oziel and Lampert agree that frum woman can cover up and look chic at the same time.

"They can buy themselves a shell [nylon, long-sleeved shirts], and still go to trendy stores like H&M and buy whatever they want and wear it on top," Oziel said.

Lampert said another option is to wear a sheer, long-sleeved top with a pop of colour underneath.

"Luckily, long skirts are in right now, so that's perfect. This summer, statement necklaces are in, so that's another easy way to punch things up."

*More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca*

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# Garage sale surprises

"Are you ready to go?" Meir asks me, all excited and giddy. The kids are standing next to him. So is the dog, wagging its tail.

See, I promised them a stroll around the neighbourhood's garage sales, or as we call them – "garbage sales."

It's not that I hate purchasing new shmattes. And I might willingly go to a garage sale in another city or country. It's just that here? In our own backyard?

Last week, Meir proudly handed me a to-die-for vintage lamp, which I had seen in a posh catalogue, while saying the magic words, "A buck fifty!"

So, who am I kidding?

*New to Canada*

*Nina Shenhav*

"There are some ground rules," I say, as we start strolling. "We don't buy things we don't need. We buy only to-die-for vintage lamps, maybe some decorative statues, floral cushions, toys, furniture, a lawn mower, bicycles and an aquarium. That's all. Oh, and all in all, I'm not spending more then 10 bucks."

The first garage we enter is Mike's. I'm amazed. He has such beautiful stuff. For instant, this gorgeous Japanese vase. We gave him the vase when we went to his place for a dinner party last winter. I remember spending $100 on it, and here Mike, without any sense of dignity, dares to ask only three bucks for it! The nerve of that man! He obviously suffers from severe amnesia, as he's also selling those amazing miniature ivory elephants I brought to his wife's birthday. I don't want to tell you how expensive and rare they are. He asks $4 for them, and without me even getting a friend's discount!

Next, we visit Garry and Sharon's garage. There I have a dear reunion with five deluxe-edition children's books that I gave to their son last year for his birthday "Fifty cents a piece!" Garry says to me, smiling. I hate that ungrateful blond couple. They're so Barbie and Ken.

Which reminds me that three months ago, the original Barbie and Ken dolls, along with Ken's metrosexual wardrobe, cost me $65 on sale. I gave the dolls to Garry and Sharon's daughter. Livid, I buy them back for a dollar "a piece!"

Slowly, my new 50-cent shopping bag filled. I'd given it to Hanna last Chanukah and paid 50 bucks for it.

When we got home, I looked at my new purchases, feeling panicky. Only the antique chair – Barbara and Fred's 20th anniversary, two years ago – gave us pause, but we pushed it determinedly to the basement hall.

The experience made me decide two things: one – nobody in the neighbourhood really appreciates me. Two – we're having a garage sale next week.

Don't be surprised to get your presents for a quarter!

*Nina.shenhav@gmail.com*

**BBQ RIBS IN HOISIN-PEANUT MARINADE**

4 lb. beef spareribs OR Miami ribs
2/3 c hoisin sauce, divided
1/4 c + 1 tblsp creamy peanut butter, divided
1/4 c + 1 tblsp honey, divided
1/4 c rice wine or dry sherry
1/4 c soya sauce
4 tblsp water, divided
2 garlic cloves, minced

Place ribs in large resealable plastic bag. In medium bowl, stir together 1/3 c hoisin sauce, 1/4 c peanut butter, 1/4c honey, rice wine, soy sauce, 2 tbls. water, garlic. Pour into bag over ribs and seal bag. Refrigerate at least 4 hrs, turning bag occasionally. When ready to cook ribs, heat BBQ to medium-high, remove from marinade and place on BBQ; discard marinade in bag. Cover grill. In small bowl prepare rest of basting sauce - combine remaining 1/3c hoisin sauce, 1 tblsp. peanut butter, 1 tblsp. honey, 2 tblsp. water. Grill ribs until browned and crisp, turning and brushing with remaining sauce halfway through grilling. To serve, cut into separate ribs.

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## On cjnews.com

*Exclusive to cjnews.com*

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa says that for a number of reasons, this summer promises to be hot.

Married with Kids columnist Lauren Aginsky gives her spouse the birthday present of a lifetime.

Campus Life columnist Jessica Pollack looks at the ongoing battles to obtain a Jewish education.

A fond look back at Jewish Music Week which recently wound up in Toronto.

Montreal venture capitalist Matthew Price-Gallagher, who has been to Israel about 20 times in the last two years, is attracted to its refreshing "can-do" approach to business – and science.

Almost a year after being stricken by a devastating stroke, Rabbi Ronnie Cahana issued a message of gratitude to the community that affirms his spirit remains strong.

The Interfaith Encounter Association hopes that one day Jews, Muslims and other faiths in Israel get to know each other as friends, not foes.

# Brave voices of dissent

Throughout history, the Jewish People, have had to manage our allegiance to our host countries in a delicate way so as not to be seen as disloyal citizens.

Today, in Canada, we still grapple with this issue, either because we think there's a very real concern for our safety, or because we carry with us the heavy baggage of the past, when Jews were viewed as a little bit less equal in the eyes of our neighbours.

*Zul zein shtil* ("keep quiet") is still alive, albeit looking dated.

*Urban Writer*

*Avrum Rosensweig*

Recently this issue was put to the test in our community over the Conservative government's decision to cut health care coverage for refugee claimants. If these changes go through, as of June 30, all refugees will lose access to preventative health care and life-saving medications, such as insulin, through the Interim Federal Health Program.

Refugees from what the government is calling "designated countries" will also lose access to emergency care. This includes pregnant women, children and people facing acute crises, such as heart attacks. One country that's sure to be on the designated country list is Hungary, targeting Roma, a people that was victimized by Hitler and is still persecuted today.

For months, virtually all medical affinity groups protested these health care policy changes, as did many major religious denominations. Physicians and health providers marched outside the offices of Conservative MPs protesting vehemently that these laws will deny people life-saving drugs, prevent them from receiving medical care and potentially result in severe illness and death to children, women and men.

The Jewish community, through its rabbis and private citizens, also protested, calling on our memories of when boatloads of Jews were sent back by Canada to their deaths during this country's "none is too many" era.

Former Canadian Jewish Congress CEO Bernie Farber, together with lawyer Clayton Ruby and Dr. Philip Berger, co-wrote a June 15 opinion piece in the *Globe and Mail* headlined, "No refuge in Canada for some refugees."

In it, these three vocal Jews stated: "Today, we go on record as Jews and descendants of immigrants to say that we oppose cuts to refugee health care and the designation of so-called 'safe' countries. Denying other human beings health care and a haven based on their country of origin is simply wrong. As Jews and human rights activists, we know well that countries deemed safe for the majority can be deadly for some minorities."

The Jewish voice of dissent rang out.

These were proud moments, because it meant that we have moved forward despite our fears and found our way to the frontlines of protest, challenging our government's direction.

It's an important time for Canadian Jewry, as many of our rabbis and rank-and-file (some of whom voted Conservative) are demonstrating maturity and leadership as our national leaders begin tinkering with rights that protect the "stranger." It's heartening to see that so many Jews feel it's OK to fight the Conservatives and their majority government – who are staunch supporters of Israel – and not be afraid.

Of course, there are those in our community who support the Conservatives because they're ideologically aligned with them, while others support the government unconditionally, because they believe to do otherwise would be disloyal.

Many Jews appreciate the government's stand on Israel. But it's our right to be here, and it's our responsibility to question our government's policies. We're grateful to live in a place that allows us to do so.

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## This Week

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# Canada, Israel broaden energy ties

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Canada and Israel last week signed a new energy agreement that has the potential to massively benefit both countries economically.

Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver completed a weeklong economic mission to the Jewish state on Saturday during which he met with top Israeli energy sector officials, concluded the June 26 agreement with his counterpart, Uzi Landau, Israel's minister of energy and water resources, and met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"There's significant untapped potential in trade with Israel," Oliver said.

The text of the agreement, while non-specific, states that both countries will try to meet bilaterally "to discuss energy cooperation by taking advantage of opportunities when both are present at major energy events and fora."

Speaking to reporters via conference call from Haifa on June 28, Oliver said he expected Landau to visit Canada sometime in the fall to gather further "information and build relationships in the energy and natural resources sectors."

The recent discoveries of major oil and natural gas deposits both onshore and offshore in Israel mean the tiny state could become energy independent in the near future.

Experts estimate that the Shfela Basin, located about 30 kilometres southwest of Jerusalem, contains more than 250 billion barrels of shale oil. That would place Israel third globally in shale oil resources, behind only the United States and China. The resource is also as big as the 250 billion barrels of conventional oil reserves in Saudi Arabia.

As a result, the potential for increased bilateral trade and investment by both Canadian and Israeli energy sector players is encouraging, Oliver said.

While development and yield from these sites are still years away, Israel could become one of the world's major suppliers of oil and gas, as well as providing for its own energy needs.

**Continued on page 26**

**Uzi Landau, left, and Joe Oliver** *[Natural Resources Canada photo]*

## *Recalling airport slaughter, 40 years ago*

**_CJN_ reporter Paul Lungen interviewed two women who were in Lod Airport in Israel 40 years ago on May 30 when three terrorists of the Japanese Red Army slaughtered 26 people and wounded 80 others. Miraculously, the two women were not injured. The terrorist who did not die at the airport, Kozo Okamoto, is seen here at his trial in Israel. He was subsequently released by Israel as part of a prisoner exchange.** ***Please see the story on page 12.***

*[IGPO file photo]*

**Balak**
**Candlelighting: 8:43**
**Havdalah: 9:46**

*Greater Toronto Area*

**This edition of The CJN went to press on June 29.**

## CANADA

### Bronfman Fellows

MONTREAL — Jacob Shapiro, a graduate of Bialik High School in Cote St. Luc, recently became the only Canadian chosen for the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel program this year. Shapiro is the second member of his family to be accepted into this program. His brother, Adam, was accepted in 2009.

### Cohon gets key

TORONTO — George Cohon, a former member of *The CJN*'s board of directors and founder of McDonald's Restaurants of Canada, recently received a key to the City of Toronto from Mayor Rob Ford. He is the first Torontonian to receive this honour from Ford.

## WORLD

### An unkind cut

BERLIN — Germany's top Jewish leader called on the federal Parliament "to ensure religious freedom" following a Cologne court ruling that said circumcising young boys on religious grounds amounts to grievous bodily harm. Though the decision by the district court of Cologne does not outlaw circumcision, it is "outrageous and insensitive," Dieter Graumann, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said in a statement issued last week. The court ruled that the "fundamental right of the child to bodily integrity outweighed the fundamental rights of the parents."

### 'Zionists' get blame

IRAN — An Iranian vice-president blamed "Zionists" for the global drug trade and said the Talmud encourages Jews to promote addiction in non-Jewish communities. Mohammad Reza Rahimi, Iran's first vice-president, made the comments last Tuesday during ceremonies marking the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Tehran. He said evidence of the Zionists' direct involvement in illicit drugs is the fact that "you cannot find a single addict among the Zionists," the semi-official Iranian FARS news service reported. Referring to the Talmud, he said, "The book teaches them how to destroy non-Jews so as to protect an embryo in the womb of a Jewish mother."

### Writer, director dies at 71

Nora Ephron

NEW YORK — Nora Ephron, a film director, author and essayist who wrote the screenplays for *When Harry Met Sally* and *Sleepless in Seattle*, has died.

Ephron died of leukemia on June 26 in a New York hospital. She was 71. Only close friends and family knew of the illness, which was diagnosed in 2006.

Her last movie was the 2008 hit *Julie and Julia*, starring Meryl Streep. Ephron had started out as a journalist before becoming an author and essayist, and later a screenwriter and director.

Her 2006 book of essays titled *I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman* became a *New York Times* bestseller.

Ephron told *Daily Forward* writer and author Abigail Pogrebin in a 2003 interview for her book *Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish* that she thought of herself "as a Jew, but not Jewish."

Ephron was married three times and divorced twice, the second time from *Washington Post* reporter Carl Bernstein. Her book *Heartburn* was a recounting of their marriage.

A graduate of Wellesley College, she was an intern in the Kennedy White House and then worked as a mail girl at *Newsweek*.

### Up for auction

CHICAGO — The Lubavitch Chabad House in Chicago is going on the auction block this week.

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# Rabbis urge PM not to cut refugees' health care

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

The Toronto Board of Rabbis has sent a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper imploring him to stop modifications to the country's refugee health-care benefits in order to save lives.

Changes to the Interim Federal Health Program, scheduled to take effect on June 30, mean the government would no longer provide supplemental health care to certain refugees during the year after they arrive in Canada, the board said.

Rabbi Michal Shekel

"We have heard clearly from physicians across the country that people will face illness and even death if their access to life-saving medication through the program is cut off. This includes children," the board said in its June 18 letter to Harper.

Under the revised program, refugee claimants from designated "safe" countries will still have their cases heard by the Immigration Refugee Board (IRB) to make their case, but they will no longer receive any supplemental health coverage from Canada unless they have an illness or condition that is potentially hazardous to the public at large, according to the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

For example, refugees from designated safe countries of origin arriving in Canada with tuberculosis will receive medical care. Others with diabetes will no longer have insulin covered under the federal program.

The board's letter was signed by its outgoing president and its executive director, Rabbi Howard Morrison and Rabbi Michal Shekel, respectively.

Rabbi Shekel, who is also spiritual leader of Congregation Or Hadash in Newmarket, Ont., said the board didn't send the letter with any political intent, but that it was motivated by how strongly the majority of rabbis felt about this particular issue.

"We are concerned with issues, not partisan politics," she told *The CJN*. "We sent the letter by email. It's an issue that resonates strongly with the Jewish community."

The Toronto Board of Rabbis said it was also concerned about proposed changes to immigration laws under Bill C-31, Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act, which would allow the government to create a list of so-called "safe countries" – a.k.a. "designated countries of origin" or DCOs in government parlance – that it would not consider dangerous for its citizens and hence disallow asylum claimants from those regions.

If the bill passes, it might turn away legitimate asylum seekers fleeing persecution, including Jews, from countries such as Hungary, which would likely be designated a safe nation despite growing concerns of rising institutional antisemitism and anti-Roma attitudes, the board said

Bill C-31 is now being debated in the Senate.

"We are alarmed at the idea of designating specific countries as safe for all people.

**Continued on page 7**

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# Building Jerusalem (5)

In April, *CJN* reporter Paul Lungen wrote a poignant story about the full-from-the-heart involvement of a retired 87-year-old Yiddish and Hebrew teacher from Toronto (formerly from Montreal), Yankle Gladstone, in the renovation of a run-down 3-1/2-storey building in downtown Jerusalem.

The renovation is not a real estate project.

It is, rather, a communal, caring-for-one-another, "building Jerusalem" project undertaken by the Jerusalem Foundation, Mayor Nir Barkat, and the City Centre (Lev Ha'ir) Community Centre. Indeed, the project is so important that the foundation considers it to be its "flagship" initiative.

The 3-1/2-storey building is a community centre still in the making that will one day become an educational, cultural, athletic, social, young adult, teen, seniors, neighbourhood hub for the many thousands of Jerusalem's residents in or near the downtown core.

As described by the foundation, the essential purpose of the ambitious project is "to create change and redesign the City Centre as a lively and dynamic, creative and positive centre for the populations that live, visit, work and spend time in this area."

The area in question, Morasha, is the neighbourhood, more or less at the end of Jaffa Road, adjacent to the Old City between the Jaffa and Damascus Gates. It is a diverse, colourful, collage of diverse groupings of Jerusalem's residents, many, if not most, of whom live at or under the poverty line.

Yankle's generous involvement in the project is specifically aimed at providing a facility within the centre to help newly arrived Ethiopians adjust to life in the modern State of Israel. But the programming in the centre is an ambitious interwoven multi-purpose, multi-tiered fabric of events, sessions, seminars, opportunities and happenings.

Other Canadians, too, have taken to heart the establishment of this vital community centre in Jerusalem's hardscrabble city centre. Individuals and families from across the country have joined this exceptional effort in building Jerusalem.

That they have is not surprising to Jerusalem Foundation president, Mark Sofer. For, as he pointed out to *The CJN* last month, due to Canada's multicultural mosaic, Canadians seem intrinsically to better understand the complex socio-ethnic nature of the city and are more in sync with the infrastructure of mutual respect, tolerance and co-existence that the foundation is trying to implant throughout the city.

"Jerusalem will not become an ethnic melting pot," Sofer told *The CJN*. "But the different ethnic groups can live in harmony, side by side, in this society."

Indeed, so pivotal is the ongoing role of Canadian philanthropists in helping build the community centre that the foundation has called it Canada House. There is even a dedication plaque attached at the entrance to the building that expressly recognizes this distinctive Canadian goodness and generosity toward the people of Jerusalem which reads: *"Canada House is dedicated to the many Canadians who share the values of Co-existence, Culture and Community with the Jerusalem Foundation."*

Leading the organized charge in trying to respond in innovative, dignity-preserving ways to the needs and distresses of the many individuals who live in the city centre is Uri Amedi, the head of the Lev Ha'ir (City Centre ) Community Council. *(See From the editor's desk June 28).*

Amedi has an office of course. But he seems perpetually to be outside, walking the streets of downtown Jerusalem seeking the welfare of its people – his people – storing in the Rolodex of his mind even the minutest details of all that he sees or hears: smiles on faces that greet him, broken pipes that need fixing, privation that needs relieving, sadness that needs comforting, success that warrants celebration.

He walks everywhere. He sees everyone.

At a crowded arts and crafts fair one Friday morning last month on Bezalel Street, near the famed Bezalel Arts Academy, I happened upon Amedi. He too was strolling on the street, winding slowly around the many vendors' temporary kiosk displays. He was clearly pleased with the crowded human traffic that was overtly happy in the sunshine and finding boisterous, noisy delight in Jerusalem.

I had met him only five days before. But we embraced an embrace of friends who had not seen each other in a long while.

"Building Jerusalem is holy work," he told me. Then, stretching his right hand across an expanse of the artists' market in front of us, he added "and what you see here is part of that work. Please help us. Please tell your readers that we need their help."

I promised him I would. "The hands will be mine, but the voice will be yours. The voice will be that of Uri Amedi."

When we next utter the prayer for the building of Jerusalem, we must remember that it falls to us, mere human beings trying to better the world, to be God's agents in doing so.

***MBD***

*(Last of a series.)*

Our annual
Community Focus
Supplement is coming out in the August 23rd issue.

The Canadian Jewish news

Watch for it!

SeeJN

**PUTIN MAKES LATE-NIGHT VISIT TO THE KOTEL**

**During his visit last month to Israel, Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, paid a late-night visit to the Kotel and toured the Western Wall tunnels. Here he is in the company of the rabbi of the Kotel, Shmuele Rabinowitz. Putin reportedly told the rabbi that he, too, prays for the rebuilding of the Temple.** ***[Photo courtesy of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation]***

# Canadians urged to respond to UC actions

**Jennifer M. MacLeod**
Special to The CJN

With its sweeping moral judgments and harsh condemnation of Israel, a recent United Church of Canada report on Israel/Palestine policy has shocked some people into action.

And with only weeks to go before a church-wide vote, they'd like the rest of us to reach out, too.

When psychologist Ellen Greenberg read in *The CJN* about a church minister, Rev. Andrew Love, speaking out against the report ("United Church minister wants more balance on Mideast," May 17), she immediately got on the phone – to invite him to dinner.

"She called me out of the blue," said Rev. Love, who lives in Arnprior, Ont. After dinner, they attended an Aish HaTorah Evening to Celebrate Israel, which highlighted an Israeli field hospital in Haiti and other global contributions.

"It was a wonderful experience… to have dinner in someone's home – total strangers – united by a bigger purpose, and a recognition that… this is going to be hard work: home-to-home, church-to-synagogue… relationship building."

Avi Benlolo

Avi Benlolo of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies said that while the United Church of Canada has "backed down" from apartheid language, the report still attempts "to decomplicate a very complicated issue. They're obviously moving in the wrong direction by invoking the Shoah… [and] fail to understand that the Palestinian community is just not interested in a two-state solution."

The report calls for a boycott of "products produced in the settlements and through the occupation," accusing Israel of "stealing" land granted through international law as far back as 1920, according to Richard Bass of the JEd Institute, who also met with Rev. Love while he was in Toronto.

Greenberg, who said she has a "passion for community," said anyone can take action. "Call the United Church in [your] community… Let the minister know that we are concerned both about this suggestion to boycott and also the fact that no Jewish organizations have been invited."

She also suggests writing to the Moderator, the church's elected head.

Benlolo agrees. "People should take the matter into their own hands by reaching out… to all churches in their neighbourhood, making an appointment… and creating a relationship of discussion."

Talking points must highlight "that Israel is a democracy, it's not an apartheid state," and also that "most Jews want to find a reasonable two-state solution."

Several Wiesenthal representatives met with United Church officials, including Rev. Bruce Gregersen, part of the working group that produced the report, who said there's no question of Israel's legitimacy. "To claim otherwise is unacceptable."

In August, the United Church of Canada's general council will debate and vote on the report. "They make decisions on the basis of where they believe God's spirit is leading them," Rev. Gregersen said.

To claims that the report belies the "view from the pew," he said leadership must take a moral stance. "In the 1980s, the church was among the first… to consider the ordination of gay and lesbian people. There was huge opposition… but council decided it was the right thing to do."

But Rev. Love resents the parallel. "Those are two fundamentally different moral imperatives." Where ordination is an internal leadership issue, on Israel "we need to approach with much greater humility. We need to be much more sophisticated in our understanding of the complexity… more balanced with our moral judgment."

Rev. Ross Lockhart, a United Church minister in British Columbia, recently wrote, "I fear that for the United Church of Canada, long ago we somehow adopted a meta-narrative that said 'Israel is bad, Palestinians are good.'"

With 650,000 members, the United Church is Canada's largest Protestant denomination.

One surprise for Rev. Love has been the "diversity of opinion within the Jewish community. When I was in Israel, I was blown away by just how vibrant the democracy is – in its truest sense… The most important thing we can do as Christians is [to] educate ourselves."

"What happens way up there," in upper echelons, "is not as important as… the local level." He's heard Jews say they're "wrestling and hugging" with Israel, and said, "I love that expression! That's healthy, that's positive… that's how we come to a better understanding of one another."

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# Soiree raises over $50,000 for Mount Sinai

**Cara Edell**
Special to The CJN

Hundreds of young professionals gathered recently for a night of opulence and intrigue at the third annual Sinai Soiree.

The party, held on June 21 at the Maro Supper Club in Liberty Village in Toronto's west end, raised more than $50,000 to support women's health and cancer research at Mount Sinai Hospital.

The funding ensures that state-of-the-art health care is provided to the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre, the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute and the Peter A. Silverman Centre for International Health.

The evening featured a fashion show with models wearing Cosabella and ResultWear lingerie and performances by Nuvo Burlesque, as well as hors d'oeuvres and cocktails.

*Young leaders get taste of latest fashions*

In previous years, the Sinai Soiree was part of the Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary Gala. This year, it was an independent event, organized by Future Sinai and Leadership Sinai – two volunteer leadership groups composed of young philanthropists.

Future Sinai targets 20- to 30-year-olds, while Leadership Sinai targets 30- to 45-year-olds in the Jewish community.

"These two groups are the future of the hospital both in terms of philanthropy and leadership, and I think it's so important for our generation to understand and begin the practice of giving back to our community," said Lauren Winberg, who co-chaired the party with Ashley Steinhauer of Future Sinai and Andrew Miller, Jordan Fogle and Daniel MacDonald of Leadership Sinai.

"Toronto is blessed with having such an active and involved Jewish community, which means there are a lot of events. I think the soiree stands out because it's a night to get dressed up and have a great time, while knowing that the proceeds are supporting their local community hospital, of which, many of us have a personal connection," Winberg said.

Both she and Steinhauer have been involved with the Sinai Soiree for the past three years. "It's such a fun event and a cause that is close to our hearts. My great-grandmother was a Mount Sinai Women's Auxiliary volunteer in the 1960s. It's an incredible feeling to know that we are connected through our passion for philanthropy," Winberg said.

"I know she'd be proud of what Mount Sinai has become and where Future Sinai is going to take the next generation."

Lauren Winberg and Ashley Steinhauer, Future Sinai chairs

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# Kenney defends changes

**Continued from page 3**

As Jews, we know that countries where the majority lives in safety can be dangerous for minority groups. Roma people living in Hungary, for example, face persecution that has been documented by the Simon Wiesenthal Center and other human rights groups," the board wrote.

Reached in Alberta on June 27, Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said the board's letter was based on false premises and "a great deal of misinformation."

He said no country could ever be designated safe for all people. However, when refugees arrive in Canada from countries not known to produce refugees, there "can be a presumption that few of those claims are likely to be valid."

"One cannot, nor does our new system propose, to reject claims coming from such countries, as this letter suggests," he said.

All claimants will have hearings to evaluate the merits of their asylum claims before the Immigration Refugee Board (IRB), he said. Those from designated safe countries will be processed more quickly through Canada's immigration system, since it's likely their claims will be rejected. This will end up saving Canadians money and freeing up resources for valid refugee claims, he said.

Jason Kenney

Referring to Hungary, Kenney said Canada had experienced a marked increase of refugee claimants from the European nation over the last few years.

"The number 1 source region for asylum claimants to Canada is not Africa or Asia or Latin America… not North Korea or Iran or Venezuela; it's Hungary," he said.

In April, Kenney said he believed many Roma claimants from Hungary were making false refugee claims and abusing Canada's refugee system. IRB statistics confirm a spike in Roma claims from 2010 to 2012.

Kenney questioned rhetorically why Hungarian citizens seeking refuge from their state didn't take advantage of their "full mobility rights" within the European Union.

He said nearly 95 per cent of Hungarian asylum seekers worldwide make their claims in Canada. They do so to enrol in Canada's generous social benefits and to obtain federal work permits and to get supplemental health benefits that are greater than what they get in Hungary, he said.

"One would have to be blind to the facts to suggest there aren't other factors at play in this… 'irregular migration.' This [situation] undermines and abuses our immigration system," Kenney said. "Thousands of unqualified claimants consume massive resources and slow down the system for those bona fide claimants that need Canada's protection."

Rabbi Shekel said the board understands the government is trying to address problems with loopholes in the immigration laws and that Ottawa is not deliberately trying to cause harm.

"But that is exactly what we fear will happen if these changes are made to health-care coverage for people who are refugees," the board wrote. "As Jewish Canadians, many of us have suffered, or watched our loved ones suffer, at the hands of cruel and discriminatory rules for refugees. We cannot stand silent as people's health is put in danger, and their right to Canadian citizenship cast into question due to their country of origin or mode of arrival."

She said the new legislation needed to be better thought out and rewritten in "a more nuanced manner."

"As rabbis and as human beings, we ask that you abandon the idea of 'designated countries' and 'irregular arrivals,' and rescind the proposed changes to refugee health-care coverage," the board wrote.

Asked how he responds to the rabbis' concerns about the upcoming restrictions on health-care coverage for refugee claimants in Canada, Kenney replied: "I've been in parliament for 15 years, and I don't recall ever receiving a letter from the Toronto Board of Rabbis suggesting that Canadians' lives are jeopardized by not having public insurance for 'life-saving medications.' I find it peculiar they would choose to raise this concern for rejected asylum claimants or those with [fraudulent] claims."

He said Canada would still continue to provide "emergency" health benefits to rejected claimants.

"I don't see anyone arguing that we have a moral, legal or humanitarian obligation to provide taxpayer-funded health insurance to people visiting Canada or to illegal immigrants. There are limits. I don't think it's uncompassionate to say that in the real world of scarce resources, we will focus our health resources on Canadian citizens and on resettled refugees," Kenney said.

The list of designated countries of origin has yet to be drawn up, but Kenney said he believes the majority of the list will be made up of countries from Europe.

"Refugees coming from countries in the European Union, where they have universal health-care coverage, will have to get their own health-care insurance [when they come to Canada]. I don't think that's unreasonable at all."

Workers on the front lines of health care in Ontario remain concerned for newcomers.

Andrea Cohen, CEO of Unison Health and Community Services, a non-profit network of health-care facilities in the Toronto area, said her organization serves more than 12,000 clients throughout the city, many of whom are refugees with urgent medical needs. She said depriving them of federally sponsored medical care could end up driving refugees to hospital emergency wards. This might result in increased provincial health costs and longer emergency room wait times.

"People who have health issues without coverage have nowhere else to go but the ER," she said. "If that happens, it will cost taxpayers far more than leaving the current program in place," Cohen said.

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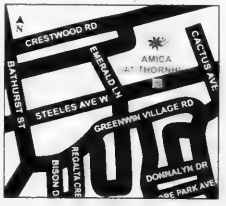


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# *Expel Iran from UN*

It's time to expel Iran from the United Nations.

Article 6 of the Charter of the United Nations explicitly allows for such a procedure: "A member of the United Nations which has persistently violated the principles contained in the present charter may be expelled from the organization by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council."

The first principle enshrined in the charter is the very one that the government of Iran contemptuously flouts, constantly. "The organization is based on the principle of *the sovereign equality of all its members.*" (Our emphasis)

Tehran rejects the right of a Jewish state to exist in its Muslim Middle East. It abhors, therefore, that Israel must be regarded as equal in sovereignty along with all other member states of the UN. Iran is the world's chief denier of the Holocaust. It is the world's chief sponsor of terrorism around the globe. And it routinely calls for the annihilation of Israel, a fellow member state of the UN.

Could there be more compelling, more persuasive evidence of Iran's "persistent violation of the principles contained in the present charter" than its belligerent, boastful public campaign each day to deny any, let alone sovereign equal, rights to the Jewish state?

The latest Iranian outrage against the Jewish state and the Jewish People occurred last week at a UN-sponsored meeting on global drug enforcement.

Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi declared that "the Zionists are in firm control of the drug trade… The Islamic Republic of Iran will pay for anybody who can research and find one single Zionist who is an addict." Rahimi also advised his audience that the Talmud "teaches them [Zionists] how to destroy non-Jews so as to protect an embryo in the womb of a Jewish mother."

It was reported that even other Iranians in the room were appalled by his fevered, frenzied declamation of hatred for Jews and Israelis.

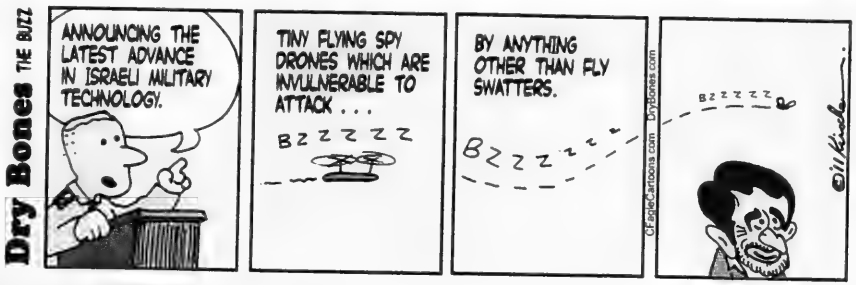
Apparently UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was also upset by Rahimi's remarks. Ban's spokesperson issued the following statement in the secretary general's name: "The secretary general has on many occasions called on Iranian officials to refrain from these kinds of statements. He believes it is the responsibility of leaders to promote harmony and understanding and he *deeply regrets* expressions of hatred and religious intolerance." (Our emphasis)

Rahimi's remarks were disgusting, ignorant and inciting of hatred. Ban's remarks were craven, pusillanimous and entirely inadequate. He couldn't even find the courage, if not too the will, to actually condemn Rahimi for his ugly bilge about the Jewish faith and Jews.

It's time that steps were taken to remove Iran from the organization whose rules, purposes and principles it so cavalierly disdains.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Canadian Jewish Congress expressed "disappointment" at the Supreme Court of Canada decision not to grant Jewish day schools in Ontario the right to government funding. Instead, the court "sent it back to the politicians, telling them not to ask the court to make the laws," said CJC Ontario region chair Charles Zaionz.

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## Raising kids without day school

I was upset by the perspectives piece "The moral costs of Jewish day school" (June 7), by Rabbi Aryeh Klapper, the dean of the Center for Modern Torah Leadership in Sharon, Mass. In big cities, it is possible, even easy, to raise children who have a strong commitment to Judaism and knowledge of who they are, without sending them to Jewish day schools. Yet the message in articles such as this one is that parents are not capable of doing so.

Public schools are already paid for with tax dollars, and the education in many public schools is excellent. By sending children to public schools, parents do not need two jobs to pay the high cost of day school. Time and energy are left on Friday afternoons to teach your children to make challah and enjoy Shabbat dinners regularly as a family. Parents without the financial burden of day school have money left for joining synagogues, enrolling their children in Hebrew schools and Jewish summer camps and family trips to Israel. There are also many opportunities to be active in the Jewish community: by volunteering and fundraising, by attending Jewish cultural events, many of which are for children, and by participating in community-wide celebrations, such as the one at Yom Ha'atzmaut.

My children are committed young Jewish adults, living and working in the Jewish community. Parents need to know they can make a Jewish home and raise Jewish children no matter what school they send them to.

**Maja Buium**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Objects to Bob Rae's remarks

It is absolutely unacceptable and perverse for interim Liberal leader Bob Rae, who must know better, to call the result of the Six Day War started by five Arab nations planning to push Israel into the sea "imperial adventure" ("Liberal interim leader touts two-state solution," June 21). Rae talks about "more than one narrative." Is that the Liberal Party of Canada's narrative? Is that how he intends to gain credibility with the Arab world? He will certainly not gain my credibility.

**Nathan Leipciger**
**Past Co-chair, Canadian Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants**
**Toronto**

* * *

## The United Church report

In the guest voice "The United Church should not boycott Israel" (June 21), Shimon Fogel, the CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), takes the United Church to task for urging a boycott of settlement products and characterizes their recent report as "marked by historical distortions" and one-sided. I have, as a historian, perused the report and find it to be fairly balanced, giving due weight to the legitimate security concerns of Israelis, as well as to the national claims of both peoples. I would congratulate our Christian friends for having produced a balanced and thoughtful document. Fogel, however, takes exception to their call for a boycott of settlement products. Again, we might congratulate the church for eschewing the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement, which they rightly regard as an assault on the legitimacy of Israel and the democratic forces within the country. They have taken a moderate and responsible position.

### *LET THEM GO…*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

Fogel acknowledges the Jewish community has a healthy diversity of opinion, presumably extending to the settlements, but then proceeds to argue that CIJA must react when the church aims to target Israelis for boycott. Fogel has thereby extended CIJA's legitimate defence of Israel to the defence of settlements, which is still a hotly debated issue. In *The Crisis of Zionism*, Peter Beinart urges us to distinguish between the democratic Israel, behind the green line, and the undemocratic Israel of the occupation and settlements, the correct target for a boycott. Likewise, Peace Now joined the settlement boycott, after the Knesset made it illegal to advocate such actions and subject to civil damages. Fogel and CIJA are out of line in extending their protection to the settlement enterprise.

**Stephen Scheinberg**
**Co-Chair, Canadian Friends of Peace Now**
**Montreal**

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# Why Raoul Wallenberg's centennial matters

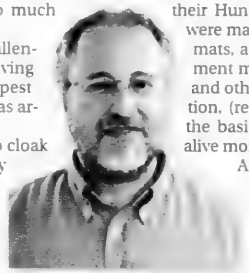
**Robert Rozett**
JTA

Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who rescued Jews during the Holocaust, was born 100 years ago this summer. His centennial is being commemorated with events in many cities across Europe and North America.

On June 26, a symposium in his memory was held at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research in Jerusalem.

Wallenberg, who was born on Aug. 4, 1912, is one of the approximately 24,000 individuals who have been recognized as Righteous Among the Nations, the honour bestowed by Yad Vashem and the State of Israel upon non-Jews who rescued Jews during the Holocaust.

Why is his centennial the cause of so much commemorative activity?



Robert Rozett

Certainly part of the answer lies in Wallenberg's tragic fate. Early in 1945, after having been involved in rescuing Jews in Budapest since the previous summer, Wallenberg was arrested by the conquering Soviets.

Explanations ranging from the banal to cloak and dagger have been advanced as to why he was arrested. It could simply be that as a foreigner carrying a variety of currencies and official documents on his person, he may have aroused suspicion. It could be that as a Wallenberg, whose family like many neutral Swedes had engaged in business with Germany during the war, he was an intentional target of the Soviet security apparatus. And it may even be that the Soviets suspected that he was being used as an intermediary between the Nazis and western Allies to arrange a separate peace, so that both sides could then turn against them.

None of these reasons, even if one may be the correct one, sufficiently explains why Wallenberg was held in captivity after the war ended, and why neither the Soviets nor their successor regime in Russia have provided the full documentation they most likely still hold regarding his fate. All we know for certain is that at some point, Wallenberg died in Soviet captivity.

In addition to his disappearance, other facets of the story rivet our attention on Wallenberg. In many ways, he has emerged as an icon of the Holocaust, one of a select group of people through which people understand the cataclysmic events. Along with Oskar Schindler, Wallenberg has become the best known and therefore the foremost symbol of the rescuers.

Wallenberg was among a handful of neutral diplomats engaged in a rather wide-ranging rescue operation that evolved after the German occupation of Hungary on March 19, 1944. One could say that effort reached its pinnacle during the period of the Arrow Cross regime in the autumn of that year, and that it continued until the conquest of Budapest by Soviet forces in mid-January and early February 1945.

This was not a single co-ordinated rescue operation. Rather it was composed of different groups and many individuals, often in a kind of confederation, all trying to do the same thing. They strove to keep Jews alive and out of the hands of their persecutors until the Germans and their Hungarian allies were defeated. The rescuers were many and varied, among them neutral diplomats, adult Zionist activists, Zionist youth movement members of all persuasions, church people and others. Through the use of diplomatic protection, (relatively) safe refuges and the provision of the basic necessities of life, they helped to keep alive more than 100,000 Jews in Budapest.

A cardinal reason that Wallenberg is so venerated is bound up in his character and the nature of his mission. In the late spring of 1944, Wallenberg was approached by the Swedish government, which in turn had been approached by the American rescue agency the War Refugee Board. He was asked to go to Hungary as a certified emissary of the Swedish government, and his job was to help Jews.

Wallenberg readily volunteered to enter the conflagration. If this was not enough, unlike other diplomats who confined themselves to rescuing Jews by diplomatic means – certainly a laudable enterprise – Wallenberg at times was out on the streets proffering his aid, in the midst of extreme danger and again on his own volition.

Not only was Wallenberg an emissary of his government, essentially he was an emissary of the western world. In the name of the western world, he not only engaged in rescue, but displayed the best in western values in doing so – courage, compassion and ingenuity. He was the ideal to which the western world would like to have lived up to more during those dreadful war years.

Raoul Wallenberg, thus, can be seen as more than an

Raoul Wallenberg

icon of the Holocaust. He may be seen as the example par excellence of the standard of humane behaviour to which the western world aspires. This, of course, is put in high relief by his patently unjust fate.

Clearly, Wallenberg is not the only figure from the Holocaust years worthy of our admiration. All the other Righteous Among the Nations, and the many Jews who engaged in various forms of resistance and rescue and maintained their values and basic human dignity, are no less worthy of our esteem. But as a representative of the best in western civilization, it is fitting and proper that on the centennial of his birth, we remember Wallenberg, learn about him and the context in which he acted, and discuss his deeds and their meaning for us today.

*Robert Rozett is the director of the Yad Vashem Libraries.*

# An inspiration for action

**Irwin Cotler**

Canada observed Raoul Wallenberg Day last Jan. 17, which marked the 67th anniversary of his disappearance at the hands of Soviet forces.

In 1985, Canada declared Wallenberg an honorary Canadian citizen. In 2002, Canada celebrated Raoul Wallenberg Day for the first time.

Wallenberg, a Swedish non-Jew who saved some 100,000 Jews during the Holocaust, confronted the Nazi killing machine in Hungary and showed that one person can make a difference – that one person can resist and that one person can prevail over radical evil.

Wallenberg is most known for his granting of *Shutzpasses* – diplomatic passes protecting their recipients. This influenced other governments to follow his example and issue passports that saved thousands from the Nazis. He also established 32 safe houses protected by neutral legations, saving some 32,000 people through this initiative alone.

Further, Wallenberg's organization of hospitals, soup kitchens and daycare centres, the staples of international humanitarian assistance, provided women, children, the sick, the elderly – the most vulnerable of victims – with a semblance of human dignity in the face of the worst of all horrors and evils.

Moreover, in November 1944, as thousands of Jews – mainly women and children – were sent on a 125-mile death march, Wallenberg followed them, distributing food and medical supplies, and improvised certificates, once again saving people consigned to death.

Wallenberg's last rescue was perhaps the most memorable. As the Nazis were advancing on Budapest, they threatened to blow up the Budapest ghetto and liquidate the remnants of Hungarian Jews, some 70,000 of them. Wallenberg put the Nazi generals on notice that they would be held accountable for their crimes – that they would be brought to justice, if not executed, for their war crimes – crimes against humanity – and genocide. The Nazi generals desisted from that assault on Budapest, and 70,000 more Jews were saved thanks to the incredible courage of one person who was prepared to confront evil, to resist and thereby to cause evil to be overcome.

Today, Wallenberg deserves to be remembered not only for his heroism, but as an inspiration for action. As U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt put it, Raoul Wallenberg Day is a chance for us to "reaffirm our common aspiration for moral understanding and justice."

Indeed, each one of us has an indispensable role to play in the struggle for human rights. And it begins with each of us – in our homes, in our schools, in our workplaces, in our human relations, in our daily capacity for acts of care and compassion on behalf of victims of discrimination or disadvantage somewhere.

Let us reflect upon and be inspired by the unparalleled and unprecedented heroism of this great humanitarian and recommit ourselves to justice, fairness and the bettering of our world.

*Irwin Cotler is the MP for Mount Royal and the former minister of justice and attorney general of Canada. He helped establish Canada's Raoul Wallenberg Commemorative Day, observed on Jan. 17. This article first appeared in the Algemeiner.ca.*

# The right thing to do

I'm president of Kehilat Kol HaNeshama, Jerusalem's largest and arguably its most active Reform synagogue, striving to maintain a semblance of Jewish religious pluralism in a city not always inviting to our like.

Aside from being a wonderful house of prayer, we pride ourselves in three fields of activity, each immensely enriching. While, the first two, congregational and educational pursuits, are each worthy of articles of their own, it is one aspect of the third – social justice – which I presently want to address.

*Yair Lootsteen in Jerusalem*

Roughly speaking, our activities in this area are divided into two separate segments – those dealing with charity and those with justice. Tzedakah and tzedek, two words interestingly based on the same Hebrew root.

Our tzedakah activities augment monthly incomes of poor families living in the synagogue's vicinity and help members of our own community and those more peripheral to it facing financial hardships.

Social action is a linchpin of our community. Members, many of whom immigrated to Israel from English-speaking countries, provide free private English classes for needy kids in our environs. We've developed a satellite congregation in Kiryat Yovel, a neighbourhood experiencing a large haredi influx, threatening to change the vicinity's nature. And we just celebrated our third annual Gay Pride Shabbat, the only Jewish religious institution in the country to hold such an event.

But a year and a half ago some of us felt we weren't socially active enough. After examining several potential projects, we settled on two. One aims at combating growing racism in Jerusalem – mosque torching; soccer hooligans attacking Arab labourers after Betar Yerushalayim lost a game; businesses proudly advertising the fact they no longer employ non-Jewish workers.

The second, and the one I'm actively involved in, provides support for some 1,000 African refugees presently living throughout Jerusalem, mostly from Sudan and Eritrea. They are a small part of the 60,000-plus refugees now estimated to be living in Israel, most of whom entered the country from the Sinai Peninsula after long African journeys.

In recent years, no government has earnestly dealt with the issue, although Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's has decided to build a fence along our border with Egypt, to prevent more refugees' entry but also with an eye to deteriorating security conditions in Sinai since the onset of the once promising Arab Spring.

Aside from that, little has been done. No real policy dealing with employment, health care and other relevant refugee issues. In the meantime, large refugee populations have moved into poor neighbourhoods in Tel Aviv; significant groups now also reside in Eilat and Arad. Tensions have risen. As have crime rates among refugees. In the wake of two incidents of rape committed by refugees, populist politicians have made irresponsible statements about refugees being a cancer within our midst, and our haredi minister of the interior wants to get rid of all of them as quickly as possible.

My activity with refugees is based on a belief that if they are in our midst, we should treat them humanely. While this conviction has biblical foundations such as Deuteronomy's "you shall love the stranger, for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt," for me it just seems the right thing to do. The way I would want to be treated if I were in their shoes.

In that vein, last September, the Reform movement opened a kindergarten for children of foreign workers and refugees at its headquarters in Jerusalem. Once a week, for now, Kol HaNeshama volunteers add hours of activity, beyond the kindergarten's regular schedule, so the kids' parents can stay at work longer.

We have also opened our premises to weekly Hebrew and English-language instruction for roughly 20 refugees and have hosted a course for volunteers from all walks of life here in Jerusalem to learn more about refugees: their legal status, medical needs, how to empower them and how to help them when faced with bureaucratic and other roadblocks. On June 28, we held a charity event for a refugee youth club, initiated by several of our young adults, at which we exhibited art created by refugees and held a joint concert of our own and their singers.

I'm not averse to the government developing a responsible policy for dealing with refugees, and I don't oppose sending some home if it won't endanger them. But so long as they're here, we at Kol HaNeshama will continue caring for them. It's the only way we know.

# *Amnesty's moral compass is broken*

When a terror squad crossed the Israeli border from Sinai in June, with enough weapons and explosives for a mass attack, and then dozens of rockets were launched from Gaza against Israeli civilian targets, Amnesty International's moral compass was disconnected. These self-proclaimed guardians of human rights published no reports with condemnations, held no press conferences, and issued no "urgent actions" to almost three million members around the world calling for the perpetrators of these war crimes to be brought to justice.

In contrast, during the same month, the officials who run this powerful organization found the time and resources to publish a lengthy "report" repeating unverified Palestinian "testimony" alleging Israeli infractions through administrative detention of terrorist suspects. The publication was an integral part of a political campaign focusing on a hunger strike by Palestinian prisoners, including those tried, convicted and serving sentences for involvement in mass terror attacks. The recommendations repeat many of those found in Amnesty's previous publications, including ones that fed the notorious UN Goldstone mission in 2009, which seek to justify international action to restrict and then remove Israeli independence and sovereignty.

Amnesty does not publish the names of the authors of its report (in violation of human rights reporting guidelines), but the latest attacks on Israel include contact information for Deborah Hyams and Saleh Hijazi, who are described as "researchers," whatever that may mean. Both have backgrounds that reflect flagrant anti-Israel bias. In 2001, Hyams went to Beit Jala (near Bethlehem) as a "human shield," to deter Israeli responses to Palestinian assaults against the residents of the Gilo neighbourhood of Jerusalem. In 2008, Hyams signed a public letter referring to Israel as "a state founded on terrorism, massacres and the dispossession of another people from their land." In 2002, Hyams said "that while she does not condone suicide bombings, she personally believes they 'are in response to the occupation.'"

The other Amnesty "researcher" for Israel, Saleh Hijazi, is a Palestinian born in Jerusalem and raised in Ramallah, and has worked as a public relations officer for the Palestinian Authority. In 2007, he was listed as contact for the NGO "Another Voice" – under the group's signature "Resist! Boycott! We Are Intifada!" This organization used threats to force the cancellation of a peace concert and then proudly crowed about its dubious achievement.

Amnesty's assignment of biased individuals such as Hyams and Hijazi to work on Israel-related issues is yet another demonstration of the depths to which this organization has sunk in exploiting the facade of human rights. And this is not their only example of moral failure. In December 2009, longtime secretary general Irene Kahn and her deputy, Kate Gilmore, suddenly left Amnesty and received what were later found to be "excessive" payments, "above what was legally and contractually necessary." In an independent inquiry, these were shown to be due to "systemic failures in management and governance" that "had accumulated in previous years."

*Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem*

Prior to this scandal, Kahn had presided over the effort to silence Gita Sahgal, the head of their gender equality section, who criticized Amnesty's co-operation with Moazzam Begg, whom she termed "Britain's most famous supporter of the Taliban." And for years, while obsessively attacking Israel's open society, officials all but ignored the brutal regimes in Syria, Libya, Egypt and the rest of the Arab world. As a result, they have no credibility or impact in the countries where human rights continue to be trampled.

Thus, Amnesty's contribution, along with groups such as Human Rights Watch (HRW), to the frontal assault on the right of the Jewish People to national independence and sovereign equality is another dimension of extensive ethical collapse. For more than a decade, Amnesty and HRW have been pushing the Durban strategy through false claims of "war crimes" and "violations of international law."

The members and funders of these organizations, including Canadians, have the responsibility, as well as the power, to act strongly and consistently to repair this broken moral compass. Instead of receiving "urgent actions," the membership should be sending all Amnesty officials a message demanding their resignation and the restoration of the core principles of human rights to include Israelis and Jews.

# The Passing Parade...

They died recently, leaving footprints in time.

**Maurice Sendak**, 83, was considered the 20th-century's best children's book illustrator/author, having produced such works as *Where the Wild Things Are* and *In the Night Kitchen*. **Joe Simon**, 98, was the co-creator of the comic-book hero Captain America. **Sheldon Moldoff**, 91, was a comic-book artist who drew the earliest renderings of the heroic characters Green Lantern and Hawkman.

**Barney Rosset**, 89, was the publisher of Grove Press, which defied censors and published D.H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer*. **Fred Kerner**, 90, turned Harlequin Enterprises into a global force in romance publishing and published William Shirer's iconic *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*. **Morris Philipson**, 85, transformed the University of Chicago Press into the largest publisher of scholarly books in the United States. **Frank Pearl**, 68, founded Perseus Books Group, a major publisher of titles on politics, current events and foreign affairs. **Price Berkley** (Berkowitz), 92, founded and edited *Theatrical Index*, the trade publication of the American theatre. **Howard Richmond**, 94, was a music publisher whose clients included Pete Seeger and Kurt Weill.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

**Ulu Grosbard**, 83, a Broadway and movie director, directed *The Subject Was Roses* and *American Buffalo*. **Lee Rich**, 93, was the founder of Lorimar Productions, which made such TV shows as *Dallas* and *The Waltons*. **Bert Schneider**, 78, was the producer of the films *Easy Rider*, *Five Easy Pieces* and *The Last Picture Show*. **Zalman King** (Lefkowitz), 70, a filmmaker, brought softcore pornography movies to cable TV.

Lee Rich

**Fredrica Sagor Maas** (Zagosky), 111, was a silent-era movie scriptwriter (*Rolled Stockings* and *The First Night*) and a memoirist (*The Shocking Miss Pilgrim: A Writer in Early Hollywood*). **Al Gordon**, 89, was a skit writer for *The Jack Benny Program*, *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* and *The Carol Burnett Show*. **John Rich**, 86, directed episodes of the TV shows *All in the Family*, *Our Miss Brooks*, *The Brady Bunch*, *Gunsmoke* and *Gomer Pyle*.

**Fred Steiner**, 88, composed the theme for the TV series *Perry Mason* and wrote the music for episodes of *Star Trek*, *Hogan's Heroes*, *Rawhide* and *The Twilight Zone*. **Robert Sherman**, 86, was the co-composer of *It's a Small World (After All)* and *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*.

**Erland Josephson**, 88, a Swedish actor, starred in Ingmar Bergman films (*Scenes from a Marriage* and *Face to Face*). **Bob Stewart** (Isidore Steinberg), 91, invented the TV game shows *The Price Is Right* and *To Tell the Truth*. **Frank Cooper**, 99, was a Hollywood talent agent who discovered Frank Sinatra, represented Joe DiMaggio and packaged the first dramatic TV series, *Man Against Crime*. **Adrienne Cooper**, 65, was a curator of Yiddish music and one of the founders of the KlezKamp festival.

**Myron (Mike) Wallace** (Wallik), 93, was a CBS TV reporter on *60 Minutes* and anchored *The CBS Morning News With Mike Wallace*. **Dan Dorfman**, 82, was a financial journalist. **Hilton Kramer**, 84, was the *New York Times'* art critic. **Leo Steinberg**, 90, was an art historian. **Andrew Breitbart**, 43, was a conservative blogger (Big Government, and Big Journalism). **Bert Sugar**, 75, was the editor of *The Ring* and *Boxing Illustrated*. **Randy Starkman**, 51, a two-time National Newspaper Award winner, covered amateur athletics for the *Toronto Star*.

**Bill Mardo** (Bloom), 88, was a sportswriter for *The Daily Worker* – the Communist party organ – who campaigned to break the colour barrier in American professional baseball. **Larry Solway**, 83, was a pioneer talk-radio broadcaster (*Speak Your Mind* and *The Larry Solway Show*).

**Adrienne Rich**, 82, was a poet who brought the topics of oppression of women and lesbianism to the forefront (*Diving into the Wreck*). **Esther Frances Masserman Broner**, 83, was a Jewish feminist author (*The Women's Haggadah*). **Naomi Bronstein**, 65, was a Montreal-born advocate of children's welfare and a founder of Families for Children.

**Kenneth Libo**, 74, was the lead researcher for Irving Howe's magnum opus, *World of Our Fathers*. **C. David Heymann**, 67, wrote celebrity biographies (*A Woman Named Jackie* and *Liz: An Intimate Biography of Elizabeth Taylor*). **Peter Novick**, 77, wrote *The Holocaust in American Life*, which claimed that the Holocaust dominates Jewish identity in America. **Helen Frankenthaler**, 83, was a founder of the abstract expressionist art movement. **Hedda Sterne**, 100, was one of its members. **Gabriel Laderman**, 81, played a key role in the revival of figurative art in the 1960s. **Maria Altmann**, 94, waged a successful legal battle to retrieve Gustav Klimt paintings seized from her family by the Nazis.

**Stan Stearns**, 76, snapped the 1963 historic photograph of John F. Kennedy Jr. saluting his father's coffin. **Eve Cohen Arnold**, 99, was a leading light during the golden age of news photography. **Barry Feinstein**, 80, was a photographer who chronicled the lives of music stars such as Bob Dylan and Janis Joplin. **Lillian Bassman**, 94, was a fashion photographer known for her high-contrast, dreamy portraits.

**Raphael Hillyer** (Silverman), 96, was the founding violist of the Julliard String Quartet. **Emanuel Vardi**, 95, was a viola soloist. **Zvi Zeitlin**, 90, was a violinist who interpreted the works of contemporary composers. **Ethel Stark**, 101, was the founder of the Montreal Woman's Symphony Orchestra. **Kurt Sanderling**, 101, conducted the Berlin Symphony Orchestra and the Dresden Staatskapelle. **Yakov Kreizberg**, 51, was a conductor of orchestras in Holland, Britain and Germany. **Daniel Catan**, 62, was a Mexican composer who brought Spanish operas into the international repertory. **Alexis Weissenberg**, 82, was a Bulgarian-born Romantic pianist who specialized in Schumann and Chopin. **Mort Lindsey** (Lippman), 89, was the musical director of *The Merv Griffin Show*. **Helmut Max Kallmann**, 89, headed the music division of the National Library of Canada.

Evelyn Handler

**Evelyn Handler**, 78, was president of Brandeis University. **Paula Hyman**, 65, a social historian, pioneered the study of women in Jewish life. **Irving Louis Horowitz**, 82, was a sociologist who helped popularize the term "Third World." **John Blum**, 90, was a historian of U.S. presidents. **I. Michael Heyman**, 81, was the director of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. **Gus Tyler**, 99, a trade unionist, was a leader of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

**Sol Schiff**, 94, was the world table-tennis champion in the 1930s. **Eugene Selznick**, 82, led the U.S. men's volleyball team to the world championship in 1960 and 1966.

**Klaus Goldschlag**, 88, was Canada's ambassador to Germany, Turkey and Italy. **Raymond Aubrac** (Samuel), 97, was a leader of the resistance movement in Nazi-occupied France. **Zelman Cowen**, 92, was governor-general of Australia.

**Boris Chertok**, 99, was a Russian rocket engineer. **Irving Millman**, 88, a microbiologist, was instrumental in the development of a vaccine against hepatitis B. **Norton Zinder**, 83, a biologist, helped establish the field of molecular biology. **Jacob Goldman**, 90, was chief scientist of Xerox, which invented the modern personal computer.

**Eugene Ferkauf**, 91, founded the E.J. Korvette chain of discount department stores, whose strategy of low prices and quick turnover shaped the landscape of American retailing. **Murray Lender**, 81, and his brothers established H. Lender & Sons, the biggest distributor of frozen bagels in the United States.

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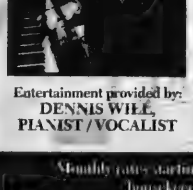

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# Survivors look back at terrorist attack

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

Every year at the end of May, Shelley Black and her childhood friend, Jennifer Parnell, get together, raise a glass of wine and toast l'chayim – to life.

Shelley and Jennifer have every reason to celebrate life. Forty years ago, on May 30, 1972, they very nearly lost theirs. The two of them were teenagers embarking on what they hoped would be the trip of a lifetime – a visit to Israel followed by a trek through Europe.

Flying El Al from Paris, they had just arrived in the airport in Lod, today's Ben Gurion International Airport. Excited about their adventure, they were first off the plane and first through customs. They were removing their luggage from a conveyor belt when three terrorists, members of the Japanese Red Army, allies of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who had just arrived from Rome, pulled machine guns and grenades from their baggage and started firing indiscriminately at arriving passengers.

Twenty-six people were killed and 80 wounded before two terrorists died and the third was captured by Israeli security personnel.

It was an incident that shocked the world and captured international headlines – no one had shot up an airport before.

Black can remember the incident as if it happened yesterday. It was a traumatic experience for a teenager, she said. The dead, the dying and the wounded were all around them. When the shooting began the two fell to the ground and held their purses over their heads, an instinctive reaction to save themselves from the deadly barrage of flying bullets and shrapnel.

"I saw him take out a machine gun and start shooting. It sounded like firecrackers, but it wasn't firecrackers. Bang, bang, bang. If he'd shot to the right, he'd have hit us, but he went in the other direction," Black recalled.

"I remember hearing shouting and screaming and crying. We held our purses over our heads, as if that would save us from anything."

Parnell recalls it slightly differently. The two of them, friends since elementary school, hurried off the plane to get their luggage. Black's was already off the belt and she spotted her bag entering the luggage area. "I ran to get it at the end of he conveyor belt when all of a sudden, there was all these bright lights and incredible noise, which shocked me. Ten feet in front of me was this man, kneeling and shooting in the opposite direction."

Lod Airport after terrorist attack

"I was terrified." After briefly considering jumping the shooter, "survivor mode took over," Parnell said. She and Black ran in the opposite direction and hid behind a conveyor belt. I remember we lay on our stomachs and said, 'are you okay, have you been shot?' We looked at each other and said 'it's going to be okay,' but I felt this could very well be the end of my life."

Looking up, Black saw a woman with blood gushing from her chest as if from a fountain. There was chaos everywhere.

At one point, Jennifer peeked out from their position next to the luggage carousel to see the terrorist hurling grenades at passengers. He was standing just above her, Black said.

Most of the victims were Christian pilgrims from Puerto Rico.

The whole incident likely lasted only a few minutes, but it's burned into her consciousness and has stayed with her all these years, Black said. She's kept the suitcase she arrived with, with its bullet holes, and a pair of slacks that likewise are ridden with bullet holes.

One of the terrorists died when his grenade exploded, another was killed in a crossfire with the third gunman. It's still not known if those were accidental or intentional suicides. The third gunman, Kōzō Okamoto, was arrested.

After the shooting was over and medical personnel tended to the wounded, she and Jennifer were allowed to leave, without being interviewed by police.

"We got up and clutched each other. We said, 'don't look there, don't look down.' We walked around a lot of bodies that were on the floor and we walked out of the airport," Parnell said. Outside, survivors were in shock. One person came up to them and said he'd seen two others next to him go down and so he too hit the floor. "He wanted to know if he was shot," Parnell said, but he wasn't.

Black's parents had arranged for them to be picked up at the airport, but the driver, Ezekiel, was sent away.

The pickup was one of the arrangements made in advance to make their trip to Israel go smoothly. They were there to celebrate Shelley's brother, David's, bar mitzvah. Some 60 family members, from their homes in Peterborough, Detroit and Toronto were scheduled to fly to Israel, but Black and Parnell decided to get a head start, visit Paris for a few days and arrive in Israel ahead of the others.

Once they exited the airport, they joined two couples from Germany and France in hiring a "sherut" taxi to take them to Tel Aviv. There, Black tired to phone her parents but at first they couldn't get an international phone line out of the country.

When they explained to the operator they had survived the Lod attack, they were given a line out and they contacted Black's parents in Montreal. It was the era before the Internet and cable news; they had not heard of the incident.

"We're okay," Black told her folks.

Parnell did not want to speak to her parents directly, thinking they'd convince her to return at once. Instead, one of Black's relatives contacted them to let them know she too was unharmed.

Later she found out her mother had spent the day vacuuming the house all day "so she wouldn't have to think about what might have happened to me," Parnell said.

Ezekiel was dispatched to pick them up and he took them back to his apartment in Jerusalem.

"He opened a bottle of wine to drink l'chayim because we were alive," Black said.

Despite the tragedy, the bar mitzvah went ahead. "It's so important to celebrate life and those milestones," Black said.

And they resumed their trip; "We spent three great weeks on a kibbutz. We had the time of our lives," she said.

Nevertheless, they were still traumatized by their experience. "We were so shaken up that if someone slammed a door, we'd jump a mile high," she said.

"We were surrounded by [Shelley's] family and relatives and people close to us and we were with people who kept us close to them for two weeks at the bar mitzvah and touring. I think that really helped," Parnell said.

From Israel, they continued their vacation to Greece, taking a boat from Haifa instead of flying from the airport. After six weeks traipsing across Europe, they returned home. "We enjoyed every minute of living," Black said.

The experience was life altering for both of them. "You realize that your life can turn around in a second," Parnell said. "I think I've become more grateful to be alive. Many times after that, if I had a bad day or things weren't going so well, I'd think I might have died at 17."

"I appreciate and I have gratitude for what I have in my life, my wonderful family and friends," Black said. "I was given the opportunity to live my life and so many others were not."

"You can't curl up into a ball, you need to embrace life and make the most of it, for the people killed that day and their families. Otherwise, we wouldn't be honouring their memories," she added.

That's why she is a strong supporter of the effort to convince the International Olympic Committee to hold a moment of silence for the 11 slain Israeli athletes, killed by Palestinian wterrorists at the Munich Olympics.

She'd been home in Peterborough a few weeks when the attack took place. "I remember watching what happened and being horrified and feeling empathy for the athletes and their families. I thought, these are innocent people who are having to fight for their lives."

She also wondered, "How can there be people who value life so little?"

When she sees prisoner exchanges, in which convicted terrorists are released before serving the full term of their sentence, she thinks, "that person does not value life and yet they are the ones being released."

She was greatly upset when Okamoto, the surviving terrorist, was released in 1985 in a prisoner exchange.

"Every time there is a prisoner exchange, I think of the people who were killed. How does that honour their memory?" Black asked.

"It's really hard to imagine why they should be free in those prisoner exchanges. It's heartbreaking to know that people who hold no significance in the lives of others are given their lives back."

So every year, on the anniversary of the attack, she and Jennifer get together, raise a glass and recall that day.

"For us, it's important to keep alive the memory of the people who were killed," Black said.

"In my life, I always try to support Israel and the idealistic tenets it is based on. And we acknowledge with gratitude to God that we were spared, and hope that my life has significance."

Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA extends heartfelt congratulations to

**Judy Feld Carr, OC**

on receiving the Israel Presidential Award of Distinction. Her work in rescuing Syrian Jews serves as an inspiration to us all.

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# UN commissioner critical of Quebec law

The long, sad history of the United Nations' singling out Israel for criticism while ignoring serious, systemic human rights violations elsewhere stopped being news long ago, if it ever was.

What is news, however, is the recent penchant of some UN agencies to give Canada a taste of the same.

In the June 19 *National Post*, Graeme Hamilton drew attention to one such event. The day before, in Geneva, Navi Pillay, the UN's high commissioner for human rights, delivered the opening statement to the 20th special session of the Human Rights Council.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

What caught Hamilton's attention was Pillay's singling out Canada, specifically Quebec, for its controversial Bill 78, which stipulates conditions on how student-led protests in the province are to be conducted, and imposes fines for violations.

About midway through her address, Pillay said: "Moves to restrict freedom of assembly in many parts of the world are alarming. In the context of student protests, I am disappointed by the new legislation passed in Quebec that restricts their rights to freedom of association and of peaceful assembly."

As Hamilton noted, given Pillay's alarm, all she found worthy of mention was Quebec, not true prohibitions on "freedom of assembly" in non-democratic lands like China, Cuba, Iran, Saudi Arabia and many other places. Regarding just one such omission, Hamilton wrote that Pillay "had no time for the Tibetan herder who died last week after setting himself on fire to protest Chinese repression, the 30th Tibetan to suffer such a fate since 2009."

Hamilton cited Hillel Neuer, the head of UN Watch, an NGO that monitors bias at the United Nations. According to Hamilton, Neuer claimed that when he demonstrates outside the UN's Geneva headquarters, he has to comply with stricter conditions than those in Bill 78.

"'When I do a human-rights rally, I have to fill out all kinds of police permits, and I doubt that [Pillay has] ever issued a statement saying that the demonstrators in front of her building don't have enough rights,' Mr. Neuer said."

"What's behind [Pillay's] preposterous move?" law professor Anne Bayefsky asks in "The UN's twisted human rights agenda" (*National Post*, June 21). Bayefsky writes that the most troubling thing about Pillay's singling out of Canada was her failure to acknowledge "the essential distinction" between democratic and non-democratic governments under a twisted concept of even-handedness.

And speaking of "singling out" – late last month, American author Alice Walker was back in the news over her refusal to allow an Israeli publisher to translate her novel *The Color Purple* into Hebrew. Her reason? Because Israel, in her view, is guilty of practising "apartheid" against the Palestinians, both inside Israel and in the territories. So feverish is her attitude about the Jewish state that she's on record charging that what occurs in Israel is "far worse" than what occurred under apartheid South Africa.

The CBC's Neil Macdonald took Walker to task in a June 21 cbc.ca posting, accusing her (in characteristically strong terms) of appearing "to be eagerly embracing self-censorship, participating in what amounts to a pre-emptive book-burning."

As he explained: "What makes me most uncomfortable about the kind of fervent activism that Walker and her fellow travellers advocate is not their boycott... Rather, it is the fact that they are so certain of themselves that they would blithely consent to stamp out speech."

Alice Walker

Not known as one to shy away from criticizing Israel, on this occasion, Macdonald reflected on the country's democracy: "Whatever one might think of Israel's policies, its population is a thoughtful one, and its government allows dissenting expression at a level that does not exist elsewhere in the region... The fact is, most Israelis believe in the free exchange of ideas. Yes, they can be pretty nasty about things if they don't like your ideas, but they are generally committed to the bedrock principle of free discourse. Which, incidentally, is why most western media outlets base their Middle East correspondents in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv."

*Paul Michaels is director of research and media relations for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

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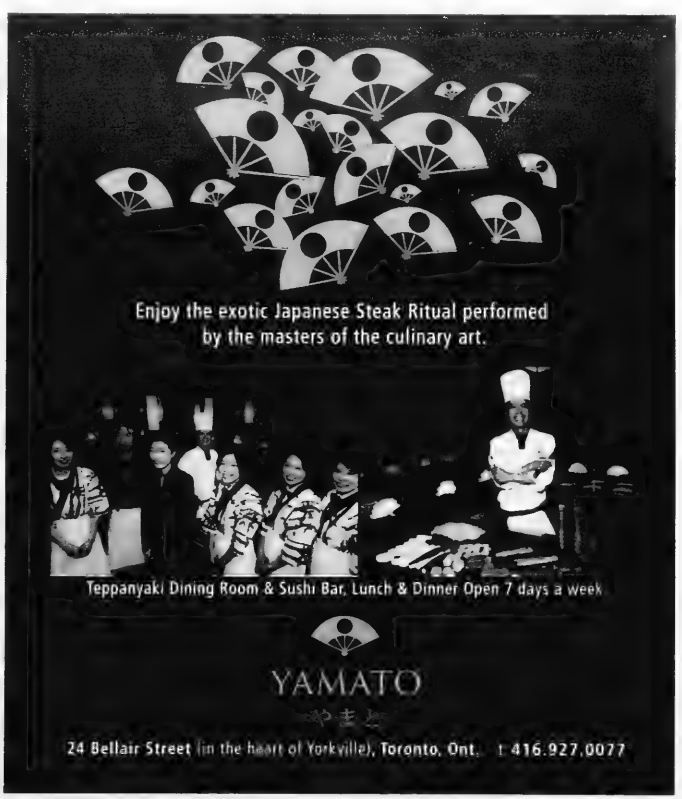
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# שישאר בינינו

## גידי קורן וחברים

**החיים כמו קפה:**

קבוצה של בוגרי אוניברסיטה מאוד מצליחים בחיים הלכו לפגוש את הפרופסור הזקן שלהם. מהר מאוד הפכה השיחה לסדרת תלונות על כמה הרבה עומס וסטרס יש בחיים שלהם. הפרופסור הציע לתלמידיו קפה וחזר מהמטבח עם קומקום גדול וספלים מכל הסוגים כדי שיהיה לכולם: היו שם ספלי חרסינה, קרמיקה, פלסטיק, היו ביניהם ספלים מהודרים והיו ספלים פשוטים ואפילו מכוערים, היו חדשים והיו ישנים. הוא הזמין את אורחיו למזוג קפה , ולאחר שלכולם היה ספל ביד, הוא אחר להם:

אם שמתם לב- כל הספלים היפים נחטפו מיד, ומאחור נשארו רק הספלים הפשוטים והזולים. אמנם זה מאוד נורמאלי לרצות את הכי טוב לעצמכם, אבל זה בעצם מקורשל הרבה מהבעיות והלחצים שעליהם התלוננתם. קדם כל ברור לכם שהספל לא מוסיף שום דבר לטעם הקפה. ברוב המקרים-הספל רק מוסיף מחיר, ובהרבה מקרים הוא מסתיר את מה שבאמת שותים.

מה שבאמת רציתם זה את הקפה, ולא את הספל. אבל למרות זאת הלכתם בהכרה מלאה לספל היקר ביותר, ואז התחלתם להביט אחד בספל של השני ולהשוות.

אז תחשבו על זה שהחיים הם כמו קפה- הג'ובים, הכסף העמדות –הם הספלים. הם רק הכלים להחזיק ולהכיל את החיים. וסוג הספל שיש לכם איננו קובע ואיננו משנהכהוא זה את איכות החיים שלכם. לפעמים, כשמתרכזים רק בספל- אנחנו שוכחים ליהנות מהקפה. תתרכזו בקפה, לא בספל.

האנשים המאושרים באמת בחיים אינם אלה שיש להם את הטוב שבכל דבר, אלא אלה שיודעים לעשות את הטוב מכל דבר.

תחיו פשוט,

דברו בנדיבות,

שיהיה לכם אכפת מכל הלב ממה שקורה לאחרים,

ושתאהבו בנדיבות.

העשיר ביותר שביניכם איננו זה שיש לו הכי הרבה, אלא זה שמסתפק בהכי פחות.

**מה יהיה**

במצרים נבחר בבחירות דמוקרטיות נשיא אסלמי קיצוני, ובישראל מתנהל ויכוח האם הוא ינתק את הקשרים של ארץ הנילוס עם ישראל ויבטל את הסכם השלום.

בשבועות האחרונים הודיע הצבא שלא יעביר לנשיא את רוב הזכויות שיועדו לו. מעניין אם הצבא המצרי יתפקד כמו הצבא הטורקי שמזה עשרות שנים מונע הפיכה מוסלמית. אם כך יהיה- יתכן שהצבא ימנע מהפיכת חצי האי סיני לארץ טרור. בישראל לא לוקחים צ'אנס ובניית גדר מגן בגבול ישראל ומצריים כמעט הושלמה.

ובינתיים ממשיכות הפגזות בלתי מבוקרות מצד עזה לכוון ישובי ישראל, ולפי תגובותים הראשונות של אנשי החמאס- הם מתנהגים כאילו יזכו בתמיכה וגיבוי הרבה יותר מאסיביים מצד הממשל החדש בקהיר.

MORE GIDI KOREN at www.gidikoren.com

# *Camp Gesher helps build bridges, Israeli emissary says*

**Meir Shenhav**
Special to The CJN

Campers will have to sweat for their own food, this year, Yael Polunsky said jokingly.

Polunsky is an Israeli shlichah (emissary) for Camp Gesher, the Ontario summer camp run by Habonim Dror, a labour Zionist youth movement.

"We decided to focus more on building bridges between our values and the child's life and actions. This year, we are working on building a farm in the camp. The campers could work there, learn about the connection between labour and Zionism, and grow their own food."

Polunsky, 27, came to Toronto from Jerusalem last year, and, in addition to her work at the camp, she also runs programs for the Jewish and Israeli community in downtown Toronto at the Miles Nadal JCC. This is her sixth mission, after working with Jewish communities in the United States, Belarus, Ukraine and India. She has been working in informal Jewish and Zionist education programs for more than 10 years.

"Every summer, we run an overnight summer camp, Camp Gesher [which means bridge]," Polunsky said. "The camp is located about three hours north-east of Toronto, in a beautiful forest on the shore of Pringle Lake. Our camp, like our movement, is a youth-led camp where our campers are the leaders."

Most of the 220 campers are from Toronto and Thornhill, Ont., although some come from other Jewish communities in Ontario.

"There are [also] *shinshinim* [young Israeli emissaries] working at the camp as counsellors and Israel specialists. They run activities about Israel, scouting and Hebrew, while connecting with the campers and other counsellors," Polunsky said.

"In the last few years, we have been working with the Yaldenu organization, which brings Israeli campers to camps in North America. [This year] we'll be joined by six 15-year-old campers from southern Israel. They will stay with our oldest group throughout one session. The Israeli campers also run a few activities for their fellow campers, and make a lifelasting relationships with the Canadian campers."

**Yael Polunsky**

The camp has been working with Kachol Lavan, an Israeli Hebrew school in the Toronto area supported by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Schwartz/Reisman Centre, and Gesher will host a trip to the campsite for some of the students.

The Kachol Lavan kids will be there for a three-day weekend to get to know the camp and the campers, use the waterfront and other facilities, go hiking in the area and participate in activities in Hebrew.

"Our campers are connected to Israel, either because their parents or grandparents were born In Israel, or because their parents are very much Zionists and support Israel," Polunsky said. "We [know] that Israeli immigrants to Canada are hesitant about sending their kids to an overnight summer camp, but we don't want them to miss out on this experience that we are so happy to provide."

Moshe, one of the campers' fathers, shares his experience: "Camp Gesher is a community and a family-oriented camp. The alumni keep a great relationship with their fellow movement friends that they grew up with. I was a camper when I was a child, and now I'm sending my kids to the camp so they can have the same adventures. It helps the kids in building their Jewish and Zionist identity. They learn about Israel, about the Jewish world, they learn different skills and have a lifelong experience."

In addition to the camp, the Toronto branch of Habonim Dror runs programs during the year. A communal house opened last year, to function as a hub for different activities including Shabbat dinners and holiday celebrations.

The house is also the home for five counsellors who are implementing the movement's values by living together in a communal manner, while running all the activities, Polunsky said.

"We also run educational activities for the greater Jewish community about Israeli topics, Judaism, Zionism and world events," she said. "This year we had more than a dozen different activities in synagogues and organizations. We run holiday activities for kids at the Miles Nadal JCC, work with young kids and toddlers at the PJ library and celebrate the holidays with the seniors at Baycrest."

As part of the Zionist movement, Polunsky said, "you get to learn new things from new perspectives, you meet new friends who share the same interests and you invest in yourself as a counsellor and a leader."

For more details about the camp, go to www.campgesher.com or email sgesher@rogers.com

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# Rabbi Stern retires from Shaarei Tefilah

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Moshe Stern will become rabbi emeritus of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation on Aug. 19 (Rosh Chodesh Elul), exactly 32 years after he became spiritual leader of the modern Orthodox congregation.

He and his wife, Sarah, plan to spend winters in Israel, where they have a home in Ramat Beit Shemesh, close to their son and his family.

"I just believe the time has come," said Rabbi Stern, 68. He and Sarah – who have five children, "numerous" grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren – also want to spend time with the rest of their family, including children in New York and Toronto.

"It's the right time to transfer the leadership of the shul to a younger generation," said the Montreal-born rabbi. He will be succeeded as senior rabbi by Rabbi Rafi Lipner, who was hired by the shul three years ago to attract young couples to the congregation. Rabbi Lipner will continue to be associated with The House, a Jewish learning centre for students and young professionals, where he is executive director.

Rabbi Moshe Stern

Among his retirement plans, Rabbi Stern said he would like to write a book about his experiences as a rabbi. As well, he said, he's always wanted to translate the works of the Maharal of Prague. "I've always been fascinated with his philosophy and approach to Jewish law. I find it very progressive and fascinating and deep."

Reflecting on the past three decades at Shaarei Tefillah, Rabbi Stern said he's been "blessed with a synagogue that has allowed me to connect with the community at large. Very often in the Orthodox world, rabbis can become insulated and isolated... I've always believed we are part of a larger Jewish community."

***'It's the right time to transfer leadership of the shul to a younger generation'***

He attributes a significant part of his philosophy to his previous pulpit position in Mountain Brook, Ala., where he "learned very quickly that in order for the small Jewish community to survive and thrive, we all have to get along and work together."

As well, he added, he was determined to change what he feels is a common perception of Orthodox rabbis in the Jewish community: "That we are rigid, uncaring, unconcerned with the welfare of the total community and that we have negative views about the State of Israel.

"I think in my way, maybe in a small way, I was able to change that kind of perception that people might have of Orthodox Judaism, which I prefer to call Torah-oriented Judaism."

The flip side is that his own perceptions have also been affected. "When you're out in the community, you realize that every Jew is a Jew. Everything else are just labels. When you start talking to people and when you see others who might not consider themselves Orthodox, who care about Judaism and the State of Israel, you see that we are one people," he said.

"And yes, I would like to see everybody observant the way I understand observance needs to be... The perception sometimes within the Orthodox community is that you have Orthodox Jews, and everybody else is assimilated. That's not an appropriate picture of the reality of the Jewish community."


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# Applying principles of Jewish leadership

In a recent article (reprinted in *The CJN* on June 21), Britain's Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, eruditely synthesized what he describes as the seven principles of Jewish leadership. While his remarks, in their original articulation, were primarily intended to mark the 20th anniversary of a leadership program for young professionals in the United Kingdom's Jewish community, their relevance stretches well beyond the chief rabbi's home base.

His briefing, in its entirety, could be regarded as core content for any organization that aspires to genuinely, creatively and inclusively serve the best interests of its supporters. But perhaps even more important than his broader concepts are some highly perceptive kernels of advice, expressed almost as clichés, that encapsulate the very essence of informed, constructive communal leadership.

He stresses, for example, that "leadership is teamsmanship," that "before you can lead, you must have a vision of the future and be able to communicate it," that leaders (should) study more than others because "study makes the difference between the statesman and the politician, between the transformative leader and the manager," that "the highest form of leadership (in Judaism) is teaching," with the corollary that "power begets followers; teaching creates leaders," and that we need "to make friends within and beyond the Jewish community, to emphasize the ethical and spiritual dimensions of Judaism… and to find ways of making Jews feel proud to be Jews."

Sadly, though there are of course exceptions, we see very little of this vibrant brand of leadership within those agencies, both local and national, that claim to represent the "mainstream" of the Canadian Jewish community.

*My View*

*Lawrence Hart*

Rather than "teamsmanship," what we have mostly seen over the past several years is the all but complete abdication of influence and responsibility by lay leaders to a select cadre of professional "managers" who have been perceived as mostly trying to solidify their positions and entrench a status quo that tends to be inward looking, less than tolerant of voices that offer different or, heaven forbid, critical viewpoints, and plays to the whims of major donors more than to the priorities of its grassroots constituents.

If one looks objectively at the performance of many of these organizations, it is hard to identify anything approaching the transformative, visionary style that Rabbi Sacks refers to; nor, for the most part, do we see very much in the way of leadership that unequivocally promotes Jewish pride and Jewish ethics and spirituality in all of their complexity and diversity. Also, in deference to what is frequently termed "local needs," we are seeing, all too often, a relegation of the centrality of Israel and Zionism as the principal focus of community engagement and advocacy.

Given what appears to be the prevailing culture within much of the Canadian Jewish establishment, there is little to suggest that the wise counsel of a Rabbi Sacks will have much influence on the entrenched hierarchies that currently give direction to, and speak on behalf of, Jews across our land. This is most unfortunate since, in the process, segments of a capable older generation with the experience and vision to lead and an inventive younger generation with the energy to lead, are both becoming increasingly alienated.

## Reena in the News

Reena

**Phillip Lepofsky, UJA Shem Tov Award Winner**
**by: Michael and Vivian Lepofsky**

We had the distinct pleasure of attending the UJA Federation Awards night on Wednesday, May 23rd. It was a very special night for us as Phillip was recognized with a beautiful Shem Tov award. When we first heard that Phillip was receiving an award for excellence in volunteer service we were not so much surprised, as just overwhelmed.
It is hard to express the immense sense of pride, love and respect we have for Phil and his accomplishments.

Throughout his life Phillip has always managed to act as a shining example of goodness. He is a truly fine individual with a caring heart, a positive attitude, and a gentle soul. Phillip has given me much of my inspiration in life through his own strength and determination, and his ability to overcome most obstacles.

Phillip was able to celebrate this beautiful evening along with the other outstanding award recipients who were honoured for their efforts and dedication to the Jewish community. The most beautiful part of the evening was seeing Phillip's sheer joy when he received this award. Phil was in his glory that night, being recognized for his achievements and surrounded by family and friends. The UJA and Reena made this a very special night for him.

We are incredibly proud of Phillip for his dedication and commitment to both Reena and the Toronto Jewish community. We are extremely grateful to Reena for assisting Phillip in reaching these goals, and especially thankful to Sandy Keshen and the Reena team for nominating him for this award that he will cherish forever. Reena is a caring community that plays a strong and supportive role in Phillip's life, and has helped him develop into the wonderful and caring gentleman that he is.

Congratulations Philly!

*Michael and Vivian Lepofsky*

**www.reena.org**

# Israeli Olympic oddities and dreams

The Olympics is serious business. Controversies abound. Athletes breaks records. And then there are the stories that don't get their share of the headlines. Here are three, starting with Israel's quest to find a mascot for its Olympic team.

The problems began when the Olympic Committee of Israel (OCI) unveiled "Shpitzik," a smiling cactus-shaped torchbearer decked out in a natty blue-and-white tracksuit. Unfortunately, the folks at Israeli Educational Television felt that Shpitzik resembled their 1970s-era character, "Kishkashta." (Imagine Bert – of the Muppet's Bert and Ernie – except that he's green and has cacti sprouting from his ears.) The matter was referred to the Tel Aviv District Court, which ruled in favour of veteran Kishkashta and put Shpitzik out of the running – literally. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp45]**

In a bid to find a successor to Shpitzik, Israel's Olympic Committee then set its eyes on "Baby Bamba." If you've ever dined on Bamba, Israel's popular peanut-based snack food, you would have noticed a cartoon character on the package – a smiling, single-toothed baby bedecked in a diaper. Hand Baby Bamba a lit torch and – and have manufacturer Osem hand over an undisclosed fee – and presto, you have a new Olympic mascot. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp46]**

Public outcry over the commercial character's new role forced the OCI to retire the baby character as an Olympic symbol. The result: Israel will have no mascot this summer – neither Shpitzik nor Baby Bamba – to inspire athletes to go Swifter, Higher, Stronger. **[http://bit.ly/jolymp47]**

Astute visitors to the "Israel" entry at the official London Olympics site will notice that the Middle Eastern country is located in "Europe." **[http://bit.ly/jolymp48]** Puzzling since neighbouring "Palestine" is located in "Asia." **[http://bit.ly/jolymp49]** I assumed the International Olympic Committee is not lacking a globe, atlas or Google maps, so I set out to crack this geographic mystery – which I did thanks to website eonotes.com.

*Jewish & Digital*

*Mark Mietkiewicz*

"Between 1954 and 1974, Israel took part in the Asian Games, but political pressure exerted by Arab countries led to Israel's exclusion from the re-organized Olympic Council of Asia in 1981. In the early 1990s, Israel was admitted into European sports organizations, and became full member of European Olympic Committees in 1994." **[http://bit.ly/jolymp50]**

Could Israel ever find itself hosting the Summer Olympics? In 2000, three architectural students from Tel Aviv University proposed that their city consider hosting the games in the far-off year of 2012. Their idea was championed by Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai but ridiculed by practically everyone else.

"People made sarcastic comments, asked weird questions and made negative comments," supporter Rafi Peled told *Ha'aretz*. "Then they sat down, and by the middle of the presentation, the smiles had faded, and they were scratching their heads and looking bewildered, and finally they were just speechless. Then the smiles became genuine and everyone began talking, and they were saying, 'It's a smart idea, it's possible, it's a lovely dream.'" **[http://bit.ly/jolymp51]**

Obviously, "Project Tel Aviv 2012" never came about. But supporter Yossi Machtey knew it wouldn't be easy: "It's a dream, but the prospects for it happening are 100 per cent. The only question is when. Maybe there'll be no Olympics here before my grandchildren's time, but it will happen sometime or other. I don't mind being Don Quixote."

*Highway@rogers.com*

# Better to bless than to curse

**Rabbi Leigh Lerner**

*Rabbinic Reflections*

In the movie *Moonstruck*, Loretta's boyfriend takes off for Italy. At the gate are Loretta and an old woman, who asks, "You have someone on that plane?"

Loretta replies, "Yeah, my fiancé."

The old woman turns angry. "My sister is on that plane. I put a curse on that plane, that it's gonna explode and fall into the sea. Fifty years ago, she stole a man from me. Today she tells me she never loved him... I cursed her that the green Atlantic water should swallow her up!"

Loretta says, "I don't believe in curses."

The woman shrugs and says, "Eh, neither do I."

What, then, do we make of the Torah portion, Balak, when the King of Moab calls upon the non-Jewish prophet Balaam to "Put a curse upon this people [Israel], since they are too numerous for me; perhaps I can thus defeat them..." Is it just superstition, or is there something to this power to curse – and to bless?

Isaac Abravanel, seeing the Inquisition and the expulsion of the Jews from Iberia, says Balaam's curse is public relations and spreading of discord. He says Balaam's sorcery was world-famous. If Balaam cursed Israel, the surrounding nations would pluck up their courage and aid Balak against Israel.

When former U.S. president Jimmy Carter writes a book titled *Peace, Not Apartheid*, the stature of the man turns the title into a curse against Israel that screws up the courage of others to damn Israel as well, and to use that term, apartheid, against Israeli policies. It takes huge public relations to counteract the damage that such a curse can cause. Abravanel teaches that well-regarded people should not curse, but rather bless the best in others, so that hatred is not stirred up.

Just as *Moonstruck*'s old woman admitted her curse has no power, so Rabbi Joseph Ibn Kaspi suggests that Balaam's curse must be considered only from the point of view of those at the receiving end – the Israelites. Does it really work on them?

Balaam was a renowned sorcerer. People were impressed, as sometimes they are today, by sorcerers and diviners. Some always believe the curses of a person with a large reputation. Some Israelites would take it badly, even though the curse was useless, so God prevented Balaam from cursing them.

Think about how some people react when cursed: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Yet, words can hurt deeply. When someone who is respected condemns another, that person will usually feel throbs of anguish. The pain of a slap across the face disappears, but the pain of hurtful words is never forgotten.

Just as God sought to save Israel the pain of Balaam's hurtful words, so we should try to step in and see if somehow we can turn hurtful words to blessing.

Curses may not have real power, but the person delivering the curse may be influential, and the words spoken may be an attempt to incite general hatred or the words may be hurtful to an individual. Better to bless than to curse, and we must think carefully of ways to do so when we come into situations where conflict may occur. That may be the best lesson that Balak has to teach us.

*Rabbi Leigh Lerner is the spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom in Montreal.*


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# To the graduates

*Bookmarks*

*Bernard Baskin*

Bob Hope once said to a graduating class, "To you who are about to enter the real world, my advice is don't go." What follows are a few tough questions for graduates.

Are you afraid of failure? Be assured that if you don't succeed at first, you are running about average. What to learn about success and failure is that the first isn't final and the second isn't fatal.

To the question, "How did you achieve success?, George Bernard Shaw responded, "I dread success. To have succeeded, to have finished one's business on Earth, like the male spider, who is killed by the female the moment, he has succeeded in his courtship. I like a state of continual becoming, with a goal in front and not behind".

When I graduated from high school, a wise teacher offered me this advice, "Don't ever forget, aim for the stars. That way you might land on the roof. But if you only aim for the roof you'll never get off the ground." For a callow youth of 17, this was a challenging message. I was impressed, but never really knew which stars to aim for – there were so many.

How much better it is to fail at some elusive dream or creative enterprise than to succumb to a meagre and limited vision.

Will you retain your intellectual curiosity?

Truth often disturbs what makes us most comfortable. The tracking down of ideas involves greater risk than pouring facts into a receptacle called the brain.

Our age demands open-mindedness, unrelenting doubt, ceaseless probing of life's problems at every stage, with enough independence and flexibility to confront unprecedented dilemmas.

Do the social ills of society trouble you? Problems that confront us are explosive, increasingly numerous and perilously urgent. Some examples? Worldwide racial, ethnic and religious prejudice that sabotage the struggle for peace and undermines the security and moral health of the world.

Then there is political chauvinism that in one country or another foments unrest and disunity and that spurns mature compromise. Often hatred for an "enemy" nation is so virulent that some are more eager to see that enemy expunged than to keep their children alive.

There is the proliferation of atomic weapons, the despoliation of the environment, widespread poverty and the growing disparity in earning power between the wealthy and downtrodden. For the educated person, there should be nothing harder than the softness of indifference.

Do you maintain an appreciation for moral and spiritual values? How do we overcome setbacks and disappointments? Whence comes the impulse to aid our fellows instead of striding over them in the struggle for personal success? Where is the wellspring for the voluntary offering of service to the community, to our neighbour.

The answer lies in non-material values that must be acquired along with basic knowledge. Education's dual objectives must remain clear: education for living as well as education for making a living.

For the graduates this prayer: may you learn to prize integrity above luxury, principle above expediency and value above valuables. May you remember that service is the tuition that you pay for the seat you will occupy in life's classroom. And may you become all that you're capable of becoming.


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# Edmonton plans Jewish seniors residence

**Lauren Kramer**
Pacific Correspondent

**EDMONTON** — When Edmonton's Tulane and Larry Rollingher Retirement Community opens in the summer of 2014, it will be the only Jewish-focused facility of its kind between Winnipeg and Vancouver.

In mid-June, the Edmonton community held a sod-turning ceremony for its first Jewish seniors' residence, which will be located on the corner of Jasper Avenue and 119 Street, alongside Beth Shalom Synagogue.

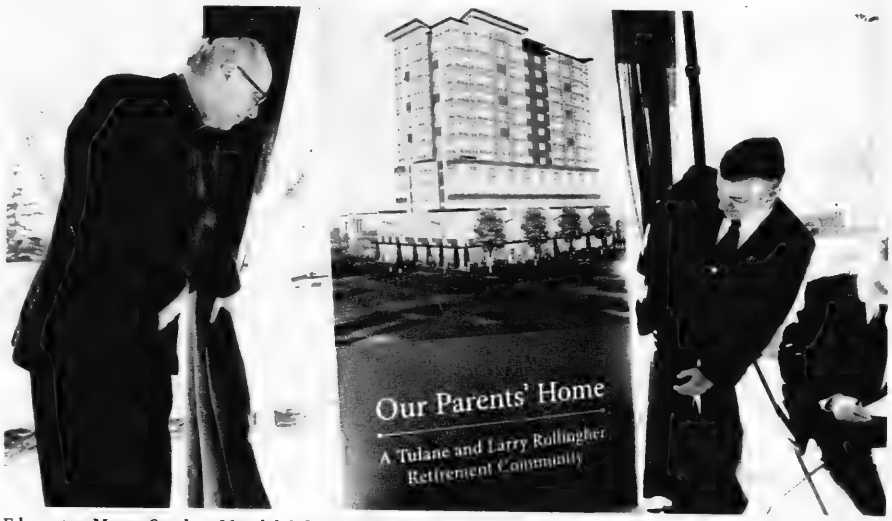
The 13-storey building will have 55 suites of assisted living on three floors, which will operate under the auspices of Alberta Health Services. There will be 80 one- and two-bedroom suites on the upper eight floors, as well as a rooftop patio with a glassed-in reading room and a library. Downstairs there will be a kosher kitchen, dining rooms and three retail storefronts.

Fundraising for the $30-million facility began 11 years ago, and the Alberta provincial government has contributed more than $6 million. Approximately $9 million has been fundraised to date.

While its focus will be Jewish, the facility will not be restricted to those of the Jewish faith. But at any one time, the Edmonton Jewish community, which has approximately 5,000 members, has between 50 and 75 Jewish seniors in need of such a facility.

"Many of our parents, and those in need of care, have been scattered throughout the city in facilities where there was limited Jewish cultural programming and an absence of kosher food," said Len Dolgoy, president of the Beit Horim (Our Parents' Home Society). "At a time in their lives when Jewish culture and traditions should help sustain them, we could not provide that care directly."

Tulane Rollingher played a leading role in the fundraising campaign for the new centre after the death of her husband, Larry, in 2000, and arranged that donations in Larry's name be directed to the project. At the sod-turning ceremony, Irv Kipnes, project chair, paid tribute to the Rollinghers' contributions to Jewish Edmonton over the past 100 years. "I cannot think of anything more fitting than to honour them by having their name associated with this significant project," he said.




**Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel, left, and Alberta's associate minister of seniors George VanderBurg, centre, reveal the project name while project chair Irving Kipnes looks on.**

George VanderBurg, Alberta's associate minister of seniors, said that the project "will provide residents with more options to remain in their community close to family and friends and allow couples to age together as their accommodations and personal-care needs increase.

"Projects like this reflect our government's commitment to meeting changing needs of seniors and supports the premier's vision to increase the number of continuing-care units in the province and the quality of life of residents."

When it opens in two years' time, the management of the facility will be contracted to a company specializing in seniors' care.

# Montreal's JGH reports on its own performance

**Janice Arnold**
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — The Jewish General Hospital (JGH) has disclosed that three "accidents" occurred in 2010-2011 that "may have contributed to, or resulted in, someone's death."

That information is contained in the latest data made public by the JGH on preventable staff-reported "adverse events" and other statistics related to patient safety.

Last year, the JGH became the first hospital in Quebec to release detailed information on its performance and make it available through its website.

The most common adverse events were medication errors, mistakes related to diagnostic tests and patient falls.

There were also 16 serious accidents requiring medical intervention such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation, to save a life.

In addition, the JGH reports six accidents that "may have contributed to, or resulted in, permanent consequences to someone."

All these events were reported by employees on Quebec government forms used for that purpose.

A total of 1,269 other accidents occurred in 2010-2011 that resulted, for the most part, in patients requiring supplementary specialized care, as opposed to first aid. In a minority of these accidents, the person was admitted to the hospital or their stay was prolonged. In none of these cases, was permanent harm done, the hospital says.

Previously, this type of data was available only to hospital staff and government officials, said JGH executive director Hartley Stern.

"By disclosing the data in terms that are easy to understand, the JGH intends to further improve its accountability to the public.

"This reaffirms our commitment to frankness and transparency by highlighting areas where performance is strong, while identifying those that require additional improvement," said Stern, a physician.

Under adverse events, the JGH also includes "incidents," which it defines as "an action or situation that has not affected anyone's health or well-being, but might have caused harm if it had not been spotted and corrected in time, e.g., water spilled on floor of a corridor."

Such incidents totalled 4,853 in 2010-2011, but only 492 resulted in "minor consequences" to someone, that is, enough to require first aid.

None of these figures include work-related accidents affecting employees.

While the main focus is on patients, these statistics also keep track of adverse events involving patients' relatives, visitors, volunteers and students.

During this period, the JGH had 24,408 admissions, 68,878 emergency visits, and 645,580 outpatient visits (including those to the ER). More than 13,000 operations were performed.

The JGH acknowledges that incidents and accidents are generally under-reported by employees. The scientific literature, it notes, states that only a small percentage of adverse events are reported by staff.

The hospital is trying to encourage staff to come forward by instituting a "no blame, no shame" policy.

It has also launched its "Speak Up!" campaign, part of an effort to improve communication between patients and their families and hospital staff.

Chaired by community representative Bernie Weinstein, the campaign stresses for clinical staff, in particular, the need to listen attentively when patients or their relatives speak up.

The latest data also includes statistics on patient falls and their severity, progress in the prevention of pressure ulcers (bed sores) and pneumonia in critically ill patients on ventilators, and steps to increase the safety of medication management. The report also looks at compliance with a surgical safety checklist instituted by the JGH in 2010.

As for overall patient satisfaction, the hospital believes it is doing well. A random survey is taken of 70 patients discharged each week throughout the year, with each asked 26 questions. For 2010-2011, the combined average was 84.3 per cent, which the JGH interprets as meaning it is "doing a good job of meeting patients' needs and expectations," but there is room for improvement.

SINGLES EVENTS
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**Lily Galperin sold trays of cupcakes to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.** *[Meaghan Wexelman photo]*

# *Yummy delights help make dreams real for sick kids*

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

"Everyone loves cupcakes." That's why Lily Galperin, 7, chose to hold a cupcake bake sale as a way to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Lily, who lives in Montreal and just finished Grade 1, had been learning about the importance of charity at school, and she wanted to put those lessons into practice. "She had come to me and she said, 'Mommy, I really want to do something. I really want to help people,'" said Stephanie Rappoport-Galperin, Lily's mother.

In her eagerness to help, Lily wasn't sure which cause to choose. "Lily just wanted to help everybody – she wanted [the money] to go everywhere," Rappoport-Galperin said.

The family sat down to talk about different organizations that they could donate to, and after watching videos on YouTube of children with life-threatening illnesses having their wishes come true, Lily quickly decided that the Make-A-Wish Foundation was the charity she wanted to help. The Make-A-Wish Foundation works to bring joy to children who are suffering from severe medical conditions through granting their greatest wish.

Lily's mother suggested a cupcake bake sale as a way to raise money, and Lily was thrilled with the idea. "Cupcakes just seem to make people happy," Rappoport-Galperin said, adding that the personal touches that people can add to cupcakes they make show that the baker is "really putting their heart into it."

In fact, many of the Galperin family's friends put their hearts into the cause, volunteering to help bake the 500 cupcakes that were for sale at the June 10 event, which was aptly named Cupcakes for a Cause.

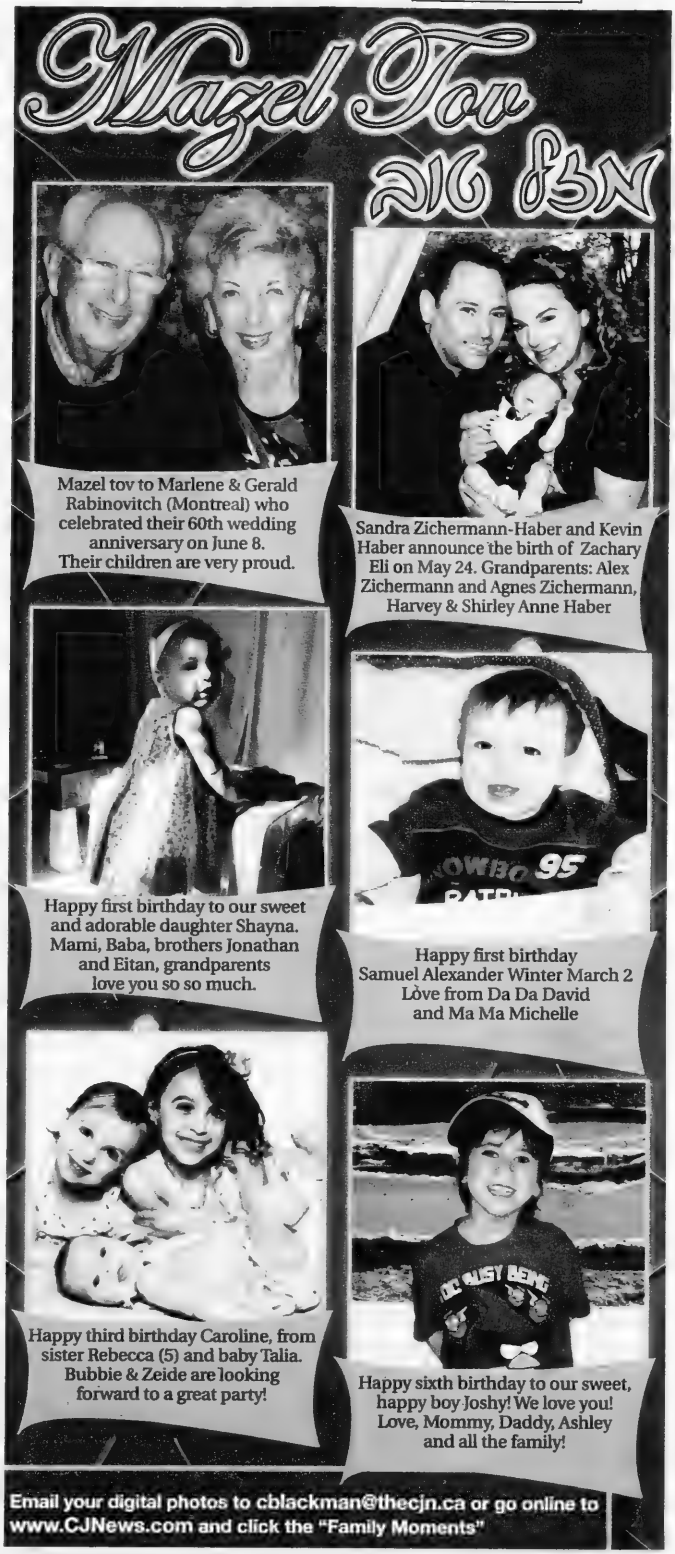
The bake sale was held in the Galperins' yard at their Dollard-Des Ormeaux home, just outside Montreal. "They were staying – they weren't just buying their cupcakes and leaving," Rappoport-Galperin said of the many guests who enjoyed the bake sale. Along with the cupcakes, Lily and her family served complimentary lemonade, making for a relaxing and refreshing day outdoors.

At the end of the event, Lily and her mother decided to take the leftover cupcakes to the neighbourhood fire department. "They were so happy," said Rappoport-Galperin of the firefighters who received the treats and insisted on making a donation to the cause.

By the end of the event, Lily had raised more than $1,200 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. "It was important because I love helping people – I always wished to do something like that," Lily said, adding that she hopes her efforts will inspire others to follow suit. "I did it because I want other people to do the same thing."

Rappoport-Galperin was happy to see her daughter taking initiative, and very pleased with how the event turned out. "Her wish came true by helping other children's wishes come true," she said of Lily.

Lily and her family are hoping to make Cupcakes for a Cause an annual event. "A mitzvah is not just a one-shot deal," Rappoport-Galperin said, adding that many of her friends and family who weren't able to come out this year are already asking about the possibility of next year's event. "We can't disappoint," she said with a laugh.


Mazel Tov
מזל טוב
Mazel tov to Marlene & Gerald Rabinovitch (Montreal) who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 8. Their children are very proud.
Sandra Zichermann-Haber and Kevin Haber announce the birth of Zachary Eli on May 24. Grandparents: Alex Zichermann and Agnes Zichermann, Harvey & Shirley Anne Haber
Happy first birthday to our sweet and adorable daughter Shayna. Mami, Baba, brothers Jonathan and Eitan, grandparents love you so so much.
Happy first birthday Samuel Alexander Winter March 2 Lòve from Da Da David and Ma Ma Michelle
Happy third birthday Caroline, from sister Rebecca (5) and baby Talia. Bubbie & Zeide are looking forward to a great party!
Happy sixth birthday to our sweet, happy boy Joshy! We love you! Love, Mommy, Daddy, Ashley and all the family!
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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

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**Deadline reminder: July 16 is the deadline for the issue of July 26. There is no issue July 19. July 23 is the deadline for the issue of Aug. 2. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, July 5

**YIDDISH SING-A-LONG**

**Max Dublin** leads a Yiddish sing-a-long, noon, Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $18 (includes buffet lunch). RSVP yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca.

## Saturday, July 7

**ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL**

Orillia Country Shul, 151 Creighton St. S., Atherly, near Orillia, resumes its summer services at 10:30 a.m. July 7, **Rabbi Tina Grimberg;** July 14 **Rabbi Ilyse Glickman.** All are welcome. 705-327-7069.

## Monday, July 9

**AN IDEAL JEWISH SOCIETY**

**Mordechai Bar-On,** founder of Kolot, a study centre to promote Jewish values in the Israeli government, discusses "Seven Pillars in an Ideal Jewish Society," 7:30 p.m., Yeshivat Or Chaim, 159 Almore Ave. 416-633-5770; www.torahinmotion.org.

## Tuesday, July 10

**MEGACITY BIG BAND**

The Megacity Big Band performs at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre, in Earl Bales Park, 7 p.m. In case of rain, the performance moves to the Earl Bales Community Centre.

**JEWISH ICONS**

**Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses Jewish icons of the 20th century. Tonight, Albert Einstein; July 17, Hank Greenberg; July 24, Hannah Senesh. Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 7:30 p.m.

## Thursday, July 12

**CHRIS MCKHOOL KIDS SHOW**

**Chris McKhool** performs for children, Earl Bales Park. Activities begin at 5:30 p.m.; performance starts at 7 p.m. Free.

## Other News

**NEW EDUCATION DIRECTOR**

Kol Ami Temple welcomes **Judy Silver** as its new director of education. A Toronto native, Silver has worked at Shir Tikvah Congregation, in Minneapolis. Most recently, she was the co-ordinator of the temple's student teacher program.

**THE CUTTING VEG**

The Cutting Veg, a community supported agriculture program, delivers organic produce to Toronto-area synagogues throughout the summer and fall. For more information, call 647-388-7444 or www.thecuttingveg.com/CSA.

**MOSAIC OUTDOOR CLUB**

Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America, for Jewish outdoor enthusiasts, is holding a Labour Day retreat in Colorado, Aug. 30-Sept. 3. Visit www.mosaicoutdoor.org or call 1-888-MOSAICS (667-2427) to register.

**KAVANAH GARDEN FESTIVAL**

The Kavanah Garden celebrates summer, July 15, noon-4 p.m., 18 Lebovic Campus Dr. www.shoresh.ca

**Continued on page 21**

**SENIORS**

# Joint bar mitzvah unites generations

**Cynthia Gasner**
Special to The CJN

Jack Buchman, 80, stood beside his youngest grandson, Jesse, as they recited their bar mitzvah portions at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue recently, thus fulfilling the mitzvah that he was deprived of during World War II.

The octogenarian, surrounded by his wife, Roma, family and friends, has bitter memories of losing most of his family and the hunger and horrors of his near-death experiences during the war. But now he rejoices in the many blessings in his life, family, business and community involvements.

To commemorate his 80th birthday, Buchman published a memoir for his family titled *A Place to Belong.*

"I published the book for my family to know where I came from and who we are," he said.

The book is a panorama of events from Buchman's childhood in Warsaw, the Holocaust, his survival, starting over in France, coming to Canada, family life, successes and failures in business and community involvements. It also contains some advice to his family.

There are many photos to help make his stories more immediate. He also lists his life's "mantras," and there's a section that he calls, "Pappy's Commandments."

"My book is a tribute to the Jewish spirit of survival," he said.

***Grandfather, grandson recite Torah portion***

Above all, he cherishes family.

He writes of meeting "the love of my life," Roma (Rinde), also a Holocaust survivor, in Paris in 1950.

And of building a loving family in Toronto – his son, Danny, daughters, Pauline Schwartz and Annette Mincer, their spouses and 14 grandchildren. "They are the focus of my life."

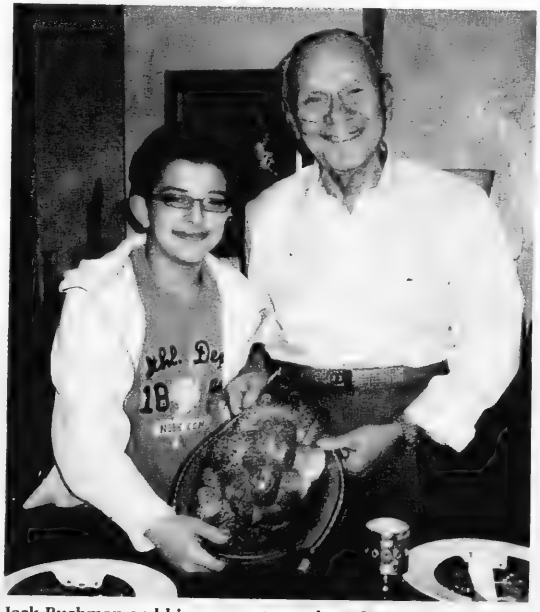
His affection for his wife is still evident: "I am so proud of my wife, Roma, who continues to educate the young generation, Jewish and non-Jewish schoolchildren, on her Holocaust experiences – the experiences and the lessons to learn from the tragedy," he said.

After arriving in Canada in 1951, Jack had many jobs before he established a lumber and building supply business that prospered and became a chain of Lumber King stores.

As well, he became involved in real estate development. He retired at the age of 75.

He has participated in many charitable causes including B'nai Brith, Baycrest Foundation, Tel Aviv University and Israel Bonds. For his volunteerism, he has received several awards.

After the bar mitzvah celebrations in Toronto, 22 members of the Buchman family travelled to Israel, where the eldest and youngest Buchmans will again celebrate their bar mitzvahs at the Kotel – the Western Wall – in Jerusalem. The family will then tour Israel together. Buchman's advice to his family is: "Don't forget the past so as not to make the same mistakes in the future."



**Jack Buchman and his youngest grandson, Jesse, celebrate their bar mitzvahs together.**

**Continued from page 20**

**TORAH IN MOTION TOURS**

Torah in Motion presents "Journeys through Jewish History" with **Marc Shapiro,** Italy July 9-19; Central Europe Aug. 2-12. 416-633-5770.

**JUMPSTART HEBREW**

JumpStart Hebrew is a program for children entering JK to Grade 2, Aug. 27-31 at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Children will be introduced to Hebrew through art, music and play. E-mail **Karen Goodis**, karen@bethsholom.net or www.bethsholom.net.

**TORAH TOTS REGISTRATION**

Registration for Torah Tots, September 2012, at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham is now open. Call 905-886-0420, ext. 227.

**HOUSING REGISTRY**

List your basement apartment or extra room free with UJA Federation's Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto. If you're looking for a place to live, JIST can assist you as well. Visit JIST in the Lipa Green Centre, 416-635-5600 or e-mail: jinfo@ujafed.org.

## JF&CS GROUPS

**BEREAVED PARENTS**

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Seniors Social Club** presents violinist **Michael Ziskind,** July 8, 7 p.m., Earl Bales Community Centre. RSVP **Sandy** 416-736-8073; 416-458-1440.

**Falls Prevention Program** will be held at Baycrest, starting July 30. The 8-week session provides exercise and education for older adults living in the community who have experienced one or more falls or have a fear of falling. OHIP covered. Call 416-785-2488.

**Caring for the Caregiver,** a free support group for caregivers feeling burned out caring for loved ones with dementia and other illnesses meets July 25, L'chaim Retirement Home, 718 Sheppard Ave. W., 7 p.m. 416-398-7898.

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. Casino Niagara July 18; Casino Rama Aug. 15. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts. Call **Morty**, 416-783-6078; 416-630-6487.

**The Bridge Club** at Forest Hill Library is seeking new members. Call **Lea** (evenings), 416-487-7630.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. July 5, **Rabbi Mitch Mandel** of Aish Hatorah discusses "The Art of Happiness, Essential Ingredients and Possible Obstacles," 1:30 p.m.; July 26, Historical guided walk through early Jewish Toronto neighbourhoods.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526, **Colin Blayney.** Ongoing yoga, dance fitness and aquafitness classes.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

**Hugh Innis** teaches a course on the 2012 U.S. presidential election. July 10-31, 10:30 a.m.

Beginner and intermediate Mah Jongg classes start July 25, 1-3 p.m., drop-in duplicate bridge, Thursdays 12:30- 3:30 p.m.

Tickets still available for the Grand River lunch and show cruise, Aug. 8.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

**Michal Hass** teaches Hebrew Aleph 2 Mondays and Thursdays, 7 p.m. starting July 9. For information and placement test, sharonis@mnjcc.org or ext. 154.

**Keith Friedlander** teaches a course on "People of the Comic Book: Jews and the Graphic Novel," July 19- Aug. 9, 6:30 p.m.

*Curtains* is presented by No Strings Theatre and Al Green Theatre, July 26-29, ext.0

The adult daytime choir runs all summer, Tuesdays 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

A summer evening choir is being offered, Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. Open to all, no auditions. music@mnjcc.org.

*Aging Is Living: Myth-breaking Stories from Long-Term Care*, photography and words by **Irene Borins Ash,** is on display in the gallery till July 22.

The Gallery is calling for submissions for fall exhibits (flat media only). Deadline is Aug. 1. Guidelines at www.mnjcc.org/in-the-gallery or ext. 250.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

*SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 18*

**KACHOL LAVAN: Kachol Lavan students Sara Malka Sugin (bar/bat mitzvah class) and Gur Pasternak (Grade 5) were awarded the Gary and Judy Neinstein Student Achievement Award. The students, seen here with Ariel Zaltzman, managing director of Kachol Lavan, received the award at the JNF's recent annual general meeting.**

**Na'amat Toronto recently honoured Dorothy Feldman with 20 'Spiritual Adoptions' of children in Na'amat Israel's 250 daycare facilities, for her 20 years of service as the receptionist of Na'amat Toronto.**

***[Mollie Rothman photo]***

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# Fighting cancer with a basketball tournament

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Twenty-five-year-old cancer survivor Mark Benmoise's commitment to raising funds and awareness about the disease has earned him the designation as a Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada (LLSC) Honoured Hero.

On Oct. 3, Benmoise will be joining hundreds of Torontonians for the second time on the Light the Night Walk, an event run by LLSC, which raises funds for Canadian researchers who focus on leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, and Hodgkin's disease.

Mark Benmoise with his niece

Benmoise, who is one of 90,000 Canadians living with, or in remission from blood cancers, raised about $5,500 last year for the walk.

This year, Benmoise wants to smash that total by organizing a charity basketball tournament that he hopes will help rake in at least $25,000.

The first annual Shoot 4 A Cure event, scheduled for Aug. 12 at Westmount Collegiate Institute in Thornhill, Ont., is a charity 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

He said so far, eight teams have registered and there is no limit as to how many teams can participate. Each team, made up of four players, is required to raise a minimum of $400.

"The way we set it up is that they sign up at our website (www.makeurmark.ca) and then I add them to our Light the Night team. They'll have their own personal donation page where people can go online and donate to their team," he said.

Benmoise has been fundraising for LLSC since he beat his cancer – nodular lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin lymphoma, an uncommon subtype of Hodgkin lymphoma – last year.

He said his battle began about six years ago when he started getting violently ill.

Over the next three years, Benmoise underwent a series of CT scans, blood tests and biopsies, but it wasn't until he had surgery to remove his slightly swollen lymph nodes that they were able to give him a diagnosis.

After successful rounds of chemotherapy, Benmoise is now in remission and dedicated to offering support to the countless others who are struggling with the disease, and working towards a cure.

Benmoise joins a three-year-old girl named Isabella Leone, who is currently battling acute lymphoblastic leukemia as one of Toronto's honoured heroes. He said he's determined to live up to the LLSC's expectations.

"Part of the reason they said they wanted me to come on board was because of my positivity and my drive to raise awareness about the cause," he said.

To date, Benmoise said he's raised more than $3,600, but expects interest in his tournament to peak in the coming weeks.

The event is more than just a basketball tournament, he insists.

"We're going to have a 50-50 draw, we're going to raffle off some prizes, we're going to have a silent auction," he said.

"A DJ company called Spirit Entertainment will be offering their services and providing fun attractions like snow cone makers, popcorn machines, games, and we're looking into arranging for inflatables for the kids."

Breakfast will be provided by Bagel Stop, and Magen Boys Entertainment has also offered its services and will act as the MCs for the event.

"My goal is to try to give back, and this is the first thing I'm trying to do. I hope to make it something that people will love to come out to, while supporting a really great cause."

# *Finding bliss in your love relationship*

***Life Coach Corner***

***Judy Siblin-Librach***

For the past six years, I have devoted a lot of space in this column to The Wheel of Life, and what it takes to create a level of satisfaction in all areas of the wheel.

This includes your level of fulfilment in your career, as well as with money, health, friends and family, physical environment, fun and recreation, personal growth and spirituality.

The final and one of the most important wedges in the wheel, is about your significant other and how deeply satisfied you are with your partner and your relationship. There is no question that when this piece is unfulfilled, the rest of the wheel suffers as a result. So, finding your bliss in your relationship, or in looking for that relationship, is paramount to your happiness, health and well-being.

I was delighted recently to do an episode on my show *Finding Your Bliss*, about finding and maintaining bliss in your relationships. On the program, I was happy to have the *Toronto Star*'s syndicated advice columnist Ellie Tesher, who offered a wealth of wisdom, wit, insight and inspiration about finding love and nurturing the love you already have. One of the most salient pieces of advice Tesher brought forth on the program was that it all begins with your relationship with yourself – when you are in a loving and healthy place with yourself, you will attract the best quality partner.

She is also a positive and optimistic person who has become a shining example of her own advice philosophy, which is that people can successfully overcome all kinds of obstacles, rise above them and inspire those around them to do so as well. She is very happily married to her second husband, and proves that love can be even better the second time around.

There's a wonderful book by psychologist Tami Kulbatski and Jeffrey Zeig called *Ten Commandments for Every Aspect of Your Relationship Journey*. In it, Kulbatski has a wonderful list of the Ten Commandments for Effective Communication for Couples.

Among other things, she talks about how to use clear self-expression, and my favourite one of all is: "Use a 5:1 ratio in communicating with your partner," which means for every one negative exchange, follow it up with at least five positive exchanges.

Ultimately, to find bliss in your relationship, you need to devote time to each other. According to Sarah Chana Radcliffe, author of *Raising Your Kids without Raising Your Voice*, it's important to make time for date nights alone once a week, without another couple, and to keep the spark alive and ignited, go away without the kids, go on mini-moons, honeymoons and spend time together.

And as American journalist and author Mignon McLaughlin once wrote: "A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person."

*Judy Siblin-Librach is an Adler-trained Life Coach. She can be reached at her website, www.findingyourbliss.com or you can watch her TV show* Finding Your Bliss, *Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. on Rogers TV cable, 10/63 in Toronto/ugh.*

# OBITUARIES
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| Dr. Isadore Tepperman | Jun 18/12 | 645 Castlefield Avenue |
| Cheryl Medoff | Jun 19/12 | 26 Vesta Drive |
| Malka Segal | Jun 19/12 | 1 Clark Avenue West |
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| Joel Kotzer | Jun 20/12 | 10 Humewood Drive |
| Marvin Starr | Jun 21/12 | 327 Richview Avenue |
| Burle Yolles | Jun 21/12 | 126 Crescent Road |
| Tillie Soberman | Jun 22/12 | 19 Flanders Road |
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**OCAD University Jewish student art-show organizers Julia Bernshtein, left, and Liat Shalom stand in front of Shalom's diptych of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, called *Atid Varod*, which translates from Hebrew to "a pink future." *[Michelle Bitran photo]***

# OCAD U student union holds art show

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Members of OCAD University's Jewish student union had a unique opportunity to display their artistic talents as part of an art show last month.

The exhibit, held on June 21 at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the University of Toronto, featured the work of 11 artists from various programs at the art school. Family, friends, art teachers and the artists enjoyed refreshments while checking out the artwork.

"I think the event is important just to raise awareness in the Jewish community that there is this great school," said Liat Shalom, the chair of the OCAD Jewish student union. Shalom, 26, added that, to her knowledge, there has been only one other exhibit like this one, and it was several years ago.

She explained that the show would not only offer Jewish students exposure for their artwork, but "that it would be a good experience for the students to bond as well."

The Jewish community at OCAD is not very large – Shalom estimates it at fewer than 50 students. But, she said with a laugh, she makes it her responsibility "to go out and try to find out where the Jewish students are hiding."

The artists she brought together for the show work in diverse art forms, including painting, photography and jewelry design. While not all the art had an overtly Jewish or Israeli theme, many pieces did deal with Jewish imagery.

A second-year graphic design student, Eitan Zohar, displayed an eye-catching piece called *Sheer veh Shomeah*, Hebrew for "song and listener," a colour laser print that formed the Hebrew letter *shin* from the shapes of a microphone and headphones.

In Shalom's own works, which she created this year as a Hillel and Julie M. Gallery Emerging Jewish Artist fellow, Israel plays an important role. The illustration and animation student's pieces included an Andy Warhol-inspired diptych of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as well as a watercolour painting of former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated in 1995.

Among the participating artists were two other Julie M. Gallery fellows, photographer Shlomi Amiga and painter Dov Smiley.

"I feel that for most of us, we focus on subjects that in some way or another relate to our religion or our culture – it's something you can't avoid," said Shalom, who was born in Israel.

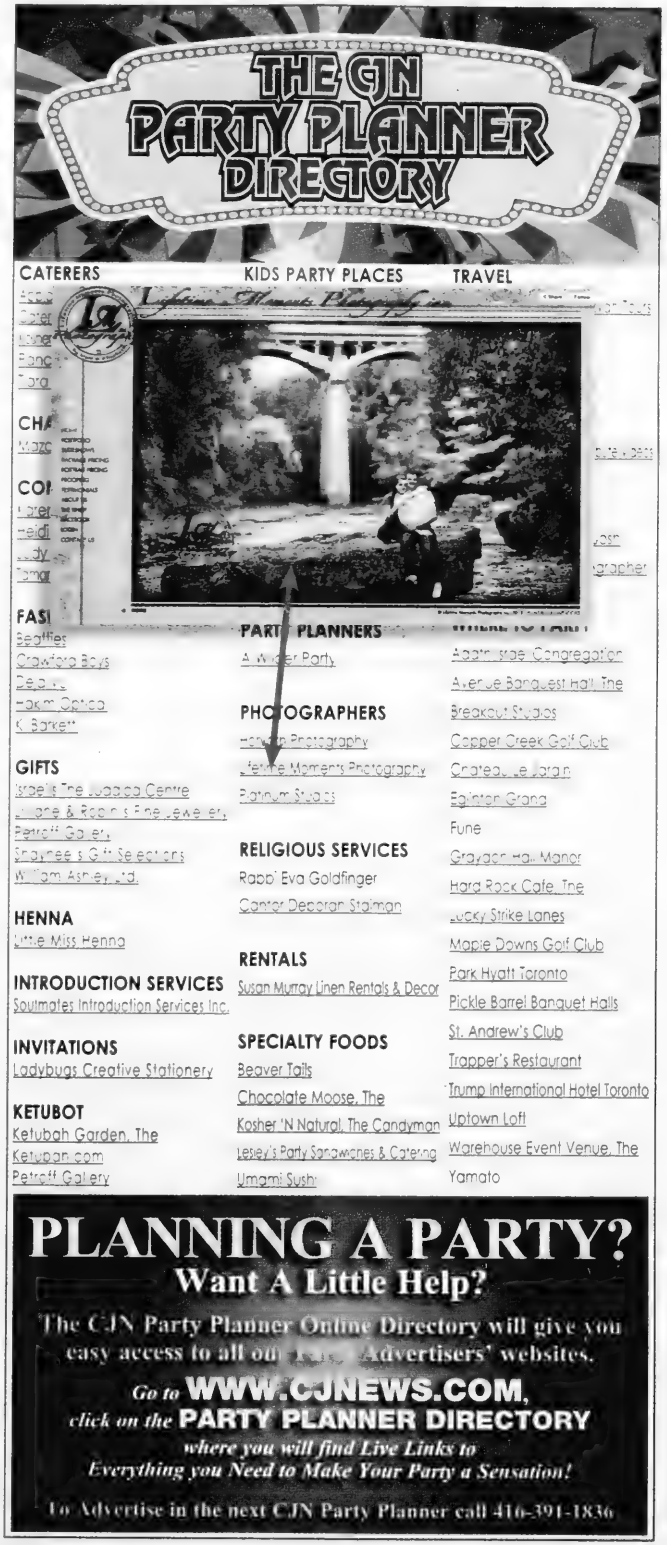
Despite the political figures that appear in her works, Shalom said her art is not meant to be political, but rather, is a result of her being affected by news from Israel while she was working on the pieces.

Julia Bernshtein, a 23-year-old environmental design student who helped organize the art show, agreed that Jewish and Israeli art doesn't have to be political. "We're talking about art here, not politics," she said.

Bernshtein, who is also Israeli, said that the exhibit will help people who are unfamiliar with Jewish artists see a different approach to art. "Judaism in general has a different mind frame and a different approach to a lot of things," she said.

Shalom said that she and Bernshtein made a point to invite many OCAD teachers to give them a chance to see "collectively, what Judaic art is."

For Bernshtein, the unique Jewish artistic attitude is centred on making works that stand out, something that certainly shone through in the exhibit. "We want to make something different, we want to make something unique."



# Economist predicts end of growth as we know it

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

Among economists – and politicians for that matter – "growth" is considered the gold standard for economic life. If you're a leader and your economy is not expanding, you can pretty much kiss your political career goodbye.

In the western world, most countries have experienced long-term growth, punctuated by periods of contraction, recession, stagnation and even depression. But these were states that were largely short term and were followed by periods of growth.

Not anymore, warns a prominent Canadian economist. Jeff Rubin, former chief economist and chief strategist for CIBC World Markets, is suggesting the model for growth long accepted in the west is out of date, made obsolete by high fossil fuel prices for as far as the eye can see.

Rubin believes all the "stimulus" being pumped into our economies by governments around the world can't substitute for cheap oil. Forget about growth in the five to 10 per cent range, he said; get used to one to three per cent at best.

Rubin recently put his thoughts on paper with the publication of *The End of Growth*, which follows his earlier bestseller, *Why Your World is About to Get a Whole Lot Smaller*.

While growth may be a thing of the past, he suggests there may be an upside to its demise: he's added a kicker to the book's title that asks: *But is That All Bad?*

With fossil fuels priced at more than $100 a barrel, consumption will inevitably come down, he predicts. And some countries, like Denmark and Japan, faced with high prices have adapted "quite successfully" to the no/slow growth environment.

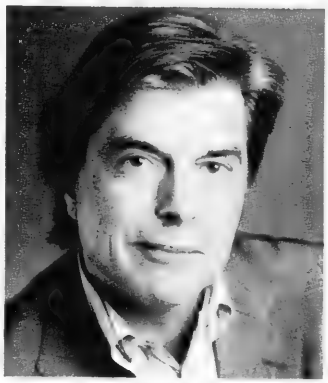
These two countries, neither of which boasts any substantial oil reserves of their own, are "ahead of the curve…I think we'll find ways to live with less fuel dependency," he said.

One result of perpetually high fuel prices in North America is likely to be a flight from the suburbs. People won't be willing to commute 50-60 miles per day because it just won't be affordable any more, he said.

Another impact of high fuel prices will be on the items Canadians import from Asia. "You won't buy steel and chicken wings from China," he said. "At a certain price, what you pay to move those chicken wings offsets the price advantage….The days of frozen lamb from New Zealand could be in the rear view mirror."

Other changes are sure to follow, he continued. "In the world we're going to with $2 a litre gasoline, only the affluent will drive," he said. Expect more highways to be subject to tolls, as taxpayers shy away from paying for new thoroughfares. That will reduce traffic and people will leave their cars and switch to mass transit, he predicted. Ultimately, that can only be good for the environment, he added.

Rubin said current experience shows that even near zero interest rates and huge



**Jeff Rubin**

deficits – the stimulus he spoke about – can't overcome the limiting effects of high fuel prices. These stimulus items "only lead to speculative bubbles."

Turning his gaze south, Rubin suggested Alberta oil producers are eager to get approval of the Keystone pipeline to bring its oil to the gulf, where it will fetch $20 more per barrel than it currently does where the pipeline now ends in Oklahoma.

One way or another – whether it's the Keystone pipeline or the Northern Gateway pipeline through British Columbia – a solution will be found to get Alberta oil to the world market and the higher prices that entails, he said.

But despite the vast quantities of oil in Alberta and in other locations, triple digit prices are here to stay, he continued.

As he turns his attention to the Middle East, Rubin's glass-half-empty approach did not vary. Despite sky-high prices, $100-plus oil prices are not a panacea for the Middle East, he said.

"Population growth in the Middle East is unsustainable" and with female education at low levels, economic growth will stagnate, he said.

"Israel is going to have a lot of hungry people at its borders," he said.

Looking at the gigantic natural gas fields that lie off Israel's coast and which the country has begun to develop, Rubin cautioned against "the probability that Israel and Turkey will be on a collision course for natural gas deposits."

So is the brave new world that awaits us all bad news?

Rubin offers some solutions: "Overall, we'll need to become much more nimble in our approach to employment," with several "gigs" substituting for one well-paying job, he writes.

"What we lose in stability, we could make up in variety and shorter workweeks. Job sharing could become a more common practice" and we "will all need to be open to the idea of change."

Ultimately, however, we'll have to make do with "less stuff" "but "we'll also have more time to enjoy our lives," he states.

# *Israel a 'tech miracle': Google chair*

**Lior Kodner**
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

**TEL AVIV** — Google chair Eric Schmidt recently praised Israel's engineers, and said the company's development centres there are among the company's most efficient.

Speaking at a conference called "Big Tent," Schmidt said the quality of Israel's engineers is very high, not least due to the country's universities and the training acquired in the army. He also praised local salespeople as among the best in the world, saying they continue to contribute to the company's profits.

"We love Israel," Schmidt said, drawing applause from the crowd.

Schmidt said that Israel has a good education system and great universities, but added it needs to strengthen them further.

Schmidt said Google is constantly expanding its development centres in Israel.

He also touched on the company's recent departure from China. "We thought there would be popular demand to stop censorship," he said, adding that instead, the censorship only became more severe. "China started to censor more because

**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, meets with Eric Schmidt, chair of Google, in Jerusalem last week.** ***[Flash90 photo]***

she could do it," he said. "That's why we left China and started to focus on Hong Kong."

"Google is anti-censorship," Schmidt said. "As a user, you have the right to get all the information there is; in the long run, countries that block information are less competitive."

Speaking about the Arab Spring, Schmidt said "the dictators of the Arab world were censoring everything except for the Internet; they were too old and didn't know about [it]." He added that it was not the tech companies that carried out the Arab Spring, but rather people who used technology "to revolt against the dictators."

"If the government shuts down the Internet, it's a sign that the government is scared," he said.

Schmidt also spoke about innovation, saying, "If you don't try, you don't know – we tried, I and you don't even remember the names of the products that failed – that's the secret of innovation."

Asked by *Haaretz* if Google intends to buy a newspaper or expand its content production, Schmidt answered: "We considered many times buying a newspaper, but we decided not to, producing content is difficult; we prefer linking to the content that you are doing." "People should not be afraid of technology," Schmidt concluded. "The future is just starting."

In other developments, one of Google's main rivals, Facebook, announced it was buying Face.com, the Israeli company that provides facial-recognition technology, for an estimated sum of between $80 million and $100 million U.S.

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## No drug addicts among 'Zionists,' Iranian VP says

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**TEHRAN** — The United Nations issued a statement saying Secretary General Ban Ki-moon once again urged Iranian officials to refrain from antisemitic statements in response to remarks at a global drug enforcement conference in Tehran by Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi that seemed unusually vitriolic and inflammatory to western delegates.

"He believes it is the responsibility of leaders to promote harmony and understanding, and he deeply regrets expressions of hatred and religious intolerance," Ban's statement said.

Speaking last week, Rahimi said the Talmud, or canon of Jewish religious law, "teaches them how to destroy non-Jews so as to protect an embryo in the womb of a Jewish mother," according to excerpts published by the Fars news agency.

Mohammed Reza Rahimi

He accused "Zionists," a term the Iranian government usually applies to Israelis and their Jewish supporters abroad, of inciting drug trafficking. "You cannot find a single addict among the Zionists," Rahimi said.

Widely assumed to have the Middle East's only nuclear arsenal, Israel has hinted at pre-emptive war to prevent its arch-enemy from getting the atom bomb. Iran denies having any such designs, though its often secretive nuclear program has stoked foreign suspicion and drawn increasingly tough sanctions.

A western diplomat who was at the conference said Rahimi's 10-minute address left him "really shocked and surprised.

"We've heard speeches like this before, but this was so much worse than the usual rhetoric. This wasn't about drugs. It seems the Iranians want to create an issue and are deliberately looking to stir things up," the diplomat told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

The *New York Times*, which covered the conference marking a UN-sponsored International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, further quoted Rahimi as saying Zionists ordered gynecologists to kill black babies and that the Russian Revolution of 1917 was started by Jews – although none, he was also quoted as saying, died in it.

The speech, at which at least 10 western diplomats were present, drew furious condemnation from Israel, which has been angered in the past by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's description of the Nazi Holocaust as a lie.

Alun Jones, spokesperson for the Vienna-based UN Office on Drugs and Crime, said UNODC attended the Tehran conference as well as related events across the world as required by the UN General Assembly, and that it could not anticipate what the Iranian hosts would say.

Jones added: "The drug trade is motivated by business and profit, not by ideological considerations, and also drug addiction is a health challenge which affects all people, of all kinds, of all race, of all creed, and it is a health challenge that affects people in the same way."

A third round of nuclear talks between world powers and Iran three weeks ago failed to resolve the stalemate. With that process seemingly close to death's door, Israel renewed veiled threats of military action against Iranian nuclear production sites, which it deems a mortal threat.

"The fact UN representatives and European delegates still attend conferences in Tehran, at which the worst kind of antisemitism is sounded, lends legitimacy to the Iranian ayatollah regime," Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said.

Iran's government, he said in a statement, is "made up not of madmen but of fanatical, antisemitic people with an agenda, who have a detailed global plan including, as they say openly and forthrightly, the destruction of the State of Israel."

Lieberman likened Iran to Hitler's Germany but said that post-Holocaust Israel would "not allow any Jew to be harmed."

He said the failure by the international community to curb the Islamic Republic's nuclear work would be "a sure recipe for disaster and a threat to world peace."

Israel reacted to the latest fruitless nuclear talks between six world powers and Iran with a well-seasoned message – sanctions must be intensified while the clocks ticks down toward possible military action.

A high-ranking Iranian general then warned that any Israeli military strikes on Iran's nuclear program would bring about the collapse of the Jewish state.

No further negotiations were planned after the June 18-19 round of talks in Moscow, and the European Union was to launch a total embargo of Iranian oil exports on July 1.

## Three arrested for Yad Vashem vandalism

JTA

**JERUSALEM** — Three haredi men were arrested for allegedly spray-painting antisemitic and anti-Israel graffiti on the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum in Jerusalem.

The men, aged 18, 26 and 27, of Jerusalem and Bnei Brak and reportedly of the Neturei Karta group, were arrested June 26, and reportedly admitted committing the vandalism earlier this month. They are also suspected of being connected to vandalism attacks at Ammunition Hill on Memorial Day and on memorials in the Jordan Valley.

The slogans, written in Hebrew, included "Hitler, thank you for the Holocaust," "If Hitler did not exist, the Zionists would have invented him," and "The war of the Zionist regime is not the war of the Jewish people."

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev praised the quick and effective work of the police.

"I believe that it was important to know the identities of those who spray-painted the graffiti. The suspects are extremist ultra-Orthodox Jews, anti-Zionists, who are on the fringes of society, and do not represent the majority who respect the memory of the Holocaust," Shalev said. "Numerous reactions that we received from Israel and around the world, expressing condemnation and repugnance of the graffiti testify that this warped action offended many, and I hope that the court will mete out justice to the criminals."

The Neturei Karta is a group of Orthodox Jews that rejects Zionism and the establishment of the State of Israel, believing that a legitimate Israel can only be re-established with the coming of the Messiah.

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# Jewish groups react to U.S. health-care ruling

ITA

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Supreme Court voted to uphold President Barack Obama's landmark Affordable Care Act in a 5-4 vote, with Chief Justice John Roberts voting in the majority.

The court upheld the most controversial provision of the law that required all American citizens to purchase health insurance or face a tax penalty. The court struck a provision that forced states to expand their Medicaid programs in order to cover health insurance for poverty-stricken individuals.

Jewish organizations generally praised the decision, while the Republican Jewish Coalition said it was "deeply disappointed."

Rabbi Julie Schonfeld, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly, an international association of Conservative rabbis, praised the decision, saying, "All people deserve access to affordable and equitable health-care coverage, and we join other people of faith in their staunch desire for a U.S. health-care system that offers health, wholeness and human dignity for all," she said.

"The president's vision is consistent with Jewish tradition, which is unambiguous about the requirement of a just and decent society to provide a basic level of health care," Schonfeld added.

Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, said he was "elated" with the ruling.

Reform congregations, he said, have been "at the forefront of advocacy on behalf of health-insurance reform in their states and at the national level." He cited Maimonides, noting that the medieval scholar "placed health care first on his list of the 10 most important communal services that a city should offer its residents."

Hadassah said the ruling was "affirming our commitment to ensuring that all Americans have access to quality affordable health care." The women's group had signed an amicus brief supporting the Affordable Care Act.

The ruling was a "huge victory for women and families across the country," National Council of Jewish Women CEO Nancy Kaufman said in a statement.

"The court's ruling means insurance companies may not charge women higher premiums than men," she said in her statement. "It means a wide range of preventive services important to women will be provided without co-pays or other out-of-pocket expenses, including mammograms, Pap tests, a wide range of prenatal screenings, well-woman visits, the full range of FDA-approved contraceptives, lactation consultations and supplies, and domestic violence screenings."

**Rabbi Julie Schonfeld**
***[Photo courtesy of JCSA]***

National Democratic Jewish Council president and CEO David Harris and chair Marc Stanley released a joint statement saying the group was "deeply gratified by today's ruling.

"We are thankful that the court affirmed the core constitutionality of this landmark legislation that will bring health care to tens of millions more Americans," they wrote.

In a statement praising the ruling, Alan van Capelle, CEO of Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice, offered a personal remembrance of when he was a child and his father lost his job, "and my family was afraid we might not be able to afford health insurance.

"Today's ruling means that millions of families will never again have to endure this kind of fear," van Capelle wrote.

Rabbis for Human Rights-North America also applauded the decision in a statement, emphasizing that "it is our moral duty to provide health care for all.

"We are proud that the United States has taken a major step toward guaranteeing health care for all," RHR-NA said in its statement. "We applaud President Obama, the U.S. Congress and the Supreme Court for moving us significantly closer to this ideal of guaranteeing health care for all Americans."

Republican Jewish Coalition executive director Matt Brooks in offering his disappointment on the ruling said in a statement, "The serious negative effects this law will have on the economy, on jobs, on medical research and development, and on the quality of health care in America, are very troubling."

The Orthodox Union told *The CJN* that it did not comment on the ruling.

*– With files from Ha'aretz*

# *Countries will share knowledge*

**Continued from page 1**

Asked if Canada is seen as a preferred energy partner by Israel because of its longstanding support for the Jewish state, Oliver said while the Israelis are "deeply appreciative" of their Canadian ally, this is about business.

"My focus was looking at ways that could profit both countries," he said, noting that this trip was a direct result of Netanyahu's visit to Ottawa last May.

At the time, Oliver said, the Israeli prime minister told the government that the only thing Canada and Israel, as friends, could do more of was to create business opportunities.

Netanyahu, he said, wants to see Canadian-Israeli business in the energy sector make advances.

Now that Israel has found "very significant" offshore gas and onshore oil shale, Canada could leverage its years of experience in energy production and extraction technologies to deepen economic ties, Oliver said.

Various Canadian energy sector companies are already in Israel helping the country navigate its hoped-for energy boom, he said.

Another important part of the new agreement says it will see Israel and Canada strive to "reduce environmental impacts and improve practices for the responsible development and use of new sources of oil and gas supplies."

Oliver said this had implications for the science and technology sectors in both countries, which will help develop better "clean" and "green" technology for use in the energy sector.

The countries will also share knowledge and "lessons learned" during the development of their respective energy sectors on a regular basis. Details of how this would be done have not yet been worked out.

**Joe Oliver meets with Oren Gadot, CEO of HelioFocus, a solar thermal technology company, in Israel last week.**

Oliver said the existing Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA), which came into force in 1997, might end up being expanded as a result of the new agreement on energy between the countries.

He said CIFTA could be "deepened on the service side. There's a potential to make it more comprehensive and robust."

According to Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, CIFTA initially was designed to eliminate tariffs on all industrial products manufactured in Canada and Israel as well as a limited number of agricultural and fisheries products. By 2003, it was expanded to include tariff preferences on "agricultural, agri-food and fish goods."

As of 2010, bilateral merchandise trade has risen from $507.3 million in 1996 to $1.4 billion in 2010, an increase of 177 per cent.

Main exports from Canada include precious stones, paper and newsprint, machinery, electrical and electronic machinery, salt and sulphur. Imports from Israel include pharmaceutical products, electrical and electronic machinery, precious stones, scientific and precision instruments and machinery.

Currently, CIFTA doesn't have "substantive provisions in areas such as services, investment and government procurement, nor does it have parallel agreements on labour co-operation or the environment," according to Natural Resources Canada.

"It makes sense to make CIFTA more comprehensive because we want to increase our commercial relationship with Israel," Oliver said. "When Israelis think of Canada now, they can think of a good place to invest."

Canada also stands to gain more recognition as a world leader in energy management and innovation through this new agreement, Oliver said.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) commended Oliver on his mission.

"This agreement provides an opportunity to leverage Canadian expertise for the goal of Israeli energy independence. For Canada, it offers greater access to a burgeoning marketplace of both customers and innovators – both crucial for creating Canadian jobs in a fragile global economy," David Koschitzky, CIJA's chair, said in a statement.

# Two states now, peace later

**Arie Raif**

Too many Israelis have given up on resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They simply write it off as a Gordian knot that will forever bedevil the region. They seem reconciled to the status quo, without concern of how it's weakening Israel internally and internationally.

Israel can't afford the luxury of sitting back, hoping the Palestinians will one day become an acquiescent partner in the pursuit of peace. In the absence of any pragmatic initiative, time is not working in Israel's favour.

Despite a situation that often seems bereft of hope, despite an absence of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, despite seemingly irreconcilable demands by both sides, the current stalemate can be overcome – provided Israel is ready to make a significant, long overdue move. Of course, it won't be easy.

"It's doable," Israeli President Shimon Peres said recently. "But if we put it off, we will roll backward instead of advancing. People understand that another war will not help. Its price will be high and its outcome low."

To claim there's no solution is ludicrous and self-defeating. It's also a self-fulfilling prophesy with no lack of right-wing pessimists ready, if not eager, to see it that way.

An interim agreement with the Palestinians is attainable by a division of land now and actual peace later, perhaps much later. It's not only possible but imperative.

Sadly, it's only after a catastrophe that Israel seems able to make painful but necessary concessions.

*Guest Voice*

The way forward has been evident for years now. Israel must reach an agreement with the Palestinians on two states for two peoples, if this conflict is ever to end and Israel is not to recede further into a cataclysmic morass. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu must rise to the occasion and demonstrate political courage and leadership he's not yet shown. He must remove settlements, withdraw from most of the territories and make concessions over Jerusalem.

**Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, left, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington in 2010** *(Israel Sun photo)*

Can he do it? The answer is yes, because he now has a huge governing majority and he's well acquainted with the "catastrophe law."

Too often in the past, only after catastrophes did Israeli governments make painful concessions for peace. Israel reached agreement with Egypt only after the Yom Kippur War, even though Egyptian president Anwar Sadat had offered prime minister Golda Meir a similar deal eight months before war erupted in 1973. The cost to Israel: 2,700 killed and a bitter taste of failure.

In 1993, prime minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to shake Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat's hand and sign the Oslo accords only after the first intifadah.

In 2000, prime minister Ehud Barak withdrew Israeli troops from Lebanon 18 years after the 1982 Lebanon War that was supposed to last only 48 hours. The cost to Israel: 1,200 killed and a bitter taste of failure.

In 2005, prime minister Ariel Sharon withdrew Israelis from the Gaza Strip following the second intifadah.

Unmistakably, an interim Israeli-Palestinian agreement requires Netanyahu to compromise on some of his bedrock "principles." He has no choice if he wants to make peace now rather than waiting until after a catastrophe and paying more.

First, he should yield on his precondition that the Palestinians recognize Israel as a Jewish state. Do we really need their recognition? No.

Second, Netanyahu's refusal to grant the Palestinians sovereignty over five square kilometres in Jerusalem (including Temple Mount) is an unnecessary obstacle that will be regretted later.

Third, Netanyahu must overcome his resistance to evacuating settlements and reach an agreement on borders and land swaps. Without it, nobody knows which settlements will be annexed and therefore entitled to construction permits and public funds. How can the Palestinians sign an agreement with Israel without knowing where one state ends and the other begins?

Instead of bargaining with Washington about a partial, temporary construction freeze in the settlements, why not transfer to the Palestinians the settlement areas in northern Samaria that Israel evacuated as part of the disengagement plan?

Why not transfer to the Palestinians some of Area C that Israel is keeping for expanding the settlements? Forget the Gaza evacuation as an argument against withdrawal. PA President Mahmoud Abbas is not Hamas. Sharon executed the Gaza withdrawal without any agreement with the Palestinians. It served Israel's and Sharon's interests to leave the problematic territory. A master of deception, Sharon knew he needed to show "progress to Washington and improve Israel's image in world opinion. As former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger once said: Israel does not have a foreign policy, but rather a domestic policy.

It's worth remembering what Sharon told a meeting of Likud leaders, including Netanyahu, in May 2003. "Controlling 3.5 million Palestinians cannot go on forever… You might not like the word but what's happening is occupation. It's bad for Israel, bad for the Palestinians and bad for the Israeli economy."

Expanding settlements can't be reconciled with a two-state solution, which Netanyahu promised to advance. You can't justify occupation or military operations. It always looks bad, and even good public relations is pointless. War is dirty and so is the media war. You can't polish dirt. If you try, you'll only end up with dirty hands.

The United Nations will eventually recognize a Palestinian state, defined by the 1967 borders. Israel will call it "regrettable" but will eventually negotiate to prevent another catastrophe.

*Arie Raif is vice-chairman of the Canadian Peres Center For Peace.*

## Israel Briefs

***Social protests become violent***

Social protests in Tel Aviv turned violent as demonstrators shattered windows and attempted to break into banks. Some 2,000 people gathered on June 23 in Habima Square protesting against socio-economic inequality as well as police violence. Eighty-five people were arrested, *Ha'aretz* reported. Though the police urged the indictment of some 37 of the demonstrators, the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court ordered the release of all the protesters, since none of them had a police record. The demonstration spread to banks in Tel Aviv as well as city hall. Windows were smashed in at least five bank branches, according to reports. The protesters also blocked main thoroughfares in the centre of the city. Some 24 hours earlier, 12 activists were arrested in social protests in Tel Aviv, including Daphni Leef, a high-profile activist leader.

***PA columnist: Jews 'Allah's enemies'***

Sheikh Taleb Al-Silwadi, a religious affairs columnist for the official Palestinian Authority (PA) daily publication, recently wrote that Jews and Israelis are "Allah's enemies," Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) reported. The "children of Zion," Al-Silwadi wrote in his weekly column, "kill, behave violently, spill blood and desecrate sacred things." According to PMW, Al Silwadi's writing follows a pattern of demonizing both Jews and Israel in the PA publication's religious section.

***Hamas commander convicted***

Former Hamas military commander Ibrahim Hamed was convicted of murdering 46 Israelis, *Israel Hayom* reported. Hamed, who was found guilty in a Judea military court, was involved in bombings at Moment Café in Jerusalem and the Pi Gilot fuel terminal, as well as at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Hillel Café and Zion Square. Israel refused to release Hamed in the exchange of 1,027 Palestinian prisoners for captive Gilad Schalit because he planned all these attacks after he was released from prison in 2001.

***More illegal migrants expelled***

Migrant workers from the Ivory Coast were given two weeks to leave Israel before they are arrested and deported, Israel's Interior Minister Eli Yishai said last week. Migrants who choose to leave voluntarily will receive $500 per adult and $100 per child, according to a ministry statement, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. There are up to 65,000 African migrants in the country, with those from the Ivory Coast numbering from a few hundred to about 2,000, according to the newspaper. Earlier last week, 150 South Sudanese migrants were deported from Israel.

*–JTA and JNS.org*

# Top Israeli hotels offer late-summer deals

By Steve Walz
Special to The CJN

Despite the scourge of on-again, off-again missile attacks from Gaza on the Ashkelon and Sderot regions, the terror chieftains have failed to make a dent in Israel's tourist industry, which has remained resilient throughout 2012. In fact, Israel's ministry of tourism is predicting a record-breaking year for incoming tourism that could eclipse 2010, when 3.3 million visitors entered the Jewish state.

The increased growth in tourism has created some unique challenges within the local tourism industry. During the past year, Israeli hotel managers have discovered that legions of upscale tourists are now booking their reservations much closer to their arrival dates than in the past.

"Globe-trotting customers want quick check-ins, fabulous food, Wi-Fi capability, immaculate rooms and friendly service," said Bruno DeSchuyter, general manager of the five-star Inbal Jerusalem Hotel.

"Jerusalem is still a prime destination for American tourists, and the landscape in and around our facility is an attraction as well. However, we endeavour to always be prepared to handle large numbers of last-minute bookings, while maintaining high standards of personalized services... In the Internet and smartphone age, it has become tougher to forecast what is required, so we always make sure that our staff is ready to meet any challenge," DeSchuyter continued.

"And most importantly, as more and more people are booking their reservations direct via their laptops and smartphones, we are constantly featuring special deals on our website. The fact that the readers of Condé Nast Traveler magazine selected our hotel to be placed on the 'Gold List' of elite hotels around the world, means we have absolutely succeeded in adapting to the changing needs of upscale tourists."

Rafi Beeri, the Dan Hotels' vice-president of marketing and sales, reported that American tourists are searching for both premium hospitality, as well as a myriad of travel experiences. "Jerusalem is still a prime focal point for American tourists, especially during the summer months, when many families look to celebrate bar mitzvahs at the Western Wall etc. But more and more couples and families are booking reservations in places other than Jerusalem and Tel Aviv," Beeri said.

"American tourists are booking reservations in what I would call high-quality, off-the-beaten track hotels in Herzliya [Dan Accadia], Caesarea [Dan Caesarea] and Haifa [Dan Carmel]. In fact, the Dan Carmel is well on its way towards becoming the King David Hotel of northern Israel, as we have completely renovated the hotel from top to bottom and transformed it into a luxury facility. The Dan Carmel also provides tourists with easy access to various attractions in metro Haifa and the Galilee region."

Royal Rimonim Dead Sea Club

Beeri said that American tourists come to Israel in search of something more than being greeted by a bowl of fruit in their rooms. "Both Americans and global travellers in general are looking for the quality hotels to create a 'wow' effect. This does not have to mean that hotel managers must add another apple to the fruit bowl in their room, but rather personalized services, fast connectivity via Wi-Fi, true hospitality and yes, colourful displays of delicious food in the dining room and restaurant.

"With many Americans, having a good time is not just defined by the physical amenities, either. It could also encompass who is sitting next to you in the dining room or out by the pool, where you can engage in pleasant conversation and shared experiences."

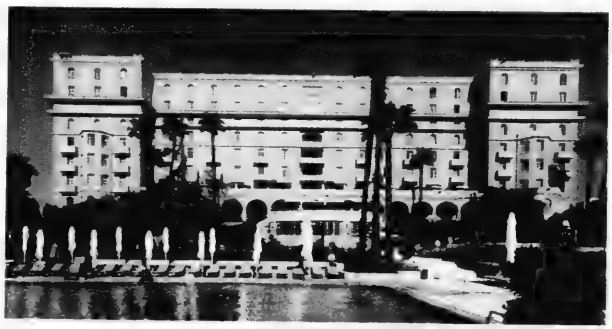
Even though the calendar says July, there are still a variety of summer deals available at many of the top hotels in Israel. Following is a listing of some of hotels that offer packages for couples and families.

**Rimonim Hotels, http: English.rimonim.com**

The Royal Rimonim Dead Sea recently opened its plush Royal Lounge. The lounge is situated one floor above the lobby and boasts panoramic views from a large terrace overlooking the Dead Sea. The lounge offers private breakfast and dinner, as well as light snacks and drinks throughout the day. Wine, soft drinks and hot beverages are served throughout the day and during dinner. Children are allowed to enter the lounge during meals when accompanied by their parents. The use of the lounge is offered to guests staying in the hotel's Royal and Deluxe suites. Guests staying in the hotel's Panorama rooms, Deluxe rooms and Family rooms may purchase a VIP package, which includes use of the Royal Lounge and the hotel's private VIP Spa.

**Inbal Jerusalem Hotel, www.inbalhotel.com**

You can book a number of summer packages via the hotel's website. July rates begin from $160 per person in a double room, based on a minimum three-night stay, while August rates vary from $160 per person in a double room based on a minimum five-night stay. There are also a variety of enticing bar/bat mitzvah packages for the entire family. In August, the hotel's popular Kid's Club will feature a supervised multimedia game room and a host of round-the-clock activities. The hotel's renowned Sofia Restaurant serves up a variety of fish and pasta dishes, as well as an assortment of unique summer dessert delicacies, prepared by executive chef Moti Buchbut.



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# Hotel helps make a visit to Jerusalem dreamlike

Mordechai Ben-Dat
Editor

The view from the 9th floor balcony patio of the Carmel Executive Lounge at the Dan Panorama Hotel in Jerusalem is exhilarating. It stirs the imagination. It calms the soul.

The hills and promontories outside the balcony roll south and west to the many-peopled rising heights of Judea and to the red and orange sunset that quickly fills the sky and then just as quickly disappears toward tomorrow. To the north, one looks up Keren Hayesod Street to the heart of Jerusalem's downtown core. In all, it is a wonderful sight especially when viewed while sipping a restorative cappuccino and snacking on light refreshments in the extreme comfort of the lounge. I can attest to the supreme delight of the experience as I was recently a guest at the Dan Panorama Hotel in Jerusalem and was able to relax in the lounge throughout my stay.

But relaxing was not restricted to the executive lounge. Relaxation and a sense of calm repose were the chief consequences in general of the amenities, services and helpful devotion to detail by the friendly hotel staff for the duration of my visit there.

So often in Israel, the hotel lobby is the reunion site for the urgent but tender embrace of relatives and friends who are seeing each other after long gaps in time, if not for the first time. The Dan Panorama Jerusalem's lobby is a perfect reunion site. Recently renovated, it is a warm, softly lit, WIFI accessible, wood-paneled welcoming area, with sufficient numbers of distinct configurations of chairs, sofas and tables that allow for private discussions, effusive or discrete exchanges of emotions or simply the quiet space in which to remove one's shoes after a long day of walking and exploring. The hotel bar, similarly appointed in soft light and dark tones of colour, is adjacent to the lobby and offers an additional refuge.

Dan Panorama Jerusalem Lobby

Part of the storied Israeli luxury hotel chain, the Dan Panorama Jerusalem, hews to the high standards for which the chain's 14 Israeli hotels are renowned. The hotel's famous Israeli breakfast is a cornucopia of morning delectables that encompasses an inexhaustible range of salads, cheeses, fishes, cereals and the oh-so-very-delicious offerings of different kinds of breads. Breakfast at the hotel was an activity in itself to be experienced, savoured and remembered. Should they choose, guests can rest and "recover" from the incomparable breakfast experience by stretching out on the rooftop pool. Alternatively should they wish to prepare for the next day's breakfast extravaganza, guests can exercise in the hotel's exercise room. In addition to the welcoming atmosphere of the hotel and its crowning achievement as a comfortable place of lodging, its central location sets it far above many other hotels in the city. Its location is ideal.

In all directions, the hotel is within easy walking distance of so many of the iconic historic, cultural and national sites of Jerusalem. East and a tad north, a short walk past the famous YMCA and the Dan's flagship King David Hotel, a guest can stroll to the new Mamilla promenade and the Jaffa Gate of the Old City. Heading south from the front door of the hotel, a guest can walk to the storied neighbourhood of Yemin Moshe, to see the Montefiore windmill and the artists' Mishkenot Sha'ananim. From there the walk leads past the Menachem Begin Heritage Museum, and with a short jog west to the German Colony and the trendy district of Emek Refa'im. Alternatively, the hotel guest can choose to walk north from the hotel along Keren Hayesod to the busy pedestrian mall on Ben Yehuda Street. In a very real sense, the hotel is a hub in all directions.

A stay at the Dan Panorama helps fulfil and make dreamlike a visitor's tour of Jerusalem, whether it is the first visit or the 1,000th.

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# EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

## NEW GENESIS PRIZE, THE "JEWISH NOBEL PRIZE," IS WORTH $1 MILLION

Described as "a Jewish Nobel Prize," a new international award has been established that will be given to Jews who gain global recognition for their exceptional achievements in the arts and sciences, the sponsoring agency of the prize announced last week.

The Genesis Prize is being financed by the Genesis Philanthropy Group, which also funds the Taglit-Birthright Israel program and other initiatives in support of Jewish identity worldwide. Genesis founder **Mikhail Fridman** announced the prize last week in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** and Jewish Agency chairman **Natan Sharansky**.

Netanyahu will award the first prize at an annual ceremony close to Passover. "The prize symbolizes Jews' great contribution in human development and will be a source of pride for young Jews around the world," he said. Sharansky is to head the prize selection committee, which will consist of retired judges, community leaders from the Diaspora, and representatives from the Prime Minister's Office and the Genesis Philanthropy Group.

"The Genesis Prize emphasizes the contribution of the Jews to world history," Fridman said, adding that it reflects "the Jewish People's natural aspiration to improve the world and to its desire to pass its moral values on to coming generations."

* * *

**John Hirsch Subject of Play:** *Hirsch*, a new one-man show about the life of Canadian theatre legend and former Stratford Festival artistic director **John Hirsch**, is now in previews and opens July 12 at Stratford's Studio Theatre.

The play was conceived of by actor **Alon Nashman**, who performs it under the direction of **Paul Thompson**. It presents Hirsch as a trailblazing artist and unique personality whose mark on the world of Canadian theatre endures to this day. Hirsch was also the subject of the recent book *A Fiery Soul: The Life and Theatrical Times of John Hirsch*, by **Fraidie Martz** and **Andrew Wilson**, which won a 2011 Canadian Jewish Book Award.

The Hungarian-born Hirsch arrived as a Holocaust refugee in Winnipeg in 1947 and subsequently went on to found the Manitoba Theatre Centre. He became head of drama at CBC and served stints as both associate director and artistic director at Stratford. The play chronicles his life from his childhood in prewar Hungary to his premature death in 1989. www.stratfordshakespearefestival.com

* * *

**Mini Theatre Review:** In the summer of 1936, playwrights **Moss Hart** and **George S. Kaufman** bashed out a new play, *You Can't Take It With You*, in less than a month. Focusing on the eccentric but blissfully happy Sycamore family, the play's point, as Kaufman once commented, was simply "that the way to live and be happy is just to go ahead and live, and not pay attention to the world." The play enjoyed a long and successful run, and won the 1937 Pulitzer Prize for drama.

Soulpepper's impressive recent production of *You Can't Take It With You* seemed to reproduce this pleasing period piece in its true comic spirit, with little of the ominous big-business-is-evil overtones that crept into **Frank Capra**'s 1938 film (starring **James Stewart**, **Jean Arthur** and **Lionel Barrymore**). Many critics contend that *You Can't Take It With You*, which was Moss and Kaufman's third and most effortless collaboration, set the tone for modern American comedy and even television sitcoms, with its quick one-liners and set-up situations rooted in character and real feelings.

Soulpepper presents four more outstanding classics in its summer season: **David Mamet**'s *Speed-the-Plow*, **Neil Simon**'s *The Sunshine Boys*, **Mikhail Bulgakov**'s *The Royal Comedians* (Molière), and **Arthur Miller**'s *The Crucible*. www.soulpepper.ca

* * *

**Seeking Jedwabne Photographs: Barbara Kirshenblatt Gimblett**, the former Torontonian who is the program director of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, says the museum has an "urgent need" for photographs of Jews in Jedwabne from before the Holocaust. "We would be enormously grateful if anyone with any such photographs would allow us to make copies for the exhibition." Contact Kirshenblatt Gimblett at brayndl@gmail.com or www.jewishmuseum.org.pl.

* * *

**Graphic Novels:** Explore the Jewish relationship to the graphic novel, from the superhero comics to modern innovations in graphic storytelling such as *Maus* and *The Rabbi's Cat*. A new series, titled People of the Comic Book: Jews and the Graphic Novel, with **Keith Friedlander**, begins July 19 with a history of Jewish contribution to comics. $45 for the series or $12 drop-in; students $6. Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, July 19 to Aug. 9, Thursdays 6:30 to 8 p.m. Registration, 416-924-6211, ext. 0.

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

- **Fern Lindzon Trio** performs at the Cherry Street Restaurant, 275 Cherry St. Thursday, July 5, 8 to 10 p.m. Cover $10. 416-461-5111.
- *Toronto Transformed*, a series of retouched black-and-white photographs by **Harry Enchin**, shows evocative scenes of old Toronto overlaid with elements in colour from the same street scenes in more modern times. The exhibit is on view at Booth 45, Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Nathan Phillips Square, July 6 to 8. www.torontomomentsintime.ca
- **Morris Panych** is director of the new Canadian musical *Wanderlust*, featuring the poems of **Robert Service**, the famous "bard of the Yukon." The 15-person musical is now in performance at the Tom Patterson Theatre of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. www.stratfordshakespearefestival.com

# For Mexican filmmaker, art imitates life in *The Prize*

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

As Mexican filmmaker Paula Markovitch can attest, childhood experiences can linger on for years and insinuate themselves into your soul.

In her debut feature film, *The Prize*, which screened at the recent Toronto Jewish Film Festival, Markovitch drew on her past for inspiration.

"It is a film about memory," she said. "Not about the facts that happened, but as I remember them."

*The Prize* is set in Argentina – where she was born – in the 1970s. The military, having staged a coup d'etat, launched a violent campaign to rid the country of left-wing dissidents.

During the Dirty War epoch (1976-83), Argentina was under siege as people disappeared, never to be seen again. There was fear in the air as the rule of law fell by the wayside.

Amid this uncertainty, Lucie Adelstein, a dissenter, and her seven-year-old daughter, Cecelia, flee Buenos Aires for a life of self-imposed exile in a remote corner of Argentina.

They live in a simple cabin on the sand dunes of a desolate stretch of beach facing a raw sea. "We're here because they want to find us," says Lucie.

Lucie, played by Laura Agorreca, keeps a low profile, rarely venturing from the safety of the beach. She is so fearful of being arrested that she instructs Cecelia (Paula Galinelli Hertzog) to lie, to tell schoolmates that her mother is a housekeeper and that her father is a curtain salesman.

Lucie's efforts to conceal their identity seem threatened when Cecelia wins the first prize in an essay contest sponsored by the Argentine army. In her essay, Cecelia writes that soldiers killed her older cousin, a tipoff that may imperil their lives.

*The Prize* is based on real incidents, said Markovitch, 44, who settled in Mexico when she was 22.

"We lived on the beach," she said. "But not only my mother and me. My father lived with us. The absence of my father in the film makes it more appealing."

Markovitch's parents were artists and socialists who moved in intellectual circles and opposed the junta.

**Paula Markovitch**

During this grim era, when human rights were regularly flouted by the regime, virtually anyone with ideals and convictions could be kidnapped, tortured and murdered, she observed.

"We all lived in fear," said Markovitch, "Not only political activists. Everyone. No one was exempt. The entire society was affected."

Markovitch, whose grandparents were Polish Jews from Warsaw who arrived in Argentina after World War I, emigrated after the restoration of democracy. "I left for personal reasons, without my family, after the dictatorship ended."

Starting in the mid-1990s, she began writing scripts for Mexican films and television shows. "I have been a writer since I was a child. My fascination with film comes from literature."

Markovitch made two short films before making *The Prize*.

Much to her satisfaction, it has been accepted at a succession of movie festivals, including the Jerusalem Film Festival, and has been positively received by critics and audiences alike.

But *The Prize* is not the first film about the subject of the Dirty War.

"There have been many films about that period," she said, noting that when a crime is committed and pain is inflicted, filmmakers gravitate toward that topic.

# *Rabbi takes musical to Off-Broadway*

**Janice Arnold**
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — Rabbi Pinny Gniwisch has seen the abject poverty and violence of Brazil's cities first hand. As a Chabad rabbi, he has travelled to Rio de Janeiro where millions live in shantytowns that teem with homeless children, exploited and sometimes callously murdered.

The father of six always felt helpless.

Never did he imagine that he might one day be able to do something to bring the plight of these people to wider attention, nor that he would be cast in the role of theatrical producer – on Broadway, or, at least, very close to it.

Rabbi Gniwisch is the producer of *Rio*, a new musical play written by Montrealer Mitch Magonet in collaboration with Joey Miller of Toronto.

Magonet was an adult student of Rabbi Gniwisch's at the Chai Centre and an aspiring young composer who played music by ear when he came to the rabbi eight years ago with a song from a musical he was working on.

"I was so moved and captured by the raw emotional power and energy, at that moment, I made a commitment to Mitch to do whatever possible to help get this musical off the ground and onto a stage," Rabbi Gniwisch said.

That moment will finally come when *Rio* premieres July 10 at the New York Musical Theatre Festival, the first of six performances at St. Clements Theater on West 46th Street. It was one of 23 full productions chosen from among 400 entries. The annual festival is a showcase for promising new works, and has been the launching pad for many productions that went on to Broadway.

Inspired by Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, *Rio* is the story of 12-year-old street kid Pipio, who desperately searches for his birth mother among the gangs and drug lords that rule Rio's modern-day favelas.

These slums also have their colourful characters and exotic locales, and the play captures the carnival atmosphere amid the squalor. Ultimately, the message is hopeful.

**Mitch Magonet, left, Pinny Gniwisch and Joey Miller are premiering *Rio*, a musical with a social message, at the New York Musical Theatre Festival.** ***(Jeff Larkin photo)***

"There is both joy and sorrow in the rhythms of the people of Brazil," Magonet explained. "That's what we wish to capture: the relentless beat that drives these people to survive."

All this is to be accomplished with a cast of 12 Equity performers, headed by young Nicholas Gonzalez.

*Rio* is timely: many of these slums are being cleared and their inhabitants dispersed as Rio de Janeiro prepares to host the 2016 summer Olympics.

"As the father of six children, who are blessed daily with running water, an education and a family who loves them, I could not imagine them living without that," Rabbi Gniwisch said. "And yet for thousands of homeless children in Rio, that is the only life they know."

Besides its commercial potential, Gniwisch sees the play as an opportunity to bring about change, to fulfil the Jewish commandment of tikkun olam.

"Hopefully, *Rio* will shine a light on what is happening there," he said, and shake Brazilians out of their indifference at a time when they are sensitive to international opinion as the Olympics approach.

Until now, the rabbi's theatrical experience has been limited to Chabad's walk-through productions for schoolchildren at holiday times including *Maccabees* and *Exodus*, the latter drawing 8,000 spectators.

His job has been to market *Rio* and find the money to mount it. Although most of the team is donating its time, he is still short $10,000 for basic costs.

*Rio* has attracted some heavy hitters in New York. The director is Scott Faris, who just did William Shatner's one-man show *Shatner's World: We Just Live in it*, while Broadway veteran Jack DePalma has been guiding Magonet and Miller as creative consultant. The choreographer is Kate Dunn, who was assistant choreographer for *Billy Elliot*.

For more information, go to www.indiegogo.com/riothemusical.

# Interactive whodunit features local actor

**Kathryn Kates**
Special to The CJN

Toronto actor Danny Wengle is the lead investigator in *Apprentice to Murder*, a hilarious, interactive murder mystery now running at Mysteriously Yours Mystery Dinner Theatre.

Based on the popular TV reality show, this interactive whodunit features "The Donald," played by Ken MacDougall, and a mixed bag of celebrities.

Wengle explains that his job as Regis Fildin, the investigator, involves helping the audience understand what's going on, as well as helping the audience solve the crime.

He says audiences will have a great night of fun. "We use from 20 to 30 audience members in any given performance and give them some lines or a situation. We are unpredictable enough, but when you pick people just out of the audience, it can go a wide variety of ways."

This being live theatre, anything can happen, such as the time Wengle had a bad bout of hiccups just as he was about to sum up the plot and bring it to a conclusion.

**Danny Wengle at *Mysteriously yours***

"I thought if I timed it just right, I could breathe and they wouldn't know I had the hiccups, but after a few minutes, the only way to go was to tell the audience I had the hiccups and see who had a cure," he says.

"So, instead of being a 15-minute summation, it went on for 45 minutes, where somebody wanted me to stand on my head, someone else tried to hypnotize me, and another person sneaked up behind me and tried to scare me. Afterwards, people wondered if that happened every night."

Wengle says Mysteriously Yours provides something that other theatres don't provide, in terms of silliness and just having a good time. He says he sees the fun in the audiences' faces. Unlike bigger theatres, there is an intimacy with the audience because the actors perform around the tables and not from a stage.

Wengle is no stranger to sleuthing. He joined the company in its infancy 25 years ago and, after a 15-year absence, returns to the scene of the crime! It was with the encouragement of his two sons, Jonah, 15, and Ben, 11, who loved a Mysteriously Yours show Wengle took them to, that he decided to return to the murderous fold.

Because the Toronto theatre, on Yonge Street south of Eglinton Avenue, is only blocks away from his home, he has plenty of time to spend with his kids and wife, Sharonah, a doctor. Coincidentally, he met her after one of Mysteriously Yours' early productions at the Royal York Hotel. She was on a date, but that didn't stop Wengle from barging in.

Wengle, who is also a writer and sound designer, comes from an entertainment family. His late grandfather, Abraham Fox, and his uncles worked in the film industry, and his extended family includes actors and musicians. Wengle caught the acting bug at a young age, having been exposed to a many classic movies by his family. He first channelled his love of acting into a play at a Jewish camp.

He has appeared in Huron Country Playhouse's production of *Rumors*; *Lover's and Madmen's Kvetch*; Sunshine Festival's *Dial M for Murder* and White Line Fever's *Girls We Have Known*. His television and feature-film credits include *Doc*; *Exhibit A*; *Booze Can* and *A Whisper to a Scream*.

Apprentice to Murder *runs at Mysteriously Yours Mystery Dinner Theatre, at 2026 Yonge St., until Sept. 15. For tickets call, 416-486-7469 or visit www.mysteriouslyyours.com.*

# *American anthropologist portrays Jews in Turkey*

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Turkey's venerable Jewish community, one of the few still left in the Muslim world today, comes under rigorous scrutiny in Marcy Brink-Danan's *Jewish Life in 21st-Century Turkey: The Other Side of Tolerance*, published by Indiana University Press.

The author, a Brown University anthropologist, provides readers with a clear, comprehensive survey of a model minority.

Jews have lived in Turkey for more than 2,000 years, but the vast majority of its Jewish citizens are the descendants of 15th-century persecuted Spanish Jews who were offered asylum in the Ottoman Empire by a visionary sultan.

Jews in Turkey have enjoyed full citizenship since the formation of the secular Turkish Republic in 1923, "yet their patriotism and indigenousness are regularly questioned by Muslim Turks," she observes.

She adds, "Jews in their everyday interactions with Muslim Turks are regularly assumed to be foreigners who are either recently arrived or on their way to somewhere else."

Despite their Turkish citizenship and their full integration into Turkish society, they are regarded as *yabanci* (strangers or foreigners), she claims.

However viewed by Muslims, Turkish Jews were never forced to live in ghettos and were never persecuted in a wholesale manner, she points out.

During the Ottoman era, they were a tolerated minority, like Christians, and since the advent of the republic, they have been full citizens.

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the republic's generally revered founder, had a high regard for Jews, praising them for their loyalty and assuring them that they would live in "comfort and happiness" in Turkey.

According to Brink-Danan, Turkish Jews have served the state in at least one important respect: "The Jews, in the role of the 'good minority,' serve as a powerful foil to the Armenian genocide discourse, enabling Turkey to display a history of cosmopolitanism and refute the bad press it so often garners over the genocide question."

Judging by a survey she cites, most Turkish Jews consider themselves quite religious. Yet many of the Jews she encountered regard themselves as devoutly secular, in line with the tenets of the republic.

Given their Spanish ancestry, Turkish Jews are predominantly Sephardi, with surnames such as Amado and Ventura. And, of course, many elderly Turkish Jews speak Judeo-Spanish, or Ladino, a dying language that incorporates elements of Hebrew, Aramaic, Turkish, French, Italian and Greek.

Nonetheless, she notes, some Jews have Turkified their names, while others have replaced old names with purely Turkish names.

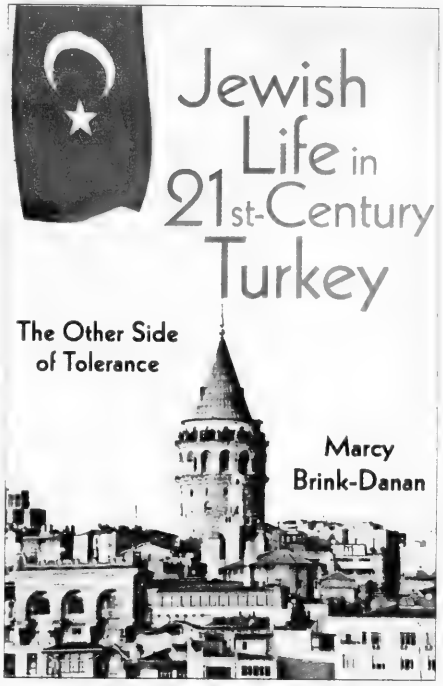
More than 90 per cent of Turkey's 18,000 Jews live in urban areas, primarily in Istanbul, but also in Ankara, Bursa and Adana.

Before the emergence of Israel, Turkey was home to a much larger Jewish community. In her estimation, one-third of its members have emigrated since the advent of Israeli statehood.

In references to the "strong infrastructure" that underpins the community in Istanbul, she mentions its network of synagogues, schools and so on. But in almost the same breath, she suggests that this is a community in decline, given its low birthrate, aging population and mixed marriages.

"If prior to the 1960s intermarriage was quite rare, by 1992 marriages between Jews and non-Jews in Turkey was recorded at 42 per cent, with the rate of intermarriage nearly doubling between 1990 and 2001," she writes.

In her view, the Jewish community lives with contradictions. As she puts it, "Jews in Turkey publicly celebrate a long history of coexistence and tolerance, yet live with ongoing security concerns bred by antisemitism and periodic attacks against… their institutions." This, of course, is a reference to the three assaults that have been mounted against Neve Shalom synagogue in Istanbul by Islamic fanatics since 1986.




Brink-Danan suggests that Jews in Turkey keep a low profile, with the community being extremely reluctant to publicize its activities. "The consensus is that the slightest publicity might endanger the status quo."

She goes on to say: "Throughout my fieldwork research, my Turkish Jewish friends advised me to follow their example and erase my own Jewishness from the public sphere, citing a list of 'don'ts' that sometimes seemed endless: don't nail your mezuzah to the outside of the doorframe; don't wear a Jewish star necklace, and, just in case, don't tell your landlord you are Jewish.

"I constantly confronted the seemingly ironic claim Turkish Jews make of feeling at home in a country where Jewish difference is maintained in the private domain, while public space is seen as a universal sphere in which difference must be erased.

"Becoming Turkish, along with the fear of not being perceived as Turkish enough, has engendered a profusion of effacing social practices among Jews in Istanbul. Layered upon these assimilationist conditions, local antisemitism and the complicated relationship Turkish Jews have with Israel… generate an additional set of incentives to disappear."

The lack of signage at all major Jewish community buildings in Istanbul is also a function of this mindset, she says.

Public support for Israel among Turkish Jews falls into the category of "the forbidden." As she writes, "While opinions and emotions about Israel run deep among Jews in Turkey, I rarely observed a Turkish Jew advocating for Israel, or for that matter heavily criticizing Israel."

Brink-Danan, in *Jewish Life in 21st-Century Turkey*, ventures beyond the bland and the predictable and produces a thought-provoking book about an intriguing Jewish community in a fascinating Muslim country.

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# Meiron Blackstien makes hand-crafted guitars

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Typically, the vast majority of acoustic and electric guitars for sale in stores today are made in anonymous factories like so many sausages rolling off assembly lines. A select few, however, are individually hand-crafted.

Meiron Blackstien, born in Toronto and raised in Israel, is an old-fashioned craftsman who makes custom-made guitars one by one, turning out each guitar with love, care and skill.

A young and upcoming luthier on the Toronto musical scene, he is the founder and proprietor of Six String Garage, located in the humming heart of Kensington Market, a stone's throw away from his father's birthplace.

Blackstien and his parents made aliyah in 1985, settling in Givat Shmuel, the home of his Israeli mother, Tami.

He left Israel after completing his national service as a teacher's assistant, leaving behind his parents and younger brother, Gal. "I didn't think there were too many opportunities for me in Israel to be what I wanted to be."

Now 28, Blackstien is, so to speak, a rebel with a cause. "They told me you can either build or repair guitars. They said you can't do both."

He has proven the skeptics wrong. Blackstien repairs guitars and builds them from scratch in his second-floor shop. He has built one acoustic guitar and four electric guitars so far and hopes to make 30 to 50 guitars each year once he is fully established.

"But I'll probably never stop taking repairs," he said. "They keep me thinking. No two repairs are the same. Repairing a guitar is a great problem solver, and it pays the bills."

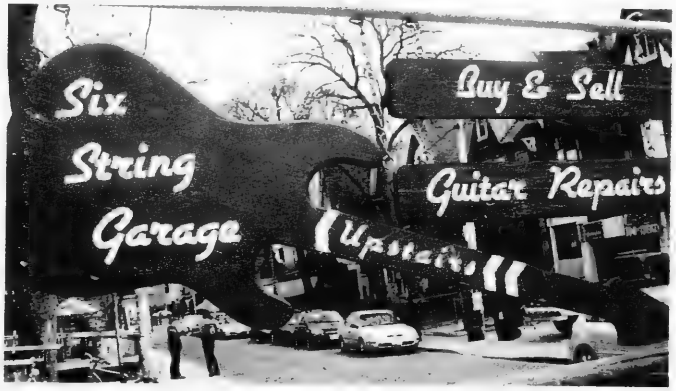
He was initiated into the world of guitars by his father, Gary, a dentist and guitar aficionado.

"We had guitars all over the house," Blackstien said in a reference to their home in Givat Shmuel, a small town near Tel Aviv.

Before he reached his teens, he took piano lessons, but disliked the instrument so much that he dropped out of music altogether.

At 12, he gravitated toward the guitar and was immediately captivated by it.

"I don't exactly know why the guitar was appealing," he said. "It's a mystery. But the guitar is a cultural icon. It's accessible, and you don't have to be a dedicated musician to get into it. I just thought the guitar was really cool."




**Meiron Blackstien's shop is in the heart of the Kensington Market.**

Blackstien, tall and lanky, began taking guitar lessons and was hooked. Although he plays double bass in a local band, Christian D and the Hangovers, he still takes guitar lessons.

Blackstien started tinkering with guitars shortly after he started playing one at home. "The guitars I had access to were cheap and required adjustments. I did my homework and figured out the basics."

Having become a guitar fanatic, he enrolled in the Roberto-Venn School of Luthiery in Phoenix, Ariz., in 2003. And in a bid to upgrade his budding skills, he apprenticed with Joe Veillette, an accomplished guitar-maker, in Woodstock, N.Y.

He then joined the service department of Steve's Music Store in Toronto as a guitar technician.

With the help of a government loan, he opened his own shop, Six String Garage, in the Parkdale district in 2010, but he did not fare too well in his first venture as an independent businessman. "I wasn't getting enough traffic, and the rent was too high," he explained.

Last September, he moved to Kensington Market, a neighbourhood brimming with garment and food stores and Asian arts and crafts shops.

"It was very slow for the first few months. It took time for people to find me again. But this is a much more convenient area and easier for customers to reach."

His clientele consists of hobbyists and professional musicians.

Hobbyists come in once or twice a year for what is known in the trade as the guitar setup, a process encompassing adjustments and cleaning to optimize performance.

He also teaches a course in guitar setup. "It's not a complicated procedure, but it can be intimidating if you don't know what you're doing."

Professional musicians need setups as well, but they're usually looking for custom options and enhanced upgrades.

In the future, Blackstien hopes to spend the bulk of his time making guitars. It takes him about 200 hours to build a guitar, for which he charges up to $3,000.

"What I do is very unique in terms of design, hardware and engineering," he said. "I don't copy an existing shape."

**Meiron Blackstien stands in front of guitars he built by hand.**
*[Sheldon Kirshner photos]*

Blackstien's guitars, adorned with plastic components, are carved from fine woods. He uses alder for the body, apple for the neck and ebony for the fretboard.

When he is working on the body, weight, cosmetic appeal and workability are the key factors. When he gets to the neck and fretboard, the issues that concern him are strength and sonic characteristics.

His ultimate objective is always the same: to build a clean, simple guitar.

In his view, patience and humility are the hallmarks of a good craftsman.

"You have to realize there is a constant learning curve and always room for self-improvement," he explained. "You also have to have a good eye for detail and shapes. Cosmetic appeal is important, too. And you need a good ear. It's the test of what we do."

Despite his formidable skills, he has to struggle to survive.

"It's a very tough market to break into," said Blackstien, whose local competitors number in the dozens. "You're asking for a lot a money for a custom-built guitar."

Nonetheless, he aspires to be a paragon in Toronto's community of guitar builders.

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
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# Two Jewish players chosen in NHL Entry Draft

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

Two Jewish players – one from Nepean, the other from Winnipeg – were among 211 young skaters chosen last week in the 2012 NHL Entry Draft.

Both were taken in the third round; first to go was Oshawa Generals goalie Daniel Altshuller, selected by the Carolina Hurricanes 69th overall. He was the sixth goaltender chosen. A few picks later, Nashville Predators chose forward Brendan Leipsic, a skater with the Portland Winter Hawks, 89th overall.

Both attended development camps for their pro teams last week.

Altshuller has been on scouts' radar for some time. Though he played Tier II junior hockey for his hometown Nepean Raiders, he was the starting goalie for the OHL-dominated Team Ontario in the World Under-17 tournament two winters ago. Playing all games, he led the team to a gold medal victory.

Later he did the same as Canada's number one goalie at the Ivan Hlinka Memorial Under-18 Tournament, being named player of the game in the final contest.

He spent the last season in the OHL with the Generals and in 30 games, the 6-foot-3, 190-pound netminder registered a .900 save percentage and a goals-against average of 3.55.

He recently attended Maccabi Canada's tryout camp for the team it will send to the Maccabiah Games in Israel next summer.

Leipsic, the Winnipeger, plays much bigger than his five-foot-eight 175-pound frame would suggest. He's considerably under-sized by today's NHL standards, and didn't even rate in Central Scouting's mid-term rankings. In its final placements, he was rated 114th among North American skaters, which should have seen him drafted somewhere in the later rounds.

"I didn't expect to go this high but Nashville called a couple of times and I knew there was interest and then they traded up to get me – it's great to know they like you that much," Leipsic said.

In 65 games with the Winterhawks, the left winger bulged the twine 28 times and added 30 assists. He added seven goals and eight assists in 20 playoff games. He also spent 82 minutes in the penalty box during the regular season.

If that sounds like a smaller guy playing big – a "shift disturber" in hockey parlance – his coach would agree. "Brendan is an energy guy," said Winterhawks head coach and GM Mike Johnston. "When he's emotionally and physically engaged in the game, he sets the bar for the rest of the guys.

**Brendan Leipsic**
*[Bryan Heim/Portland Winterhawks photo]*

"If he's going to go out and take on 6-foot-2, 200-pound defenceman at his size, then you better expect your other guys to follow," Johnston is quoted saying on the OregonLive website.

"I only know one way to play and that's playing with energy. Being a smaller guy, you've got to compete as hard as you can and go to those hard areas of the ice. I've always played physical ever since I started playing hockey, so ... that's what I do," Leipsic said.

Before he chose Leipsic in the WHL draft, Johnston consulted Craig Heisinger, a Manitoba hockey maven and today assistant manager with the NHL Jets, who told him, "You've got to take him. This kid, I guarantee you, he'll play for you. He is the most competitive kid I've ever seen. And I don't care what size he is, he has skill and he competes."

Preds GM David Poile told the *Winnipeg Free Press*, "He's a little bit [Jordin] Tootoo-ish, a little bit Brad Marchand. I'm sure that the best description would be that he's not fun to play against, probably the opposition doesn't like him too much. This is the guy you love but they hate. Not big in stature but plays really tough."

Leipsic will play for Team Canada at the 2012 Canada-Russia Challenge in August. The Canadian team includes blue chip NHL prospects Mark Scheifele, Mathew Dumba, Morgan Rielly, Griffin Reinhart, Ryan Murray and Jonathan Huberdeau – the cream of the cream of Canadian junior players, many of them first-rounders.

He was recently named Manitoba Jewish Athlete of the Year.

• • •

There were plenty of juicy rumours circulating at the draft in Pittsburgh. At one point, the buzz was that the Penguins' Jordan Staal would be dealt straight up for Carolina Hurricane's young sniper, Jeff Skinner. In the end, Staal did go to the 'Canes, but for three players, including centre Brandon Sutter.

"I think Pittsburgh did extremely well," said Alex Voihanski, who attended the draft.

Voihanski, who is head of JCC Chai Sports, is also general manager of International Scouting Services (ISS), an agency that provides members of the media and NHL teams scouting reports on players from around the world.

Looking at some 2012 selections, Voihanskis said the Maple Leafs did well with the fifth overall pick, Morgan Rielly, who might well be the best defenceman in the draft. But their second selection, Guelph defenceman Matt Finn, was a steal. "We had him as a pretty high prospects in the first round," he said. "We were shocked he was available in the second round and so was Toronto."

As for Pittsburgh's first pick, Derrick Pouliot, which they received from Carolina in the Staal deal, Voinahski said, "I'm not crazy about him. I frankly think they should have taken [Jacob] Trouba."

Trouba was selected one pick later, ninth overall, by the Winnipeg Jets. Voihanski calls him "a rock solid player. He could make the Jets out of camp."

Montreal "had the best draft of any team," he continued. Alex Galchenyuk is a top talent and their second pick, Swedish winger Sebastian Collberg, "is really talented. He has speed, a nose for the net... We had him rated in the first round."

As for Carolina's selection of Altshuller, "I emailed him and wished him a mazel tov.

"He's big and technically sound. When he grown into his body, he'll be scary, he's that good."

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# Tories favour private health care: Fry

**Janice Arnold**
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — Liberal health critic Hedy Fry suggested that the Harper government is undermining a 10-year accord with the provinces to press an agenda that favours private health care.

Fry, a physician and former president of the B.C. Medical Association, was a guest speaker at the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors June 27 on the topic "Ensuring the Future of Medicare: The Role of the Federal Government."

Fry said that medicare, as it has been known since the 1960s, is in jeopardy because of the majority the Conservative party holds.

She said the government has done nothing to see that the agreement on health-care funding, signed in 2004 by Liberal prime minister Paul Martin and the provinces and territories, is implemented as was foreseen at the time.

The money involved, totalling $41.2 billion, is continuing to be transferred to the provinces and territories, but there is no longer any oversight of how it is spent and whether the agreement's objectives are being met, she said.

"If I wanted to be cynical, I would say, in 2014, the government is going to throw up its hands and say, 'You see, we tried, the system isn't working, going private is the answer,'" Fry said.

The aim of the infusion of new cash from Ottawa was to encourage more community-based health services and move away from the traditional focus on medical care delivered in hospitals, she said.

"Today, it's not only doctors who can deliver health care, and a hospital is not usually the best place to be cared for, unless the situation is acute and specialized care is needed," she said.

To ensure the sustainability of medicare, Fry said, the emphasis must be on multi-disciplinary community or home-based services. It's less costly and, in most cases, better for the patient, especially those with chronic ills.

Some provinces have moved in this direction, but others have failed to do so, and may be using the federal money "to pave the streets," she said. "The provinces have been left on their own."

Mechanisms were put in place to track the accord's progress in reaching its goals, she said. These were abandoned with the election of the Conservatives in 2006, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper has never met with the premiers and territorial leaders to discuss it, she said.

Hedy Fry

The wealthier provinces may be able to improve the health-care system, but the others probably won't, and will likely cut services, because raising taxes in economic hard times is not an option, Fry said. The result, she said, will be varying levels of care from province to province, something the Canada Health Act did not envision.

In addition, the 2004 accord foresaw the introduction of pharmacare and the licensing of doctors and nurses to work in any province, but no headway has been made on these points either, she said.

Fry, the member for Vancouver Centre since 1993, said medicare was the main reason she, a native of Trinidad and Tobago, immigrated to Canada from Britain in 1970.

She and her husband had become disillusioned with the deterioration of the national health system in Britain, caused, she believed, by the privatization of some services.

Having had parents with very limited means (the family lived in social housing until she was 13), Fry, 70, said she understood early on the unfairness of linking income to health-care access.

She warned that under a U.S.-style private system, those who have chronic illnesses requiring expensive treatment may find themselves uninsurable, even if they are able to pay ever-escalating premiums.

ZAREINU MOVEATHON

**Hundreds gathered at Holy Trinity School in Richmond Hill on June 24 for the Zareinu Moveathon's Ride for Kids. Among the many participants were the Zevy family, from left, Howard Wolff, Rachel Zevy, Caroline Zevy, Rena Zevy and Dov Zevy.**

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# Toronto lawyer pens book about African peace project

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

When Adam Hummel travelled to Kenya in 2008 for a three-week volunteer trip, he never anticipated he'd become the founder of a peace project and author of a book based on his experience.

Yet last month, Hummel, a 26-year-old commercial litigation lawyer, appeared at Toronto's Jewish Urban Meeting Place (JUMP) to promote his self-published book, *Amani Haki Yetu: Peace is Our Right*.

"I tried to write a book about what life is like in Kenya, following the post-election violence there in 2008 and how people have reacted to it and what they're trying to do towards the next elections," Hummel said, adding that 100 per cent of the proceeds from the sale of the book go to funding for projects under the banner of Youth Ambassadors for Peace (YAP), the non-profit he founded four years ago.

He explained that during his volunteer mission to a village in Kenya called Kiptere in 2008, he learned that shortly after the December 2007 Kenyan general elections, a civil war broke out, leading to the murder of about 1,300 people and the displacement of about 600,000 others.

He said the root causes of the violence were tribalism, which is akin to racism, and idleness in the farming communities, where there are no programs in place to occupy the youth.

Instead of throwing money at the problem when his trip ended, Hummel, who had experience running programs as a former Hillel president at York University, committed to starting a soccer tournament in Kenya to bring together rival tribes – Kalenjin, Kisii and Luo – for the first time since the violence erupted following the 2007 elections.

Hummel decided to put a foundation in place to create a shared understanding of history, values and culture between tribes, and help the idle youth turn away from negative influences such as drugs and violence.

By keeping in touch with his contacts on the ground in Kenya and travelling back there twice more, Hummel has built an organization that is responsible for developing an unofficial peace treaty that was endorsed by government officials, a drama club that was created to advocate for peace through the arts, and a poultry project that involves raising chickens and donating the eggs to people who are newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

He also organized a peace workshop, which was run with the help of a friend named Courtney Toretto, to educate the local tribes about their shared values.

Years later, YAP continues to thrive.

"At first, this was a small project based in one area, but we've been able to expand into another part of the country... to include more tribes," Hummel said, adding that the Kikuyu tribe, which is considered the dominant tribe in Kenya, has accepted the organization.

Kepha Nyambegera, YAP's regional director, was a participant in the first peace workshop the organization held, and he is now running his own peace workshop with the Maasai and Kikuyu tribe members.

The newest initiative, called the Roadshow, is meant to take a proactive approach to the upcoming Kenyan general elections slated for March 2013.

"What [Nyambegera] does is rent a van, put a speaker on top and drive through different towns playing music and trying to get people to come speak to him. The goal of these roadshows is to get people to think about what they will do during the next elections," Hummel said.

The main goal, he added, is to urge people to resist the calls to violence.

"We want people to start thinking about, what if suddenly violence erupts again and weapons are handed out and politicians start coming around to encourage it?

From left, Robins Ochieng, Adam Hummel, Courtney Toretto, and Kepha Nyambegera, the regional director of YAP programs

"In the last election, the youth sort of just went along with it. They were given a little bit of money and encouraged to go fight each other, and that's how things broke down. So if we can show them that doing that is completely unproductive and would be going backwards, we can give them ideas of what they can do."

He said many people continue to suffer from the post-election violence of 2008, still living in internally displaced person (IDP) camps.

"It shocked me to see that the people living in the camp were elderly, and that when I asked them what kind of a donation they wanted, they asked for enough sugar for all of them, which would have cost about $15. That experience showed me the true impact of the conflict, the will of these few elderly individuals to push forward, and also how such a little bit of money can go such a long way to helping."

But Hummel's approach is to inspire people to avoid more violence rather than work on picking up the pieces following another conflict.

He said the peace treaty they drafted in 2009, which can be found on the YAP website (www.kenyapeaceproject.com) and as an appendix in his book, will be blown up to the size of billboards and will be posted around the towns.

"We'd like to get the leaders and mayors to endorse it and commit to the peace treaty," he said.

Hummel, who will return to Kenya for a short trip later this month, said he plans to follow up with the volunteers and make sure the programs are running smoothly.

"Sometimes I feel like we've bitten off more than we can chew because we've tackled so many different things," he said.

But a main source of motivation for Hummel is YAP's involvement with the Victory Primary School, a school that serves about 190 kids, most of whom are either orphans or have lost a parent to political violence or HIV and AIDS.

Hummel details his first visit to the school in his book.

He said when he arrived at the school, which was made of "literally just wood and tin," he was moved by the students' positive attitudes despite the hardships they endure.

Hummel's brother, Justin, was even moved to run a fundraiser for the school. He collected $750 from his fellow students, which paid for a new classroom, soccer balls, clocks for each room, books, and a special holiday meal for the students. He also arranged for each student at the school to receive a hand-written card.

"I believe that the Victory Primary School represents a hope and potential for change," Hummel wrote in his book.

"Despite what these students have endured, and despite their current circumstances of eating a small lunch that is donated, and walking five kilometres to school every day, they smile, they laugh, they're happy and they have dreams."

**Youth Ambassadors for Peace founder Adam Hummel, and his friend and volunteer Courtney Toretto in a local market in Kenya**

*More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca*

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# Cut the apron strings

**Dear Ella,**

My son David just graduated from university, and my husband Paul and I are very proud – sort of. I'm not sure yet, but I'm afraid David might follow in his brother's footsteps. Adam, my oldest, graduated from university two years ago, and he has done nothing with his life since.

We threaten to throw him out all the time, but deep down he knows we wouldn't do it. Paul and I argue a lot about Adam. Paul blames me for not being stronger. Sometimes Paul comes home from work and sees Adam just rolling out of bed. Adam is too comfortable with his life at home, and I don't see this ending any time soon. He can't keep a girlfriend, as no girl would want him like this.

Now I am worried about David. Adam is a horrible role model and David is talking about travelling this year instead of looking for work. He's worked part time since high school and has saved his own money. I don't think it's such a terrible idea, but I'm afraid he will lose opportunities.

I'm scared for my boys and don't know where to turn. Help!

**Mother of Lazy Loafers**

**Dear Mother of Lazy Loafers,**

The reasons parents get into this situation are numerous and often quite deep. Whatever led to it, you are now forced to deal with the present. I suspect you already have a good idea of what needs to happen, but obviously you are not prepared to throw Adam out or you would have done that already. You will, however, have to grow a thicker skin if you truly want to help him. He is taking advantage of you and you are falling for it. Instead of helping, you are crippling him and preventing him from facing his real problems, which will escalate the longer he is allowed to continue in this lifestyle.

Where is Adam getting his money to go out? Where is he getting his clean clothes and meals? I'll bet he has a computer with Internet and a cellphone too. There's a big difference between helping and enabling.

You need to force Adam to live his own life. Start by devising a plan together that you will both stick to. He needs a goal and you need a deadline. Assist by guiding him through the plan point by point. Make sure it's realistic, but do not create it for him. Adam needs to take responsibility for his own life by becoming independent. If he falls along the way, you can pick him up, brush him off and push him forward again. By coddling him you are reinforcing his fears and insecurities.

***Ask Ella***

***By Ella Burakowski***

What it boils down to is guilt. You will feel guilty if you force your child out. By allowing yourself to be ruled by guilt, you are enabling his destructive lifestyle. You must put your son ahead of your own feelings of inadequacy, of thinking you are a bad mom. Adam must take that first step to prove to himself that he can do this. Give him that little push out of the nest and watch him fly. You'll be proud you did.

And don't let Adam's lifestyle affect David's goals. From the sound of it, David has had this plan all along and he's worked for it. Allow him to make his own choices. Time to cut those apron strings.

*Readers may submit their questions to Ella at* The CJN, *e-mail: ellacjn@gmail.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional*


**LEMON- GARLIC GLAZED CORN ON THE COB**

1 tblsp butter
1 tblsp olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
4 ears corn, husked
1/3 c water
2 tblsp fresh lemon juice
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp fresh ground pepper

Heat butter and oil in large skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and cook, stirring, until fragrant but not browned, about 1 min. Add corn, water, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Cover and cook, gently pan shaking pan occasionally to turn the cobs, for 5 min. Uncover; continue cooking, turning the cobs occasionally, until a few tablespoons of liquid has evaporated, 2-4 min. more. Serve corn drizzled with lemon-garlic pan sauce.

*SOURCE: Eating Well Magazine*

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## On cjnews.com

*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

New York-based French author Marc Levy, who will be the special guest at Jewish Book Month in November. Levy talks about his latest novel and current world events.

*Exclusive to cjnews.com*

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa speculates that the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt may risk the 40 years of peace between Egypt and Israel.

Montreal program aids Jewish public school kids with learning issues.

A look at Istanbul's exotic sights and guilty pleasures, which are there to be enjoyed and savoured. Like a Turkish delight – the popular candy concocted from gelatin, sugar and cornstarch, flavoured with rosewater or mastic, embedded with pistachios or hazelnuts and dusted with cream of tartar – Istanbul is hard to resist. Below, the Spice Market.

# Film portrays Margaret Thatcher's dementia

It happens every once in a while, and I can usually anticipate where the conversation is going. A family member of a patient who is experiencing the progression of their dementia starts the conversations with the words, "Surely, in this world of modern medicine, there is something more we can do to halt the decline in my mother" or father or other loved one.

Sometimes there is a sense of accompanying anger, sometimes anguish and sometimes a degree of aggressiveness as if somehow I, in my role as a geriatrician, might be reluctant to try something novel or be ignorant of a new discovery. Sometimes the question is accompanied by a package of Internet-based articles on "new or experimental" treatments for dementia, ranging from megavitamins or some concoction with a mysterious ingredient that "doctors won't talk about," as they work in cahoots with the pharmaceutical industry. One "treatment" I learned about recently promoted the miraculous attributes of coconut oil and included a YouTube link.

With this in mind, I recently saw the movie *The Iron Lady*, which recounts the personal history and political life of the former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, from the vantage point of her early and later stages of dementia and its impact on her behaviour and memory. This included very poignant and vivid mixtures of past recollections and current experiences. It depicted what those working in the field see in patients, which must be explained family members. One often hears the lament, "She can remember in great detail her sea voyage as she escaped the ravages of the war in Europe but cannot remember what she had for breakfast today."

***Senior Side of Life***

***Michael Gordon***

Sometimes the intrusion of experiences from the past can cause great agitation and behavioural outbursts, and sometimes the memories can lead to warm and tearful recollections about loved ones they think are still alive, and they are distraught when they find out their loved ones are dead.

This was illustrated in the movie when Thatcher's daughter reminds her mother of her late husband's death, as she empties his clothes closet to donate his belongings to charity. The Thatcher character associates the clothes with her husband, experiencing vivid memories of him that enter and leave her consciousness as she struggles to recall recent events.

The movie, with the role of Thatcher played stunningly by Meryl Streep, stirred a sense I have had as I observed some of the greatest or best-known great minds or public figures in the world afflicted by the usually devastating effects of dementia, most often the Alzheimer type. This has helped me explain to family members that some of the most famous and wealthiest people in the world suffered in the same way as their loved one when afflicted with this condition, despite presumably having access to the greatest medical experts in the field.

Besides Thatcher, her best political ally, U.S. president Ronald Reagan, was also afflicted with the condition. Many working in the field thought Reagan showed signs of Alzheimer's while he was still in office.

To recount the lives of the rich and famous when we speak to family members and confirm the limits of modern medicine gives us another opportunity to demonstrate that we will endeavour to do the best within the confines of contemporary medical practice.

*Dr. Michael Gordon is medical program director of palliative care at Baycrest and co-author with Bart Mindszenthy of Parenting Your Parents (Dundurn Press). His latest book, Moments that Matter: Cases in Ethical Eldercare, follows his previous book, Brooklyn Beginnings: A Geriatrician's Odyssey. All can be researched at his website: http://www.drmichaelgordon.com.*

**Pinetree Capital Ltd.** warmly congratulates its Chairman and CEO, **Sheldon Inwentash**, and his spouse, **Lynn Factor**, on receiving their honorary doctorates from the University of Toronto.

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This Week

National

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**Kulanu enjoys** community support at Pride. *Page 6*

Books & Authors

**Joshua Henkin** novel is a Jewish *Big Chill*. *Page 31*

Heebonics

**Israeli magazine** spread inspires young photographer. *Page 38*

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# CIJA meets with the PA in Ramallah

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) has offered to be "the Canadian interlocutor" between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) to help restart the peace process.

Although CIJA has not been officially endorsed by Ottawa to act in this capacity, senior members of CIJA met with PA President Mahmoud Abbas and other high-ranking Fatah officials during a visit to Israel and the West Bank on June 24.

They also met with high-ranking Israeli officials. Their meeting with Abbas was not widely publicized.

A spokesperson for Canada's Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority wrote in an email that it facilitates dozens of meetings every year between senior Canadian and Palestinian figures, and it did so for CIJA.

At the meeting late last month, CIJA CEO Shimon Fogel and its chair, David Koschitzky, spoke with Abbas, as well as with Palestinian legislative council member Saeb Erekat, Fatah central committee member Nabil Shaath, PA policy planning adviser Majdi al-Khalidi and PA presidential hopeful Mustafa Barghouti, among others.

Chris Greenshields, Canada's representative to the Palestinian Authority, also attended CIJA's meeting with Abbas.

Reached by phone in Ottawa on July 3, Fogel told *The CJN* that it was not the first time CIJA representatives had met with the PA, seeking to establish a role for Canada as a moderator in the peace process.

"The rationale for us to meet with Palestinian leadership… is to get a sense of what [the PA] is thinking at any given time – what their perspective is. At a very basic level, the purpose of these encounters was to update ourselves on the positions and concerns of the Palestinians as they relate to Israel, and the potential for a return to direct negotiations," Fogel said.

**Continued on page 29**

# *Cycling legend saved Italian Jews*

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

Back in the 1930s when Mussolini's Fascists ruled Italy, Gino Bartali's dad gave him some fatherly advice: steer clear of politics.

As advice goes, it was probably redundant. Bartali's passion was cycling, not politics, and he was really good at it. A national champion on several occasions, in 1938, he won his first Tour de France, the race considered by many the most gruelling endurance test for an athlete. In a cycling-mad culture like Italy's, he became a national hero, sort of the Rocket Richard of his era.

Though Bartoli did not go looking for politics, like the Rocket, politics came looking for him.

Before and during World War II, he declined to serve as a propaganda vehicle for the Fascists and got himself in their bad books. Then, during the darkest days of World War II, when Italy complied with German demands to turn over its Jews, Bartali again defied authority. He used his fame and his iconic stature to evade scrutiny by police and ferry false documents to an underground organization that was attempting to hide Jews. He also turned over his private residences, purchased with his cycling winnings, to Jews fleeing officials.

Bartali's amazing and little-known story is told in *Road to Valour*, a recent publication authored by the brother and sister team of Aili and Andres McConnon.

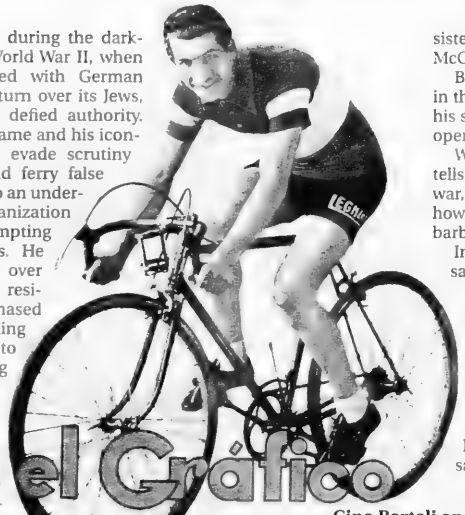
Bartali hid phony documents in the stem of his bicycle, below his seat, as part of a church-run operation, they say.

Written like a novel, the book tells the story of Italy during the war, the role of the Nazis and how Bartali responded to the barbarism around him.

In effect, he risked his life to save Jews. The McConnons estimate Bartali's efforts helped 330 Jews in Tuscany and another 300 in Umbria evade capture.

"He had a strong ethical sense that he did not agree with what was going on, particularly during the Nazi occupation," Andres said.

**Continued on page 29**




**Gino Bartali on the cover of an Argentine sports magazine after his 1938 Tour de France victory**

*[Photo courtesy Road to Valour, Aili and Andres McConnon, Doubleday Canada]*

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**This edition of The CJN went to press on July 6. Our next edition is July 26.**

## CANADA

### Order of Canada

**OTTAWA** — Three Jews were named members of the Order of Canada and another was promoted to companion this month. Rabbi Arthur Bielfield, rabbi emeritus at Toronto's Temple Emanu-El, was named a member for more than 30 years of contributions to Toronto's Jewish community, while Dr. Allan Gotlib of Toronto was similarly honoured for advancing research in the chiropractic profession, as was Winnipeg director Steven Schipper for his work with the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. Retired University of Toronto professor Natalie Zeman Davis was made a companion for her work in social history.

### Not Guilty Plea

**TORONTO** — A Toronto woman accused of stealing from a Claims Conference fund for Holocaust survivors pleaded not guilty in New York City late last month. Luba Kramrish, 57, surrendered to the FBI and appeared in court June 28. She was charged in April for allegedly helping 20 to 25 applicants make false claims that were approved by corrupt Claims Conference employees. One is alleged to be her own mother. Kramrish, who lives in a Russian-Jewish neighbourhood, was freed on a $100,000 bond and is restricted to travelling within Ontario and parts of New York. She faces up to 20 years in jail if convicted.

### Activists Want Boat

**TORONTO** — Canadian activists sent Israeli authorities a letter last month seeking the return of their boat that was seized when they tried to break Israel's blockade of Gaza last fall. The Canadian Boat to Gaza Steering Committee alleges the Tahrir and its cargo were illegally seized in international waters. Israel says it detained the boat in its legal 100-mile naval blockade zone. It maintains the blockade is legal, while the activists say it isn't. The activists said last week that Israel "has not yet responded to the substance of our claim," rabble.ca reported.

### Neo-Nazi Allowed Online For Research

Terry Tremaine

**REGINA** — A Saskatchewan judge has allowed a neo-Nazi leader to go back on the Internet to do research on white supremacist websites to plan his defence against 11 charges of wilfully promoting hate against identifiable groups, including Jews and blacks.

Terry Tremaine, an ex-math lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan who heads the National-Socialist Party of Canada, is accused of posting messages such as that Jews are a "parasitic race" and "blacks are intellectually inferior to whites."

Police raided Tremaine's home in 2007 and he had been banned from going online, but changes to his bail restrictions made June 27 allow him to go online to find information that proves that his antisemitic and racist comments are true. His lawyer, Doug Christie, who also defended Holocaust deniers Jim Keegstra and Ernst Zundel, told the *National Post* that among his client's thousands of statements are both facts and opinions.

## WORLD

### French Teen Attacked

**PARIS** — A French Jewish teenager was the victim of a violent antisemitic attack on a train travelling between Toulouse and Lyon. The victim, 17, reportedly is a student at Ozar Hatorah school in Toulouse, where an Islamist gunman shot and killed three students and a teacher in March. The teen was wearing what the French Interior Ministry called "a distinctive religious symbol," the French news service AFP reported. The teen was first verbally accosted and later beaten up by two assailants in the July 4 attack. Another passenger and train conductors reportedly came to his aid. AFP reported the assailants were identified to police by railroad authorities but that neither had been called in for questioning by the morning of July 5. The French Jewish umbrella group, CRIF, called the attack "another development in the worrying trend of antisemitism in our country."

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# Observing Shabbat in a cottage country shul

Isaac and Basia Jesin, founders of B'nai Isaac Synagogue in Baysville, Muskoka. *[Susan Minuk photo]*

**Susan Minuk**
Special to The CJN

Muskoka's Jewish summer community welcomes the change of season knowing they will not be compromising their Jewish traditions.

B'nai Isaac Synagogue at 1086 Burlmarie Rd. in Baysville, Muskoka, opened its doors for its 35th summer on Canada Day weekend.

Some 100 people travelled by foot, canoe, boat, car and seaplane to attend Shabbat service June 30, and several returned on July 1, Canada Day, for services and to be interviewed for this article.

To many, cottage living is a summer fling that starts on Canada Day and ends by Labour Day.

Clean air, less traffic, reconnecting with family and summer friends, fishing, swimming, boating and barbecues are some of the reasons many of us pack up and head to the cottage.

B'nai Isaac Synagogue is named after Isaac Jesin, owner of St. Andrew's Poultry Ltd., and his wife, Basia, who in 1976 purchased the four-acre property with a 1,200-foot waterfront. It was called the Burlmarie Hotel.

"We were looking for a summer place to come with our young children. Paul, Aaron, Norm, Elaine, Jerry and Eddie were growing up and we wanted a summer place to bring family and friends. My father, Yirmiyaau Slawin, thought it would be a perfect place for a synagogue," Basia Jesin said.

It took a year to renovate, and in 1977, the synagogue, which is in the main lodge of the former hotel, opened its doors. Word of mouth travelled fast among the Jewish population of Muskoka.

**Continued on page 14**

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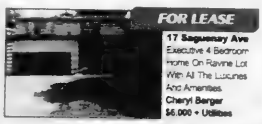
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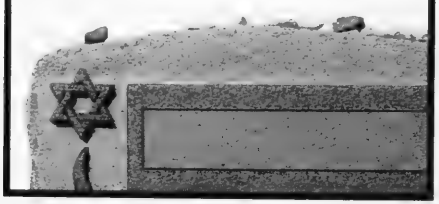

# *Amazing, typically Stratford*

One of the great joys of summer in southern Ontario, in addition to the longer days, the high, powder blue skies and the happier faces of Ontarians, is the return each year of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival.

Few are the comparable experiences where one can so effusively marvel at, be absorbed into, or take such absolute delight in the sum of so many diverse, super-talented individual parts than the experience of attending a performance at the festival.

Playwrights, lyricists, musicians, choreographers, directors, set, sound and lighting engineers, wardrobe designers, wig and makeup specialists, singers, dancers and, of course, actors combine their considerable skills to produce for us a theatre fantasy world.

We enter that world for some two hours at a time. Soon after, amazement envelopes us.

So it was again, this year at the performances of *The Matchmaker*, *42nd Street* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. (Due to space limitations, I will comment on only one of the plays.)

*The Matchmaker*, by Thornton Wilder holds the audience in thrall with scene after scene of comic grace, down-home, pithy gems of wisdom and laugh out-loud chuckling.

The story is well known to many of us as a result of its movie adaptation in 1964 as *Hello, Dolly!*

The plot revolves around a handful of characters who have a madcap, zany interaction one fateful day in New York City. It involves the attempt by Horace Vandergelder to impose his imperious will upon his niece, her efforts to marry whom she wishes, the bold, break-out experiences of Vandergelder's two timid store clerks, the reckless abandon of a widowed milliner and her assistant, the all-for-love crusading of a wacky spinster and the wily, wise machinations of Dolly Gallagher Levi, the matchmaker of the story.

At its core, Wilder has given us a play that pits the ideals of love and the idyllics of romance against the hardnosed cynicism of the skeptical and utilitarian.

"There is only one way to get happiness and that's to be rich enough to buy it," says the self-absorbed, curmudgeon Vandergelder. "Marriage is a bribe to make a housekeeper feel like a home owner," he sarcastically adds.

Against Vandergelder, Wilder presents the opposite view from his little-experienced but endearingly doe-eyed clerk Cornelius Hackl: "A fine woman is the greatest work of God."

"I bet you could know a woman for a hundred years and never be certain if she likes you," Cornelius tells his trusting, starry-eyed sidekick, Barnaby Tucker.

As the pace of the boisterous comedy and vaudevillian pratfalls quickens, Irene Molloy, the owner of the New York hat shop tells her assistant, "The world is full of wonderful things."

What follows is aimed at proving her hopeful proclamation.

Chris Abraham masterfully ties a ribbon of directing excellence around this very large package of high-spirited, playful, wholly entertaining humour.

The key roles are ably and at times superbly performed.

Tom McCamus is strong and effectively exaggerated as the vain, stuffy Vandergelder.

Mike Shara and Josh Epstein were like a pair of velvet gloves, fitting smoothly and seamlessly into each other's comedic timing, as the two store clerks who venture from sleepy Yonkers, "where nothing ever happens," to daunting New York City, where, in contrast, everything seems to happen.

Laura Condlin was marvellous as the lovely yet single-minded and indefatigable Irene Molloy. Her humour was smoothly and deftly delivered, whether she was berating the bumptious Cornelius, raising an eyebrow of worry or scrunching her nose in frustration.

Seanna McKenna was a perfect Dolly: authoritative, compassionate, scheming, always and ever pragmatic, but tender too. Her introspective soliloquy about "living with human beings" rather than as a "single oak leaf" tugs at the heart but never descends to maudlin or camp. The experienced McKenna imparts the important message movingly, with touching affection for her late husband and hopeful opportunity for her own future.

Although wanting a life of comfort and ease for herself, Dolly understands the deeper truth about wealth and fortune that ultimately humbles the crusty Vandergelder. And she pronounces that truth in the earthy wisdom for which *The Matchmaker* (and Wilder) are famous: "Money is like manure. It is not worth a thing unless it is spread around."

*The Matchmaker* entertains and amazes. It is thus typical Stratford.

***MBD***

# Federation cuts Yiddish funding

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has stopped funding its Committee for Yiddish, effective July 1.

Sol Hermolin – a member of the Committee for Yiddish and president of the Yiddish Vinkl (an independent group) – has emailed 200 people affiliated with the latter group to decry the funding cut and urge recipients to protest the decision by writing to federation president and CEO Ted Sokolsky.

The federation, the committee's sole funder, provided it with $36,000 annually, allowing for a part-time staff person – Ester Klimitz, who will continue as co-ordinator until September – and underwriting programs including Yiddish classes, lectures and concerts.

The federation's campaign is down an estimated $3 million from last year, from $63 million to a projected $60.2 million.

Federation spokesperson Dan Horowitz told *The CJN* in an email that the organization's leaders "worked tirelessly to ensure that this year's budget provided extensive support for our community's most vulnerable, including Holocaust survivors, Israel, and Jewish education in both day schools and supplementary schools… Consequently, program spending in the fields of arts, culture, and heritage were, unfortunately, reduced."

He added that the federation would continue to fund "in the coming fiscal year, the cultural initiatives that the Committee for Yiddish (CFY) cares deeply about such as the Ashkenaz Festival and the Toronto Jewish Book Festival. In addition, UJA Federation will be offering the committee members other forms of assistance so that Yiddish language classes can be offered at our three JCCs across the city, in which space will be made available for CFY meetings as well."

Hermolin, a Toronto native whose parents spoke Yiddish, said in an interview the cut is "a crushing blow to Yiddish culture."

In an email to federation chair Elizabeth Wolfe, he wrote that Yiddish "has developed a culture abundant with music, literature, poetry and humour."

Hermolin said he was thankful for the federation's support of the committee but asked Wolfe to reinstate funding so that the committee can continue to provide the community with classes and cultural events.

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United Jewish Appeal
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# Neighbours fed up with home-based shul

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

For Sylvia Wolfson, seeing a contractor's truck parked illegally in front of Ateres Mordechai last month was the "final straw."

The synagogue, located at 230 Arnold Ave., has been her next-door neighbour since 2009 and is probably Thornhill's largest home-based synagogue.

"I have appealed to [shul founder] Rabbi [Avrohom] Bitterman on many occasions about the parking and the commotion in the neighbourhood as a result of the people that are coming there," Wolfson said.

She has come to the conclusion that Rabbi Bitterman is "not a man who's planning on moving," although he told *The CJN* last week he is "actively pursuing" the search for a home for the shul in a non-residential zone.

Esther Zeisler, who lives around the corner from Wolfson, said that "most of the immediate neighbours are against having this situation continue."

The City of Vaughan allows home-based synagogues, but according to Ward 5 Coun. Alan Shefman, they are "not acceptable" in residential areas and "can't possibly meet the requirements in our bylaw."

Shefman has been fielding complaints about home synagogues for several years. He said that issues include parking, setbacks from neighbouring homes, and fire safety.

As well, he said, "people buy their homes to live in a residential area, and if there isn't an institution that's been there prior to them buying their home, it's fundamentally unfair for them to have an institution plunked down in the middle of the street."

One of the problems, he said, is that there are few green spaces or storefronts available in his ward, which is bounded by Steeles Avenue, Yonge Street, Highway 407 and New Westminster Drive. The ward's population is approximately 60 per cent Jewish.

"I know for a fact they have done everything they can to try to minimize their impact on the community," Shefman said of Ateres Mordechai.

But he said he sees "co-operation [as] an interim measure… until they find a proper home."

Rabbi Bitterman says that about 25 to 30 people attend Shabbat services, and about 15 go to daily minyans, but Wolfson believes the number is higher. The shul also has classes.

The rabbi also said that most of the recent work in the house was just maintenance. However, he added, "one wall was opened up to accommodate when we have a simchah." He said that such occasions occur "a few times a year," and that speakers are invited to the shul "a couple of times a year."

He said that illegal parking occurs "rarely if ever," but Wolfson said that last fall, several cars were illegally parked for 72 hours on three separate weekends and were not ticketed. Parking is allowed on the south side of the street only.

In a recent email to Shefman, she wrote that parking violations make it unsafe to back out of her driveway and even more unsafe for cars to turn at the corner of the street.

She noted that Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue of Toronto is only a five-minute drive from Arnold Avenue and offers the same services to the Orthodox community in the area.

In a letter last fall to Vaughan mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua, Wolfson wrote of "flagrant violations of city bylaws" by Ateres Mordechai, including the use of fireworks at an evening party and possible lack of permit for modifications to the house.

Rabbi Bitterman said that the building meets fire regulations and that he has increased exterior lighting to allay neighbours' concerns.

He said he "would love to have a real place, with a parking lot, where people would feel comfortable… We really don't want any problems with our neighbours."

# Community rallies to support Jewish LGBT group at Pride

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

**Kulanu Toronto and its supporters march at the Toronto Pride parade on July 1.** *[Patrick Church photo]*

Members of Toronto's gay and lesbian community enjoyed a rambunctious 2012 Pride Parade, despite the participation of a virulently anti-Israel organization in the march.

Kulanu Toronto, the city's main Jewish lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered organization, drew a large number of guests to march with its members at the July 1 event.

Justine Apple, Kulanu's executive director, said she was very happy with the turnout and support her organization received from both the Jewish community and other pro-Israel allies.

"It was amazing. We had more than 100 people march with us," she said.

Supporters and marchers in Kulanu's delegation included representatives of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, the City Shul, McMaster Israel on Campus, Congregation Shir Libeynu, Temple Har Zion, First Narayever Congregation, Temple Sinai, Congregation Darchei Noam, JSpaceCanada, ARZA (Canadian Reform Zionists), and St. Paul Liberal MPP Eric Hoskins.

"We were proud to represent the Jewish community at the Pride Parade, where we marched to celebrate our double roles as proud members of the gay and lesbian community and proud supporters of the State of Israel," Apple said. "We marched in an atmosphere of harmony and respect."

On June 29, Pride Toronto's new dispute resolution panel ruled that controversial group Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA) could participate in the parade this year. The panel heard arguments from B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights that sought to have the anti-Israel group barred from the Pride festivities.

The panel ruled that the term "Israeli apartheid" is not hate speech, since the City of Toronto's own anti-discrimination policy doesn't classify it that way, and neither human rights tribunals nor courts of law have ever ruled on the phrase.

In September, the city's executive council is slated to review Toronto's non-discrimination policy and also the term itself to decide whether the Pride Parade, which receives nearly $104,000 in city grants annually, should continue to receive public funding in 2013.

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# More shocking yet

Even though we used this space last week to point out the double-speaking duplicity of the United Nations for allowing Iran to ridicule Jews and Judaism and to continue to call for the annihilation of the Jewish state, we are compelled to once again write about that organization. Some of the developments and pronouncements emanating from the UN and its agencies are so egregious, so preposterous, so shocking that they must not be ignored.

UN Watch, the Geneva-based NGO, reported this week that Syria has announced it will seek a seat on the UN's 47-member Human Rights Council. The election for the vacant seat will be conducted next year. But the word "election" in relation to membership on the council is as appropriate as it is in relation to elections in Iran. That is, not at all.

As Hillel Neuer, executive director of UN Watch, points out, once Syria becomes the nominee of the UN's 53-nation Asian group, "Syria's candidacy would be virtually assured," for the group will only nominate as many candidates as it has vacancies to fill.

Setting aside for the moment even superficial scrutiny into the record of the UN Human Rights Council, the mere idea of Syria being considered as a member of a body whose mission is to protect and defend human rights can cause one to experience vertigo and nausea. It is simply absurd, an affront to conscience and a complete overturning of the plain meaning of words and language.

President Bashar Assad's forces and various henchmen are believed to have murdered as many as 14,000 fellow countrymen since February. Countless thousands more have been tortured and brutalized.

Yet, the possibility of Syrian membership on the council seems not to bother too many other countries. The United States and Europe attempted last week to pre-empt the possibility of Syria's ascension to the council, but their attempt was stymied by such international human rights stalwarts as China, Cuba and Egypt. As UN Watch further reported, Russia and India argued that it was premature to decide the matter before Syria had formally submitted its candidacy, adding that Syria after all, might be a good candidate for the council, since it had been unanimously elected last year to two human rights committees of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

We are no longer surprised by the dark, low crevices of immorality and hypocrisy that the UN and its agencies occupy. Once demonization and delegitimization of Israel became the international body's recurring obsession, the perversion of the UN was inevitable.

We abhor what the UN and its agencies have become. We lament what they could have been.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Applause broke out in the courtroom after a French jury found former Nazi Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie, 73 – the "Butcher of Lyon" – guilty on all 22 charges against him of crimes against humanity. He was sentenced to life in prison, the maximum penalty under French law.

Dry Bones THE MID-EAST COLUMNIST
THE SITUATION IN SYRIA IS GETTING SO BAD THAT
THE THREAT TO WORLD PEACE POSED BY . . .
ISRAEL'S BUILDING OF HOMES FOR JEWS
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## Response to Jason Kenney

Thank you for your coverage of the Harper government's treatment of refugees, including the passage of Bill C-31, Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act, and the recent modifications to refugees' health-care benefits ("Rabbis urge PM not to cut refugees' health care," *CJN*, July 5).

Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney makes it plain that the changes are meant to deter Roma refugees from Hungary from applying.

He is quoted as saying that when refugees arrive in Canada from certain "countries not known to produce refugees," there can be a "presumption that few of those claims are likely to be valid." A fair refugee system evaluates each claimant's case according to its own merits, rather than making "presumptions." My father was interned as a "friendly enemy alien" in England in 1940, and then in Canada, because German Jewish refugees were presumed, based on their nationality, to represent a security threat.

You write that Kenney "questioned... why Hungarian citizens seeking refuge [do not] take advantage of their full mobility rights within the European Union." Let me answer. In Greece, the skinheads of the neo-Nazi "Golden Dawn" march under swastika banners. In France, Marine LePen's National Front experienced a surge in support in recent elections. In Italy, municipal authorities evict Roma families from refugee camps, according to Amnesty International.

Mr. Kenney, why are you surprised that Hungarian Roma – terrified by the growing influence of the neo-fascist Jobbik party (now the third-largest group in the Hungarian Parliament) – seek refuge in Canada, rather than in the European Union?

Rabbi Michal Shekel says the new immigration legislation should be rewritten "in a more nuanced manner." Sadly, it appears that Mr. Kenney doesn't do nuance very well.

**David Josephy**
**Guelph, Ont.**

* * *

## In support of all Jews

Last week, I marched in Toronto's Gay Pride Parade with Kulanu, the city's Jewish LGBT social, educational and cultural organization, to support all Jews, no matter who they are. The carnival spirit was infectious. One of our marchers sprayed water at onlookers and we were often doused. We held our banners high – the blue Magen David, the rainbow flags and the placards showing Israel as one of the most tolerant and diverse countries on this planet. I carried a cheeky placard that was a real hit.

But most satisfying was the response from the thousands of people along the parade route. Except for a very few boos, the response was heartfelt and positive. We were met with cheers, applause and thumbs up.

As well as having the most fun I've had in a long time, I felt proud to support my community and Israel. I hope that next year we can triple our numbers. It's the best way to fight back.

**Francine Dick**
**Toronto**

* * *

***LET THEM GO...***

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

## Haredim and the Internet

The article "Haredi community unites against Internet use" (JTA, May 31) gives the impression that haredim are opposed to the Internet mainly because of pornography. As haredim proscribe talking about sex, non-Orthodox Jews don't understand the extent of their abhorrence of the Internet. Chapters 23 and 25 of the Enen HaEzer section of the *Shulchan Aruch* (*Code of Jewish Laws*), written about 450 years ago and based on the Talmud, is their guide as to how stringent one must be on sexual matters, even in marital relations.

It is certainly not the liberal Jewish view of conjugal sex in books by Rabbi Shmuley Boteach and Dr. Ruth Westheimer. It is a prohibition against both any form of sexual arousal outside of marriage and reading "heretical" literature. Therefore, haredim dread the Internet because of pop-up ads showing attractive women and because one may encounter non-Orthodox Torah. Indeed, some haredi rabbis warn that one can lose one's share of the world to come because of improper sexual thoughts.

**Jacob Mendlovic**
**Toronto**

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# Shamir was steadfast in his devotion to Greater Israel

**Chemi Shalev**
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**TEL AVIV —** Of all the Israelis who have led Israel since its inception in 1948, Yitzhak Shamir is the only one who was a true zealot. A modest and moderate man with infinite self-control, he was nonetheless a fanatic devotee of his vision of the Jewish people and the Greater Land of Israel. The end, in his eyes, always justified the means.

I covered Shamir during his years as prime minister during the late 1980s and early 1990s, accumulated many "Shamir hours" in his bureau and – much to the chagrin of many of my colleagues and most of my friends – both liked and admired him. He had what Americans would call "true grit" in his ideological convictions, was undeterred by hardships and unmoved by temptations. He kept his eye on the only ball that mattered to him – the preservation of the Greater Land of Israel – and viewed everything else as subservient diversions. He was one of the last of the "generation of giants" who had fought, often against all odds, for the establishment of the Jewish homeland.

Despite his public image as a dull politician and uninspiring leader, Shamir was a well-read man and an engaging conversationalist who, unlike many of his successors, was possessed with enough self-confidence and intellectual curiosity to relish debate and criticism. He had a grudging respect for wily ideologues made in his own image, even if they came from the opposite end of the ideological spectrum. The first newspapers he read in the morning were the now-defunct left-wing party organs, *Davar* and *al-Hamishmar*. The perennial Soviet foreign minister Andrei Gromyko was one of his adversarial favourites.

He had a functional approach to haredi parties and viewed their demands for greater control of religious life as a reasonable price to pay for their support for his right-wing policies. But he miscalculated the vehemence and outrage of American Jewry when he agreed in 1988 to give haredim exclusive control over conversions, and capitulated to Diaspora demands in order to appease American Jews, whom he viewed as even more vital to his overall designs.

He disliked "professional politicians" and was no great fan of Shimon Peres, with whom he had forged a six-year national unity partnership at the helm, nor Benjamin Netanyahu, the Likud superstar who would eventually take Shamir's place after Shamir's electoral loss in 1992 to Yitzhak Rabin. Netanyahu's slick, American-style politicking was alien to Shamir, and his willingness to grudgingly adopt the Oslo accords in order to win over centrist voters in the 1996 elections was viewed by Shamir both as betrayal and as a vindication of his earlier mistrust. But he got along well with Rabin, a fellow straight shooter, who served as Shamir's tough-minded defence minister until 1990.

Shamir's most grievous sin, in the eyes of many – including this writer – was his decision to undermine the 1987 London framework agreement on the Palestinian problem reached between his then-foreign minister Peres and Jordan's King Hussein. Shamir's refusal to entertain any sort of territorial compromise caused him to terminate the agreement. In so doing, he also terminated the so-called "Jordanian Option" on the West Bank as well. This ultimately helped usher in the first intifadah and enabled the ascendancy of the PLO and Hamas. It is from this fork in the historic road that Israel has continued on its path of endless confrontation and futile occupation, although for Shamir, of course, these were just momentary hardships in the eternal battle for Jewish survival.

Yitzhak Shamir

He viewed the West Bank as the hinterland to which millions of Jews from around the world would come to settle. In 1989, he vehemently challenged Peres' assertion that Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika would keep Soviet Jews in Russia. "Millions will come," Shamir declared, to Peres' scorn. It was his utter devotion to these millions and his single-minded adherence to his plan to bring them to Judea and Samaria – a scheme that the immigrants themselves did not follow – that propelled Shamir into the head-on confrontation with then-U.S. president George Bush over loan guarantees that may have cost him his job.

His decision to refrain from retaliating against Iraqi missile attacks in the first Gulf War as well as his acquiescence, after months and months of wrangling that infuriated Washington, should also be viewed, first and foremost, as tactical manoeuvres aimed at warding off pressure and preserving Israel's hold on the occupied territories. He fended off criticism from both the left and the right by waving his hand and exclaiming "nu, tov" before going back to his main objective.

His black-or-white, good-versus-evil, Jew-versus-non-Jew outlook was forged in his youth in antisemitic Poland, sculpted by his membership in the hardline Revisionist youth movement Betar and seared into his consciousness by his story of the death of his father, who was stoned to death by non-Jewish Poles while trying to escape the Nazis, just outside his then-Polish birthplace of Ruzhany, in modern Belarus.

He was a man of iron will, absolute determination and supreme ruthlessness. He salvaged the crumbling pre-state Lehi underground movement after the death of its founder, Avraham Stern, planned and expanded its policy of terror and assassination, ran from British authorities, lived in disguise and once hid for many months, completely alone and totally vigilant, in the orange groves north of Tel Aviv, near the Mediterranean Coast. It is in these years that he learned to keep his thoughts and feelings to himself, and to remain eternally suspicious of both enemies and friends.

Though many might view his ascendancy to the premiership as an accident of history, I tend to believe that it was the inevitable result of the sheer unstoppable brute force of his iron will. He never abandoned the vows that he took in the pre-state underground, and he forever abided by the line penned by Stern in the Lehi anthem: "We serve our cause for the length of our lives, a service which ends with our breath."

On June 30 in Tel Aviv, Shamir was finally discharged from his service.

*With files from Jonathan Lis*

# 'I didn't see myself as Begin's heir'

**Jonathan Lis**
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**TEL AVIV —** Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's seventh prime minister, and the country's second-longest-serving prime minster after David Ben-Gurion, died June 30 in a seniors' residence in Tel Aviv. He was 96 years old.

Shamir served as premier from October 1983 to September 1984, succeeding Menachem Begin, and later as head of the second national unity government, from 1986 to 1990. He then led a right-wing coalition until 1992, when Yitzhak Rabin defeated him at the polls.

In his autobiography, Shamir wrote, "I didn't see myself as Begin's heir, but rather someone who would continue his work," Shamir said after he became prime minister.

Shamir was born in Ruzhany, now in Belarus, in 1915 as Yitzhak Yezernitsky. The small town became part of Poland after World War I. He studied in a school belonging to the Jewish Tarbut network, joined the Zionist Betar movement and studied law at the University of Warsaw.

When he was 20, he immigrated to Palestine and joined the Irgun two years later. By day he worked in an accountant's office and at night took part in anti-British activities.

In 1940, Shamir left the Irgun, following Avraham Stern, and became a leader of the Lehi, the acronym for Lochamei Herut Yisrael, which the British called the Stern Gang.

In December 1941 he was arrested and spent time in the Mizra prison near Acre. After escaping in September 1942, he was put in charge of operations. In this role, he was responsible for the 1944 assassination of Lord Moyne, the British minister of state in the Middle East.

As Shamir put it, Moyne "was a senior official in enforcing British policy in Palestine and didn't for a moment hide his strong opposition to Zionism and his negative feelings toward the Jews."

In 1946, Shamir was deported to Eritrea. He escaped a year later. In 1955, he joined the Mossad, where he worked for 10 years.

After joining the Herut Party in 1970, Shamir was elected to the Knesset in 1973 and served six terms.

In the 1992 elections, Shamir was severely beaten by Rabin and resigned as Likud leader. He served in the Knesset until 1996, when he retired from all political activity, although he continued to criticize the Oslo accords and Benjamin Netanyahu's policies as prime minister.

In 2001, Shamir was awarded the Israel Prize for his service to the nation.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird called Shamir a historic leader with "unwavering dedication" to Israel.

"Canadians admired his selfless sacrifice to his country – the country he risked his life protecting and dedicated his career to serving," Baird said. "We will remember him as a true leader, and a dear friend of Canada."

Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, recalled Shamir as a man of "strength and courage" who was dedicated to the betterment of Israel.

"He will be remembered as one of the great leaders of this nation, a man who fought for what was best for his people and was committed to protecting their safety and security. He was a man of supreme loyalty and integrity and has left a permanent and distinguished mark on the State of Israel," Fogel said.

Israeli President Shimon Peres called Shamir, with whom he sometimes clashed ideologically, a "brave warrior" for Israel.

"He fought with courage against the British Mandate in the days of the underground, and his incredible contribution to the State of Israel during his time in the Mossad will remain forever enshrined in the tales of bravery of our nation. He was loyal to his views, a great patriot and a true lover of Israel who served his country with integrity and unending commitment."

# Finding ritual beauty as we pack to leave

A student of the history of Vancouver's Jewish community will note that many of its institutions are built along the Oak Street corridor. Driving from Los Angeles to Vancouver on I-5 will bring you past Temple Sholom, the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver, the Louis Brier Home for the Aged, the Beth Israel Synagogue, Vancouver Talmud Torah and the Schara Tzedeck synagogue, all without having to wander far from the straight and narrow.

*Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver*

Most of these institutions were built in their present locations after World War II, when the Jewish community doubled in size. Our synagogue, Beth Israel, was dedicated in 1948, although the congregation itself dated from 1932.

Our shul is now an aging structure that has outlived its usefulness in its present form. Therefore, we have embarked on creating a new synagogue with expanded facilities and a very different look from the boxy building we now call home.

That's a long-winded introduction to my topic, the concept of *hiddur mitzvah*, making the mitzvah a thing of beauty.

As volunteer custodian of the Beth Israel Judaica museum, initiated by and dedicated to our former rabbi and his wife – Rabbi Wilfred and Phyllis Solomon – I have the task of packing up the some 120 artifacts in that collection and storing them until the new building is ready.

Our museum was created to display the works of many different Jewish communities around the globe – a Mosaic mosaic, if you will. We have items from India, North Africa, western, central and eastern Europe, and communities throughout the Middle East, including Syria, Iran, Mandate Palestine and modern Israel. Each one has a story.

It may be a family heirloom brought from another homeland now desolate of its Jews. It may be an unusual article used by a person whose name remains, even though the story is lost. This is true of a bronze scribal kit that has the name of the scribe engraved on it.

We have a set of circumcision implements, in themselves ordinary, but they came with the journal of the *mohel* who recorded every circumcision he performed in late-19th-century Europe.

One of my favourites is an enigmatic spice box, shaped like a stork. She – I'm sure it's a she – stands elegantly and gracefully on one leg, holding a snake in her mouth. Why a stork? Why a snake?

We also have a tzedakah box from Hungary. To look at this lovely box is to recall the vibrant Hungarian community from which it came, and to realize that the community no longer exists.

That same historical awareness is evoked by a chanukiyah from Damascus. The community is no more, yet here is a beautiful remnant of its past.

On the other hand, a delicate egg-shaped carved wooden spice box from the Bezalel school in Jerusalem testifies to the rebirth of the skills associated with Bezalel, builder of the tabernacle. It reminds us that in Israel, there has been a rebirth of the visual and plastic arts.

While the biblical view of making images is very strict – no graven images of anything on, above or below the earth – one needs only to visit the archeological sites of classical synagogues in Israel to see that the people weren't shy about decorating their synagogue floors with stunning mosaic images of biblical stories, as well as the zodiac and, gasp, even paganish images of the sun.

Not to mention the frescos of the Syrian synagogue at Dura Europos, a visual feast for the eyes.

The other reminder of a long period of portrayal of the human form is the myriad of Haggadot that have survived from Sephardi lands. I'm thinking of the illustrations in the Sarajevo Haggadah in particular. The Rylands and the Ashkenazi Haggadah blaze with colour and animation as well (although it's theorized that the illustrations may have been done by Christian artisans).

So throughout the 2,000 of Diaspora, Jewish communities and families strove to make the things that embodied ritual and ceremony as beautiful as possible. Had those same communities been free to participate in the flourishing Renaissance of painting as well, who knows what masterpieces would have emerged?

So as I pack away our little museum, I linger to appreciate the beauty each item brings to the mitzvah for which it was created.

# Growing up means learning about consequences

To be a human being is to steadily become aware of the consequences of one's actions.

Babies slowly learn that crying will bring help. They begin with an instinctual ability to suck so that they can get milk, but after that, all is learned. And the learning is that every action can bring consequences. Thus, children learn of parental approval and disapproval. If they behave, mom and dad will be proud or buy them a present. If they misbehave, there will be "consequences." Maybe all they'll suffer is an angry word or look. Maybe they'll miss dessert or a special TV program. But the process of maturation involves learning the consequences of our acts. This seems to me to be an essential element to all human growth – biological and spiritual.

In fact, I would think that one of the most important parts of parenting is this process of teaching children the lesson of consequences. It's neither an easy process nor a simple one-time pedagogic event. It requires constant patterning and processing. At every stage of a person's life, one must learn and relearn this lesson of cost and reward. It's never a simple thing, and one can easily overlook the power of this part of education. And yet it's so important and demanding. For many the absence of this crucial element can mean the growth of a sense of entitlement. One can think I want something now and that simply the wanting of it is enough.

Let me explain.

Students today are filled with a sense of entitlement. I see it in the classroom quite often. I see it on TV, too. But this past semester, I saw it in a special way.

Quebec students are asking for, nay demanding a tuition freeze. Why? Because they believe they're entitled to a free education. There's no sense in their rhetoric of the consequences to society of that tuition freeze. No sense of who will have to pay the bill or what the costs of their disruption will be. Further, they ignore the consequences of their dissidence on other students – on those who spent their hard-earned money on a wasted semester; on those who needed to graduate, and on those whose jobs were waiting and are now lost. Only their interests and goals were considered. The experience of entitlement wiped out the worry of consequences. And when universities and CEGEPS raised issues of consequences – of costs and incomplete grades – student leaders demanded that those be removed from the table. No fees for late completion, please. No consequences to us for our disruptions, please.

If people don't think their own work has consequences, they don't necessarily expect that they must work for rewards. If they don't need to work, but want the goods of society, all they need to do is demand those goods. Similarly, if they do something that's illegitimate, but don't necessarily think they should pay for those acts, they'll demand no consequences.

*Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal*

Simply because they ask for something, because they demand it and demand it with large numbers of dissidents, they believe they should be rewarded. No consequences.

These aren't lessons we should support.

The Bible is at great pains to clarify the process of reward and punishment to an emergent community. In the beginning, the people Israel need God to do everything for them. Like a child, they can't determine their own path or procedures. But as the community matures, God intends them to begin the process of making decisions between right and wrong, of learning that lesson of consequences." If you do this, then..." As the stories move along, more is expected of us – more decisions, more responsibility. We're supposed to know that there are consequences to our actions and, therefore, to choose wisely. We're not entitled. We must work for the things we need and want. That's the message of our Torah.

That's the lesson of parenting

That's the process of teaching.

There are consequences to all our actions. We must be aware of them. If we think we're right, then go out and make your point, but don't expect that there will be no consequences.

Life is more complicated than that.

# A cornucopia of books ...

With summer here in all its warm and sunny glory, book lovers can sit back and immerse themselves in some of the latest books, all hot off the press.

The first volume of the *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos* appeared three years ago and was a landmark in the historiography of the Holocaust. Here was a book that plumbed the awful depths of an unfathomable event, a book that survivors and scholars alike could dip into.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

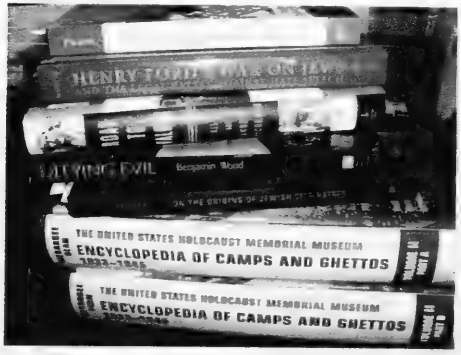
Volume II, now available, is published in two parts by Indiana University Press. The editors are Geoffrey P. Megargee and Martin Dean, and each volume is introduced by the American historian Christopher Browning.

Its scope is massive.

Part A focuses on Poland, the Baltic states, Ukraine and Russia, while Part B concentrates on the Czech lands, areas of Poland, Russia and the Baltic countries not covered in the previous volume, as well as Greece.

Illustrated with black and white photographs, volumes A and B delve deeply into each region and town, leaving no stone unturned.

The entry for Grybow is typical in terms of its exhaustive approach. Grybow, with 847 Jews out of a total population of 2,931, was 94 kilometres southeast of Krakow. Occupied by the German army within a week of the outbreak of World War II, the town was subjected to the usual antisemitic indignities, and very few Jews managed to survive the Nazi occupation.


HENRY FORD
DEFYING EVIL
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THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CAMPS AND GHETTOS
THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CAMPS AND GHETTOS

As Browning suggests, the Jews who fell into the clutches of the Nazis never stood a chance: "Ultimately, Jewish leaders had no option or choice at their disposal that could save their communities. Whether the Germans ghettoized their victim for varying periods of time or killed them immediately, the catastrophic and tragic end result was determined by German intent and power, not by Jewish decisions."

Italy, though allied with Germany in World War II, defied German wishes in its treatment of Jews in occupied Croatia. Individual Italian soldiers took it upon themselves to help Jews and Serbs, whose communities were being systematically destroyed by Croatian fascists. But from 1941 to 1943, these isolated acts developed into what author Benjamin Wood describes as "a conspiracy at the highest levels of the Italian government and military to save Jews from deportation and death."

In *Defying Evil: How the Italian Army Saved Croatian Jews During the Holocaust* (History Publishing Company), Wood claims that about 3,500 Jewish men and children owe their lives to Italian intervention.

"Although the motivations for some Italians were somewhat questionable, the overriding tenet was a sense of humanitarianism," he writes in this valuable book. "Many Italian officers, when told by their German counterparts that they would have to hand over Jews, simply refused, declaring that such an action was beneath the dignity of the Italian army and a violation of Italian honour."

The Tour de France, now under way, is a feat of immense skill, endurance and courage, recent doping scandals notwithstanding. One of its two-time winners, Gino Bartali of Italy, pulled himself up from poverty in rural Tuscany. In addition to being a legendary figure in cycling, he was a man of rare compassion. In Nazi-occupied Italy, he parlayed his fame by sheltering a Jewish family in an apartment he had bought with his winnings.

Bartali's heroics are recounted by Alli and Andres McConnon in *Road To Valour: A True Story Of World War II Italy, The Nazis, And The Cyclist Who Inspired A Nation* (Doubleday Canada). Their book is promoted as the first ever written about Bartali in English and the only one in any language to fully explore his wartime exploits.

Steven K. Baum, a psychologist, editor of the *Journal for the Study of Antisemitism* and author of *Antisemitism Explained* (University Press of America), approaches his topic from a clinician's point of view.

As he puts it, "The tenet of the book is simple, albeit somewhat disturbing: antisemitism will always exist because people are prone to believe social fantasies about the Jews more than realities." Starting from that assumption, Baum launches into an intriguing analysis of the roots and manifestations of this ancient hatred.

Tapping into a strain of nativism and xenophobia, the American automobile tycoon Henry Ford published a newspaper that demonized Jews and sowed the seeds of antisemitism in the United States. With a circulation of nearly 700,000 at its peak in the 1920s, the *Dearborn Independent* was sent unsolicited to schools, libraries, universities and Ford dealerships.

In one of its editions, the *Dearborn Independent* ran a series of articles that accused Aaron Sapiro, a California lawyer involved in the burgeoning agricultural co-operation movement, of leading a Jewish conspiracy to subvert American agriculture.

Sapiro sued Ford and his newspaper for libel, triggering a legal process that culminated in a mistrial after a number of bizarre events. To ensure that the case did not surface again, Ford hired a top-of-the-line Jewish lawyer, Louis Marshall, to write an apology for his antisemitic misdeeds.

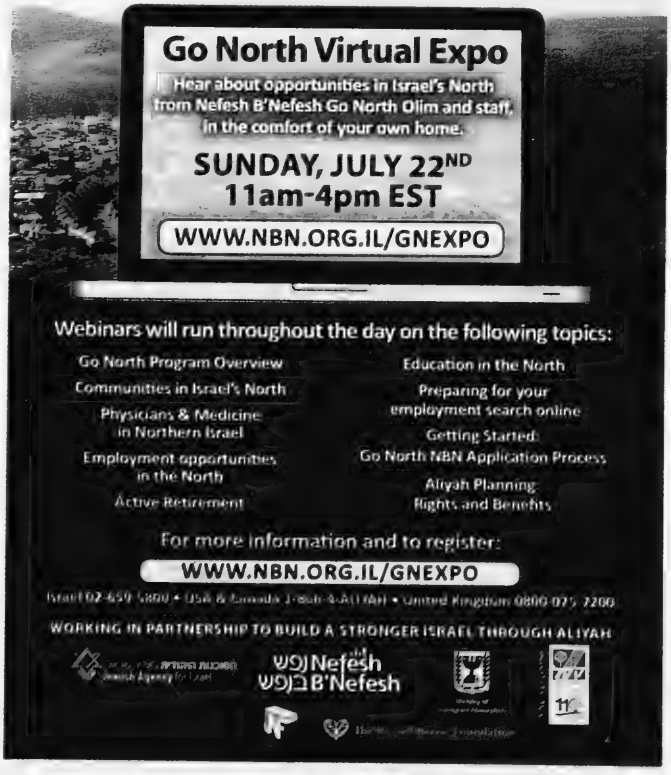
Victoria Saker Woeste expertly explores this incident in *Henry Ford's War on Jews And The Legal Battle Against Hate Speech* (Stanford University Press). Her verdict is decisive: "For everyone in the Sapiro case, except perhaps Ford, victory was elusive. Louis Marshall was not so naïve as to believe that Ford had truly repented. By substituting his own authority for law, however, he permitted Ford to evade a more lasting judgment."

Paul Reitter, in *On The Origins of Jewish Self-Hatred* (Princeton University Press), analyses this phenomenon in dual fashion. First, he examines the views of Anton Kuh, the Viennese-Jewish journalist who coined the term, and of Theodor Lessig, the German-Jewish philosopher who popularized the concept in a book. Second, he explores the relationship between Jewish self-hatred and Jewish anti-Zionism. Reitter's book is rigorously academic in tone and thus of interest to a limited readership.

The same holds true for *Forced Baptisms: Histories of Jews, Christians and Converts In Papal Rome* (University of California Press) by Marina Caffiero.

Ben G. Frank's travelogue, *The Scattered Tribe* (Globe Pequot Press), a popular account of far-flung Diaspora communities from Siberia to Morocco, has far more appeal.

Read Frank in conjunction with Levana Kirschenbaum's *The Whole Foods Kosher Kitchen* (Levana Cooks), a big, glossy, lavishly illustrated cookbook that examines a wide variety of national cuisines from Moroccan to Italian and posts easy-to-implement recipes.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# A Palestinian state is emerging, settler laments

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

A Palestinian state is quietly and steadily emerging with the knowledge and cooperation of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, charges a member of an organization categorically opposed to territorial compromise.

"Unfortunately, Netanyahu has done a great deal to lay the ground work for a Palestinian state," claimed Yisrael (Izzy) Danziger, the director of operations of Mishmeret Yesha, a grassroots activist group based in Jerusalem that believes not a single "grain of sand" in the territories should be relinquished to the Palestinians.

Danziger, a 59-year-old resident of a settlement in the West Bank, said that Netanyahu has adopted this position against his will due to international pressure.

The Israeli government is allowing the Palestinian Authority to establish the infrastructure of a state under its very nose by permitting the PA to build a police force, schools, industrial zones, roads, water pumping stations, quarries and the like.

**Yisrael (Izzy) Danziger**
*[Sheldon Kirshner photo]*

A two-state solution would not only jeopardize Israel's existence but lead to its destruction, he warned in an interview during a recent visit to Toronto.

By ceding strategic high ground and vital water sources to the PA in any future agreement, Israel would be undermining its own security.

Judea and Samaria, as he prefers to call the West Bank, belong legally to Israel, he said, adding that Palestinian refugees can be resettled in any of the more than 20 Arab countries.

Jews living in the West Bank face a war of terror, with tens of thousands of terrorist incidents having occurred since the 1993 Oslo accords, Danziger declared. "Since Oslo, the security situation has deteriorated."

For the past few years, Mishmeret Yesha, a division of the Movement for Jewish Sovereignty in Israel, has been training and equipping Jewish rapid response teams in the West Bank with armoured combat vests. These vests, each worth $1,250, offer a high degree of protection from bomb blasts and shrapnel.

"Many people have been saved by these vests," he noted.

Danziger, a former New Yorker and an Orthodox Jew, claimed that the dire security situation in the West Bank is a microcosm of the problems Israel currently faces on all fronts.

Israel's already cold peace with Egypt will become colder now that Egyptians have voted to elect a new president, Mohammed Morsi, a member of the anti-Israel Muslim Brotherhood movement.

Morsi will not openly cancel the 1979 peace treaty with Israel, but will allow the complete radicalization of the Sinai, Danziger said.

With terrorists establishing themselves in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, Israel may be forced to mount retaliatory raids into the Sinai, prompting Egyptian military responses, he predicted.

He said, "Egypt will be fighting us from the border of the Negev."

Danziger fears that Islamic forces will overthrow the monarchy in Jordan and supplant Syria's secular Baathist regime, turning Syria into "another Lebanon."

In the event of an Islamic takeover in Amman, Israel may have to invade Jordan for its own self-protection, he said.

According to Danziger, Israel is neither militarily ready to attack Iran's nuclear facilities nor prepared to defend itself against an Iranian counter-strike.

In his view, Israeli Arabs, comprising 20 per cent of Israel's population, cannot ever be loyal citizens and are a "cancer" in Israel's body politic. "They are a cancer because of who they are and what they believe," he observed, saying they owe their religious and national allegiance to the greater Arab world.

"Basically, they are intrinsically disloyal to Israel. They have to be transferred to an Arab country. It will have to happen in the course of a very major war."

Surveying these scenarios, he concluded, "Israel's basic security is threatened."

Israelis are generally too complacent about these looming threats to Israel's national existence, Danziger said.

"The Israeli psyche, the Israeli mindset, has to change," he said, pointing out that a large proportion of able-bodied Jewish men and women do not even serve in the armed forces.

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# IGTO director prepares to leave Toronto

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

It's getting close to the time when Oded Grofman will park the RV for good, put away his skates and other hockey paraphernalia and pack for the trip back to Israel.

As director of the Toronto-based Israel Government Tourist Office (IGTO), Grofman has promoted travel to Israel over the past five years. If the numbers are any indication, he's been pretty good at it. Since his arrival, the flow of tourists heading to Israel for vacations and other stays has grown from 50,000 to 75,000 – a jump of 50 per cent.

And while the Israeli-born Grofman has done his best to get Canadians to visit the Holy Land, he's reciprocated by adapting as best he could to Canadian culture. Among the Canadian things he and his family have enjoyed are the camping trips in national and provincial parks – hence the RV – and the hockey lessons he and other Israelis enjoyed every week at a north Toronto hockey school.

Oded Grofman

He's likely also seen more of the country than a typical poutine-eating, maple syrup-loving native Johnny Canuck.

He's enjoyed his sojourn here in the Great White North, but sometime in August he, his wife and two sons will be back in Israel. He is being replaced by Ami Alon, as of September.

Although Grofman won't be working for the Israeli Ministry of Tourism, he'll remain in the industry as deputy director general of the Israel Incoming Tour Operator Association. That organization's goal is to protect the interests of Israel's incoming tour operators while promoting and developing the country's tourism industry.

Tourism and travel gets into your blood, he explained during a recent retrospective interview at the IGTO's downtown office.

Grofman, who left the private sector to take a job promoting travel to Israel, executed the Tourism Ministry's game plan to a tee, with the resulting resurgence in visits to the Holy Land.

That strategic approach meant targeting three distinctive market segments – Jewish travellers, Christian pilgrims, and "sophisticated" travellers who favour exotic locales that offer fine dining, adventurous experiences, good beaches, clubs, music events and the like.

When he first came to Toronto, he didn't know much about the Canadian market, he acknowledged. "I read about it and talked to people who served here. I didn't know the players, the Jewish community, or the Christian community. I was very green."

His first task on arrival was to "stabilize" the Toronto office, which had been run out of New York for one year after his predecessor left the job.

Then there were all the introductions to be made, meeting tour operators, airline officials, travel agents in Toronto and across the country.

He found that many significant tour operators did not offer Israel as a destination. It wasn't even on their radar, he said.

His approach: find the tour operators and bring them to Israel to see first hand they could offer the country as a destination free of concerns over security. He encouraged the creation of packages that sold the country for its religious, spiritual, historical and cultural aspects, as well as for its appeal to "sophisticated" travellers.

He and his staff promoted the country across media platforms, with many magazine and newspaper stories being the result.

He also reached out to a number of cultural communities, including Chinese Canadians and of course, religious communities.

At a farewell breakfast in his honour last week, representatives of some of those communities gushed over Grofman's people skills.

Father Thomas Rosica, chief executive officer of Salt and Light, a Catholic media organization, recalled meeting Grofman in Israel in August 2007 in Bethany. "He instantly won people's hearts," he said.

He's been working with Grofman ever since, and he credits him with facilitating the production of two documentary films created by Salt and Light.

The films, *Journey of Light* and *Within Your Gates*, focus on pilgrimages to the Holy Land. The documentaries have been widely seen by Canadian and American Catholics as well as leaders in the Vatican, including the current Pope, he said.

"The Vatican is thrilled we have such a relationship," Father Rosica said.

Grofman "is a great ambassador for Israel, the Jewish people and the Holy Land," Father Rosica added.

Addressing the farewell breakfast, Grofman said he enjoyed working in an industry that "fulfilled people's dreams and made them happy."

As he prepares to leave, after spending the long weekend at the lake, he recounted asking his seven-year-old son, Yuval, how he felt going back to Israel.

Happy and sad, his son replied "and that's exactly how I feel," Grofman agreed.

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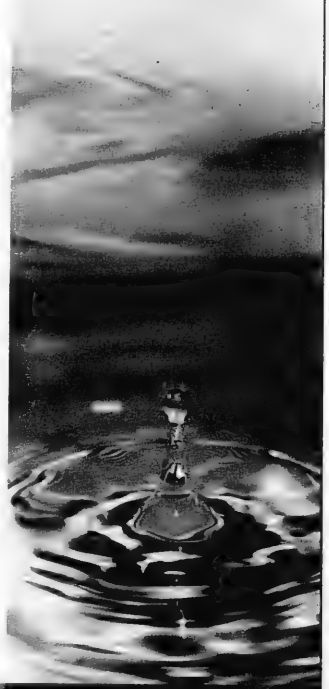

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# Muskoka shul allows Jews to maintain religion

Continued from page 3

Everyone is welcome – cottage renters, cottage owners and visitors to the area.

The Jesin family live in other buildings on the property during the summer.

"My grandparents, Isaac and Basia, turned this into a family compound. My earliest memories are of coming to the cottage every weekend and running around with my cousins. We would have colour wars and carnivals.

"We are grown up now and scattered – some live in Israel, some in New York. However, there is at least one weekend where everyone comes up and reconnects," granddaughter Rachel Shiff said.

"When we were looking for a cottage and found out the synagogue was in the area, it was the deciding factor for us," cottage owner Rena Levy said.

"Some of our children stay up all summer, some for an extended long weekend," Levy, the mother of eight children, said. "It's a wonderful meeting place, as they live in different countries. I do the kosher shopping in the city and bring it up to the cottage, with the joy of sharing Shabbat dinner on the porch with the family."

Isaac and Basia's son, Aaron Jesin, a family physician and mohel, said, "We honour monumental events at our shul such as aufrufs, baby namings and weddings. It doesn't matter how religious you are – any denomination of Judaism is welcome and there is always a minyan. My grandfather Slawin was a very good reader, and he taught all of his grandchildren to read Torah. My brothers and I take turns davening and conducting the services."

B'nai Isaac is an official synagogue with a charitable number. There are no membership dues. The shul opens for weekends during the summer, beginning the first long weekend in July. It has Saturday morning services starting at 9:45 a.m., followed by a kiddush that's sponsored by a volunteer member of the community. Donations are welcome.

Zach Minuk [*Susan Minuk photo*]

"The fact that there was a minyan in the area allowed me the flexibility to leave the city and, at the same time, be able to say *Kaddish* for my father," Gary Kleinberg, a visitor to the Muskoka area, said. "The congregation was extremely friendly and welcoming, and made me feel very much at home."

Sydney Gangbar, Isaac Jesin's lawyer and longtime friend, owns a cottage in Baysville, Muskoka, close to B'nai Isaac.

"When Isaac indicated he wanted to own a summer place where there was a Jewish community for his family, we introduced Isaac to the Burlmarie Hotel back in 1976," Gangbar said. "At that time, it was a very run down and dilapidated hotel, as the original owners had let it go. However, Isaac had the foresight to see [its] possibilities.

"What started out as a small kiddush after some 80 to 90 people came out regularly on Shabbat morning dating back 35 years, grew into what today is almost a banquet every Sabbath. The synagogue enables people who come to this area to maintain the same [level of observance] as they do in the city," Gangbar added.

Zack Minuk, this writer's son, also talked about why the synagogue and the Jewish community around it are important to him.

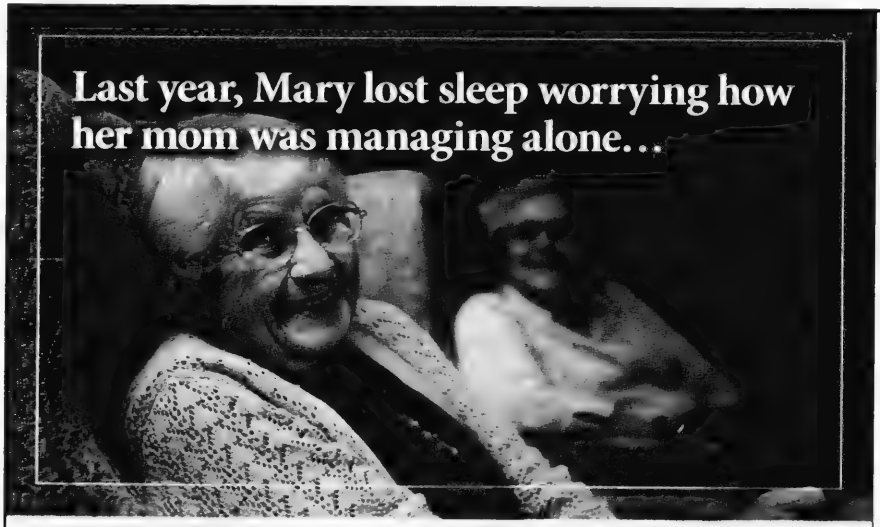
"My family travelled from our cottage in Huntsville and took the scenic forest route to synagogue," Zack said. "To my surprise, just a few feet from the car, leaped a female deer. It was an exciting moment, one I wouldn't likely encounter in the city.

"With my bar mitzvah fast approaching, I was looking forward to attending Shabbat services," Zack added, "and the family proudly witnessed my brother, Jordan, get called up to the bimah to dress the Torah.

"Finally, there was the kiddush. Now that was some awesome spread," he said.

"Shabbat is time spent with family, reflecting on how this day is different than any other day of the week," Rachel Shiff said. "It is quieter up here. Everyone is respectful of everybody. It is not as formal as in the city. Breaking bread and praying is a nice custom to maintain even in the country."

"Relax and have a good time," Basia's father, Yirmiyaau Slawin, said many years ago. It's a sentiment that is still shared by Jesin family members today.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# Rahimi's ravings suggest Iran isn't rational

"Iranian First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi condemned Zionists for inciting global drug trade and addiction in a bid to annihilate non-Jewish communities in accordance with talmudic teachings."

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

So began a June 26 report by Iran's Fars News Agency of the vice-president's speech at an international anti-drug conference in Tehran that was co-sponsored by the UN.

In his story about this speech for the June 30 *Globe and Mail*, Paul Koring noted that Rahimi "also accused Zionists of starting the 1917 Russian revolution (although he said they managed to avoid a single Jew being killed), murdering black babies and various other nefarious schemes."

According to the *New York Times*' Thomas Erdbrink, who reported on the event from the Iranian capital, despite the outlandishness of Rahimi's remarks, all a European delegate could muster (even though he refused to be identified either by name or country), was a mealy-mouthed comment: "This was definitely one of the worst speeches I have heard in my life. My gut reaction was: why are we supporting any co-operation with these people?" He answered himself in consistent fashion: "If we do not support the United Nations on helping Iran fight drugs, voices like the one of Mr. Rahimi will be the only ones out there."

Needless to say, there are no reports of any UN official or European delegate speaking up at the event. Their silence should be as disturbing as Rahimi's comments.

A Reuters report carried in the *National Post* observed that Rahimi's remarks "seemed unusually inflammatory to western delegates." Appropriately, this prompted a *Post* reader to ask in a letter to the editor: "Have we reached the point where the anti-Jewish ravings of Iranian leaders have become so common that it takes something extraordinary… to even 'seem' unusual?"

After all, the "usual" inflammatory comments, such as Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Holocaust denial, barely cause a stir.

When UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon finally issued a statement about Rahimi, the most he could manage was to call on Iranian officials "to refrain from these kinds of statements," while expressing "deep regret," not condemnation, at such "expessions of hatred and religious intolerance." Last week's *CJN* editorial called Ban's comments "craven, pusillanimous and entirely inadequate."

Mohammad Reza Rahimi

On June 28, Canada's foreign minister John Baird condemned Rahimi and said that "Canada hopes the international community joins us in speaking out against, and utterly rejecting, such ridiculous and antisemitic assertions."

The point, however, is that Rahimi's remarks, along with those of other Iranian leaders, are not just ridiculous. They are, as history has proved time and again, profoundly dangerous.

Rahimi's remarks also remind us that no one should rest assured that Iran's leaders are "rational actors," as many western academics and pundits believe. These experts, after all, like to claim that Iran's leaders would not launch nuclear weapons against Israel in a first strike, since they would not want to "commit suicide" by inviting an Israeli nuclear retaliation.

One of the most recent examples of this attitude is Kenneth Waltz, professor of political science at Columbia University. In his article "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb" (the cover piece in the July/August 2012 issue of *Foreign Affairs*), Waltz confidently maintained that "Iranian policy is made not by 'mad mullahs' but by perfectly sane ayatollahs who want to survive like any other leaders. Although Iran's leaders indulge in inflammatory and hateful rhetoric, they show no propensity for self-destruction."

Really?

The strategic analyst Walter Russell Mead reminds us (in his *American Interest* blog) how unfounded a Waltz-like assumption is.

"Jew-hatred is an irrational passion that overmasters common sense and destroys the ability to perceive one's own best interests… True, risking a retaliatory nuclear strike requires an unusual degree of paranoia and hatred, but enough Israelis have enough historical memory of the irrationality that Jew-hatred brings in its wake that it's unrealistic to expect Israel to accept an Iranian bomb no matter how rational the experts say the mullahs really are."

*Paul Michaels is director of research and media relations for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

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# Outgoing JNF Canada head looks to future

**David Lazarus**
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — Joe Rabinovitch really dislikes the word retirement.

So as he prepares to step down at the end of this month as executive vice-president of the Jewish National Fund of Canada (JNF) after 11 years at its helm, he is already planning new projects and new tomorrows.

Deciding to call it a day with JNF seemed entirely in keeping with Rabinovitch's diverse career history going back to 1964. It has included top positions at the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal (now the English Montreal School Board), the Association of Jewish Day Schools, and, just prior to JNF, the YM-YWHA.

At 71, he still exudes a lot of youthful energy.

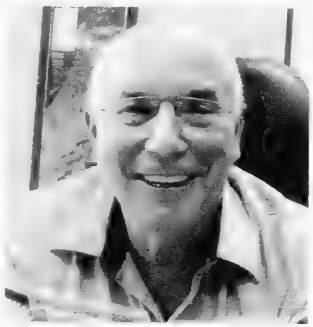
"That's the way I am," Rabinovitch said in an interview last week. "I have always left every job, I think, on top. And I was never afraid to take risks."

Rabinovitch said he was making way for Toronto's Josh Cooper as JNF's executive vice-president. He said the organization is striving to adapt to the times, as every Israel-based fundraising organization in Canada vies to find new donors and as the older generation of "legacy givers" begins to peter out.

"The nature of fundraising is changing drastically," Rabinovitch said.

"The [JNF] head office is still in Montreal, but the offices all across country are taking on enthusiastic younger people and using new ideas and new approaches," especially in the social networking age, in which Facebook, Twitter, Skype, have become essential ways to reach those generations, he added.

As well, Rabinovitch said, "people are much more discerning now about what they want to give," especially in an era when previous "big givers" lived through the founding of Israel and donated as much as they could, but now construction cranes speckle the landscape and show how prosperous Israel is.



Joe Rabinovitch

"Tree-planting and the *pushke* are still very important for profile-raising, but they are not our most important fundraisers," Rabinovitch said, alluding to Negev Dinner or "legacy" projects.

Rabinovitch said that during his tenure at JNF, he was most proud of the fact that more than 150 JNF Canada projects came to fruition in Israel, representing $50 million from Canada and matching amounts from JNF Israel.

He was also happy that JNF has become a more green organization during his tenure and has launched a large number of local initiatives meant to attract younger generations, including an annual running event co-sponsored by Scotiabank and a floor hockey tournament.

A poignant personal highlight for Rabinovitch was visiting JNF's Montreal Oasis – Be'er Sheva: the Barbara and Stanley Plotnick Family Park.

"The first thing I saw when I got there was a plaque in honour of my parents," Rabinovitch said. "That moment really stayed with me."

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# New JNF head announces PM as Negev honoree

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

The new national executive vice-president of the Jewish National Fund Canada is starting off his tenure with a major announcement: Prime Minister Stephen Harper will be the 2013 Negev Dinner honoree in Toronto.

It's believed to be the first time a sitting prime minister has been honoured at a Negev Dinner. The galas are held annually in cities around the country and recognize Canadians who have shown support for Israel.

"We anticipate that being the largest dinner event the community's ever seen," Josh Cooper said. "The prime minister has agreed to do it. He deserves the honour."

**Josh Cooper poses with some of JNF Canada's new posters.**
*[Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf photo]*

The event will be held at the Toronto Metro Convention Centre. More details will be released as the date draws closer.

A spokesperson for Harper said his office has no comment on the event.

Cooper, JNF Canada's current executive director for Toronto, will replace outgoing national vice-president Joe Rabinovitch, 71, as of August.

In an interview with *The CJN* last week at his Toronto office, Cooper, 42, said he and the Montreal-based Rabinovitch, whom he called "a terrific mentor," have been speaking daily to help ensure a smooth transition.

Cooper plans to revitalize the JNF brand and help Canada's pro-Israel community understand that the JNF is about "so much more" than planting trees – although that remains important.

With 11 offices across Canada and a head office in Montreal, Cooper, who will be based in Toronto, said he plans to visit with all JNF Canada staff and board members to get to know them and gather ideas about how to better promote the organization within the community.

He said marketing strategies and "other national items" would be high on his initial agenda once he takes over as national vice-president.

Another pressing issue is maintaining his organization's existing donor base and "building upon it."

"I feel excited, honoured and fortunate to be able to represent the ultimate Zionist organization," Cooper said. "We're now 111 years young. Many people don't perceive us as the same organization that bought the land to create Israel."

He said JNF Canada is the only Jewish community organization that sends 100 per cent of donations to projects in Israel.

"We've literally impacted 100 per cent of Israel. No other organization has done that," Cooper said, noting that JNF Canada has been or is currently involved in a myriad of infrastructure and environmental projects in the Jewish state.

Many people still associate the JNF name with tree-planting and the traditional blue donation boxes, or *pushkes* as they're known in Yiddish, but the organization is also a major contributor to Israel's environmental science sector and is a benefactor to numerous schools, synagogues and burgeoning communities.

"People across Canada who want to support Israel should look to JNF," Cooper said.

While there are many other great Jewish organizations in Canada that do "terrific" things domestically, his organization offered the "best value for dollar" for projects in Israel, he said.

The JNF is also focusing on more unique programming to help fundraise for Israeli causes, he said.

As an example, Cooper noted that in 2011 his organization partnered with Ontario's correctional officers to start a motorcycle ride that helps the families of Israeli correctional officers who perished in the 2010 Mount Carmel forest fire while travelling through the forest as part of a convoy that was moving prisoners out of the fire zone.

This year's ride is scheduled for Aug. 12 and has been endorsed by the Ministry of Community Safety. Funds raised will help establish scholarships for the children of the Israeli officers.

For more information on that event and others, visit www.jnf.ca.

"I feel like the luckiest guy in the world doing this [job]. Every day is more exciting than the last. It makes me proud as a Jew to see the work being done in Israel," Cooper said.

AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION FROM
BOYCOTT
This August, the General Council of the United Church of Canada will decide whether to adopt a boycott of targeted Israeli communities and products.
If the proposed boycott passes, the United Church will abandon the genuine peace camp and join a broader movement led by anti-Israel activists who seek to undermine the right of the Jewish state to exist.
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# Shul in talks to share building with federation

Myron Love
Prairies Correspondent

**WINNIPEG** — South Winnipeg's struggling Herzlia-Adas Yeshurun Synagogue, the city's largest Orthodox congregation, is looking to the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg for financial help.

The synagogue board has started negotiations with the federation to possibly turn over ownership of its land and building to the community body, which in return would help the shul with the cost of replacing worn-out boilers and upgrading its 65-year-old facility.

"We are a small congregation," said synagogue president Earl Hershfield. "We only have 97 member families, with 55 to 65 of them active members. We can't raise the amount of money we need to upgrade our building. Therefore, we decided to approach the community at large, as represented by the federation, for help."

Under terms of the proposed agreement, the federation would use the building during the week as a second location for the Asper Campus Daycare, which would open up 60 additional daycare spaces for the Jewish community.

The Herzlia was originally opened in 1955 as a school. It merged with the Adas Yeshurun Synagogue – relocated from the North End – a year later. The Torah Academy also operated a school out of the building in the 1980s.

"We were renting out space for a small daycare [24 spaces]," Hershfield said. "We have spoken to the Rady Centre [which operates the campus daycare] and the federation.

**Dr. Earl Hershfield, left, Herzlia's president, with Rabbi Ari Ellis.** *[Myron Love photo]*

All parties agree that this is workable. It would be a win-win situation for all involved and the community at large."

Federation president Israel Ludwig stressed that nothing has been agreed to yet.

"We are not in the business of rescuing synagogues," he said. "We would be sharing costs. Our concern is having a space for expanding our daycare. If we can arrive at an agreement that helps revitalize Winnipeg's major modern Orthodox synagogue, then that would be a bonus."

Ludwig said the federation has received a government grant to open 60 additional daycare spaces, but lacks the room at the Asper Campus, Winnipeg's main Jewish community centre, to expand the existing daycare.

"It's a case of if we don't use it [the grant], we lose it," he said, so the federation has been looking for a building nearby to house the new daycare spaces.

"When the Herzlia came to us with this proposal, we thought that there were some elements that might work for us," Ludwig said.

"We would have to negotiate a cost-sharing arrangement and discuss with [spiritual leader] Rabbi [Ari] Ellis some halachic factors related to issues such as the congregation having to bring Shabbat in early on Fridays in the winter months."

There would also be the question of who would be involved in managing the building from the federation side.

"The federation is not in the business of owning property," Ludwig said. "The Campus Corporation, for example, operates the Asper Campus building. Barry McArton, the Campus Corporation president, will be involved in the negotiations with the Herzlia."

If a deal can be reached, Ludwig sees construction starting this fall at the synagogue on the new daycare, with the work being finished in time for the fall of 2013.

Hershfield envisions the Campus Corporation assuming ownership of the Herzlia property for a period of 25 to 30 years, with the congregation being allowed to continue to use the building rent free.

"[The congregation] would have to set aside money from year to year so that at the end of 25 years, we could either buy back the building or build a new building somewhere else," Hershfield said.

HEALTH

# *New Baycrest chair aims to improve seniors' lives*

Carolyn Blackman
Staff Reporter

Garry Foster has a simple goal for his three-year term as chair of Baycrest's board of directors.

He wants to improve the lives of seniors.

A chartered accountant and vice-chair of Deloitte, Foster, 61, said in an interview at a Baycrest café that being Baycrest's chair gets him out of the boardroom.

"I get to connect with the people, and really see what's going on here," says Foster, who is married and has two married children and one grandchild.

Foster became acquainted with Baycrest when he took part in a fundraiser. He went on to work on the board's finance committee, he said, after the late Gordon Wolfe, former executive director of Jewish Family & Child, encouraged him to join.

"I was aware of the work it does, but when my mother-in-law became a resident, I saw how amazing the place is. There is caring and compassion, as well as a drive for excellence."

Among his other volunteer work, Foster, who was was recently vice-chair of the Baycrest Foundation, has been a member of Mount Sinai Hospital's board of governors since 1999, president of Jewish Family & Child, and chair of the board of governors of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Garry Foster

Talking about Baycrest, Foster said, "not many places are world leaders in what they do, but Baycrest is in that realm. Its research will transform aging. Our research into cognitive neuroscience is a gift that the Jewish community has given the world.

"I am honoured to be part of a world-class academic health sciences centre. It continues to build an international presence as an innovative leader in care delivery and systems solutions for aging populations."

Recently, he said, Baycrest scientists went to Washington, D.C., to debut the world's first functioning virtual brain, at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience attended by 32,000 scientists and clinicians from around the world.

"The virtual brain can show a simulation of how a normal brain works, as well as the activity pattern after it has had a 'virtual' stroke,'" Foster said.

"The project is now entering Phase II, bringing it a step closer to creating a predictive modelling tool that will change the way we assess and rehabilitate brains that have suffered damage from stroke, epilepsy or the early stages of Alzheimer's, for example. The project team plans to demonstrate the effects of a stroke and epilepsy on the brain to basic and clinical neuroscientists in Europe next spring."

Despite being a world-class facility, he said, Baycrest, which has the largest kosher kitchen in Canada, has never lost its heritage or culture. "The Jewish community is still the bedrock of Baycrest. It is important to stay connected to our roots."

Community support makes Baycrest special, he said. "Money donated goes to improve the life of residents, and of people who come here [for services.]"

Foster said that during his term, he wants to figure out how to use the centre in the best way possible.

"How can we provide services for the community, using this centre as the hub?"

He would like to see the government provide the resources to make it possible for Baycrest to deliver services in people's homes – to keep people at home and live a fruitful life, he said.

"It's all a matter of funding. A lot of people would rather live in their own environment."

He wants to change Baycrest's image, he said, "but not too much. I want to take our research and disseminate it to the world, and I want to be known as the world's leader in cognitive neuroscience. At he same time, though, I still want it to be the Jewish place on Bathurst Street."

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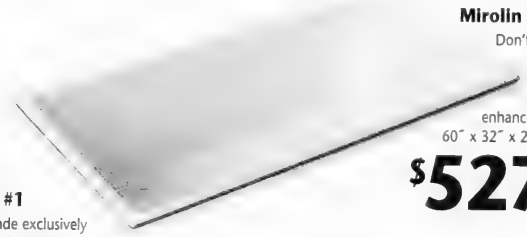

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# The Eicha problem?

Rabbi Chaim Strauchler

The public conversation on antisemitism has recently turned to an unlikely source. Read in synagogue on the night of Tisha b'Av (July 28), Eicha has prompted reflection on the degree to which Jews wrongly take responsibility for antisemitism, both today and throughout history.

In February, author Dara Horn gave an online talk in which she questioned our inclination to blame ourselves for our national setbacks. She referred to Eicha, the book of Lamentations, which describes the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem more than 2,500 years ago.

While describing a myriad of Babylonian war crimes, Eicha almost never mentions the perpetrators.

Who are the villains in Eicha? They are the Jews themselves, who brought about their own destruction with their sins. Our sages in the Talmud further cement this idea by explaining that the Second Temple wasn't destroyed by the Romans' hatred for Jews, but by senseless hatred of Jews toward other Jews. Horn calls this tendency of Jews to believe that antisemitism is our own fault the "Eicha problem."

While in its classical form the Eicha problem might be phrased as, "The way to stop antisemitism is to stop sinning against God," it also has secular forms. Chaim Nachman Bialik, in a poem on the 1903 Kishinev Pogroms, criticized traditional Jews for reciting the confession of sins in response to the tragedy. Yet, Bialik's Zionist response was likewise informed by the "Eicha problem." He blames the Jews for not having defended themselves from attack. Either way, Jewish suffering was the Jews' fault.

Horn argues that we're foolish to take responsibility for other's aggression against us. We must stop blaming ourselves.

*Rabbinic Reflections*

While Horn is right to call attention to how we process national tragedy, Eicha is not the problem. It's part of the solution. Eicha is a symptom of a fundamental Jewish philosophy that has allowed us to survive through history despite our political weakness. We believe that we matter. We believe that our actions matter. We don't believe we're victims. We believe –whether in religious terms through our commitment to God and Torah, or in secular terms through our engagement politically, militarily or diplomatically – that our fate is in our own hands.

To fully assign blame to others is to lose our belief in our own capacity to act. The belief that no matter our enemies' actions, we control our own destiny has allowed us to consider a future that might be different. It has allowed us to hope for better tomorrows.

British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks expressed this idea beautifully in a recent article on Jewish leadership, "At the heart of Judaism are three beliefs about leadership: We are free. We are responsible. And together we can change the world."

Eicha, problem or solution, is a signal of our beliefs about ourselves. To believe that Babylonian, Romans, Germans or Iranians control our fate is to lose our freedom and our responsibility. By taking on our shoulders the heavy burden of our own destruction, we protect our freedom. May we never lose our belief in our power to change our world.

*Chaim Strauchler is rabbi of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation in Toronto.*

# *How my tuition plan would work*

No column that I've written has received the response that my recent one on how Hebrew day school tuition fees can be substantially and easily reduced without any new money being raised and without funds for other charities being diverted to education.

The combination of foundations spending part of their capital and having it replenished with insurance purchased by day school parents allows us to solve a major crisis now while maintaining and even increasing funds for the future.

I'd like to add a further perspective as we move toward a solution. As *The CJN* has reported, enrolment at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy has dropped by some 160 students over the past three years. That's expected to grow to 200 fewer students by the fall. While some attribute the drop to demographics, my own research shows that finances play a much greater role.

While Generation X may have had slightly fewer kids than the Baby Boomers, Toronto has been, and continues to be, a magnet for Jewish immigration from all over the world. The Jewish community today is larger than it was 15 years ago, so enrolment should be going up, not down. Demographics do play a role – in the decision of countless committed parents to have fewer children. As many have noted, day school tuition is the best form of birth control.

TanenbaumCHAT's own research shows that 96 per cent of its graduates marry Jews (similar studies across North America peg the rate at just over 90 per cent). For students attending public school, the intermarriage rate is more than 50 per cent. While the ultimate goal is "Birthright Education" – free education for every Jewish child – we'll start with a goal of a 50 per cent cut in tuition.

*Money Matters*

*Rabbi Jay Kelman CA*

Assuming that such savings would entice many to opt for a day school education, this means that for every $1 million dedicated to tuition reduction – money that would be returned with "interest" – four Jews who would otherwise have intermarried would marry Jews.

Without getting into the intricacies of insurance, here's a simplified example of how this could work: a family with four children in day schools has $800,000 of tuition to look forward to. In return for a tuition loan of $500,000 over 18 years, the couple buys $2,000,000 in life insurance, payable to the foundation funding the tuition reduction. If they purchase the insurance when the husband is 40 and the wife 37, it will cost them about $120,000 over those same 18 years while their kids are in school (substantially less if they purchase the insurance, say, when they are 30 and 27), after which no more premiums would be necessary. The family saves some $380,000 and the charity receives four times the money it loaned to be used for future charitable giving. Even if the couple lives into their nineties, that's a return of about 2.5 per cent compounded annually – much higher than a government-guaranteed bond.

The much greater return is an investment in the Jewish future – in guaranteeing future Jewish children will have access to Jewish education, and in having a cadre of committed Jews to strengthen our community.

*Rabbijay@torahinmotion.org*

# *Marking the end of another 7-1/2 years of Talmud study*

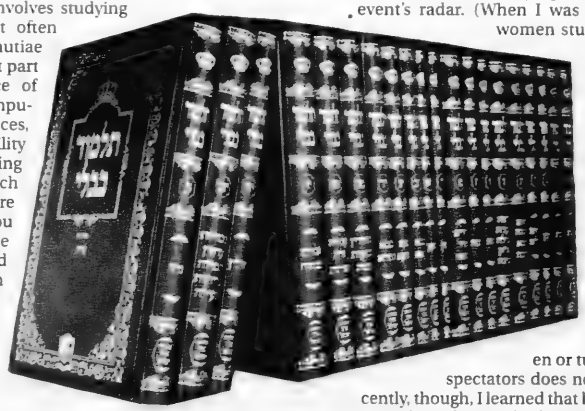
*Views & Reviews*

*Martin Lockshin*

On Aug. 2, tens of thousands of Jews around the world will complete the *daf yomi* cycle of studying the entire Babylonian Talmud. I will be among them. While the Talmud is the core text of rabbinic Judaism, for centuries, many learned Jews lived long and intellectually productive Jewish lives without actually studying every page of it. In the traditional yeshivah method of studying, a page can be studied for weeks. At that rate, it would take many lifetimes to complete the 5,200 plus pages (or more than 2,600 folios, a folio being the two sides of a page) of the Talmud.

At the World Congress of the haredi (ultra-Orthodox) organization Agudath Israel in 1923, Rabbi Meir Shapiro advanced the novel idea of encouraging Jews to study one folio (*daf*) of Talmud daily (*yomi*) on a fixed schedule. All studiers would be literally on the same page every day and would complete the Talmud in 7-1/2 years. In the first few cycles, few people were attracted, but since then, more and more Jews have been participating. Almost every Orthodox synagogue seems to have at least one *daf yomi* group nowadays. You can attend *daf* classes online by great Talmud scholars such as Rabbi Dov Linzer, a talented teacher who is head of the open Orthodox Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. Available in audio podcasts or video, live or archived or on YouTube, Rabbi Linzer teaches and interacts with a class of women and men in an Orthodox synagogue in the Bronx (http://www.the-daf.com). For those who (like me) prefer low-tech resources, we have been blessed in recent decades with excellent books that make the *daf* more comprehensible. (More on the newest resource, the Koren-Steinsaltz English Talmud, in an upcoming review.)

Completing the *daf* cycle makes me feel both accomplished and humble. The accomplishment is obvious – sticking with a project for 7-1/2 years is difficult, especially when it involves studying obscure texts that often deal with the minutiae of laws that are not part of today's practice of Judaism (ritual impurity, animal sacrifices, etc.). The humility comes from realizing that there is so much more to learn before you can feel that you have mastered the Talmud. I am filled with admiration for the few rabbis and scholars who have. Of all the resources in print and on the Internet, the most crucial for me these last 7-1/2 years has been the Talmud commentary of Rashi (1040-1105), written almost 1,000 years ago. I never cease to be amazed at how Rashi figures out where the Talmudic text is going to puzzle a reader like me and then solves my puzzlement with a few terse words of commentary.



**A complete set of the Babylonian Talmud**

How worthwhile is the *daf yomi* enterprise? Jewish educators are split. Critics point out that Rabbi Shapiro presumed that those studying the *daf yomi* would already have advanced text skills. For them, he thought it worthwhile to cover pages quickly, thus reviewing the major and minor issues of the Talmud. But often today, less knowledgeable Jews make up the bulk of *daf yomi* participants. Many assemble in synagogues for a 45-minute group lecture each day. The group leaders race through the texts, but don't teach skills. Sadly, it's possible to attend *daf yomi* classes for 7-1/2 years and learn neither talmudic Aramaic nor how to figure out the talmudic text on your own. Were the classes structured differently – without the need of covering a folio a day – imagine what skills could be learned in 2,000 hours of instruction! (University language teachers claim that 300 hours of classroom instruction over a period of three or four years is enough to take a student from no knowledge of a language to near fluency.) Supporters of *daf yomi* counter that those who attend are attracted by the experience of being part of a group with a holy mission and are not concerned that the learning outcomes are limited.

To mark the completion of the Talmud (*siyum ha-Shas*), Agudath Israel is organizing events around the world on Aug. 1. The main event is at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. Canadians can join in via satellite from Toronto's Sony Centre for the Performing Arts. I'm told that it's very moving to be part of these mass celebrations of Talmud learning. The Toronto event is advertised as reflecting the unity of the Jewish people. On a certain level, this is true, as the event will probably attract people from all branches of the often fractious haredi world. Speeches, judging from descriptions of past events, will be in Yiddish and English. Some modern Orthodox Jews will also attend. Women will be present, but they will be seated separately (in Toronto, in balconies), and none will speak. I'm told that at previous such events, rabbis praised women for encouraging and enabling their husbands and sons to study Talmud, but the idea of women themselves studying Talmud was not on the event's radar. (When I was young, virtually no women studied Talmud. In the last three decades, more and more modern Orthodox women are pursuing intense Talmud study.)

The haredi flavour of a *siyum ha-Shas* is understandable, as the initiators and many of the learners are haredim. But a celebration of Jewish learning in 2012 that excludes women or turns them into silent spectators does not appeal to me. Recently, though, I learned that both in New York and in Israel, modern Orthodox organizations are making plans for additional *siyum ha-Shas* events with the active participation of both women and men. The event in New York (one of whose co-sponsors is Toronto's Torah in Motion) takes place on the evening of Aug. 6, at Congregation Shearith Israel (the Spanish Portuguese Synagogue) and I will be one of the speakers. (See the event website www.siyumhashas12.com.) Who knows? Maybe 7-172 years from now there will be an inclusive *siyum ha-Shas* in Canada, too!

And yes, I am hoping to begin the Talmud again on Aug. 3.

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# *The difference of a minute, 40 years late*

Guest Voice

Robert Sarner

With the much-anticipated 2012 Summer Olympics soon to kick off in London, there's great speculation in Canada over how our athletes will fare at the Games. While I hope they'll be triumphant, Canada already deserves a gold medal for an Olympic-related action off the field, an action that should be the source of great pride for all those who still subscribe to the original, albeit tarnished, ideals of the Olympics.

A few weeks ago, Canada became the first country to officially call on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to hold a minute of silence at the Games in memory of the 11 Israeli athletes and coaches slain by Palestinian terrorists at the Munich Olympics in 1972. The vote in Parliament, passed unanimously, came after two Canadian cabinet ministers wrote to IOC president Jacques Rogge in support of a formal commemoration of the murdered sportsmen on the 40th anniversary of the massacre.

Since Israel made its request to the IOC in April on behalf of families of the victims, a growing number of people around the world have raised their voices for such a long-overdue gesture. In late June, others followed Canada's lead as the U.S. Senate and the Australian House of Representatives both unanimously passed resolutions calling on the IOC to reverse its position. Germany's foreign minister also weighed in similarly.

So far, true to form, the IOC will hear none of it. Over the years, it has steadfastly refused proposals from the athletes' relatives for a minute of silence at the Games, saying it would politicize the Games. This despite politics often being inextricably linked to the Olympics. At the 2008 and 2004 Olympics, Iran and Syria ordered their athletes not to compete against their Israeli counterparts in protest of the Jewish state, without the IOC doing anything. At the 2002 Winter Olympics, the IOC allowed the U.S. team to walk in the opening ceremonies with a flag recovered from the ruins of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on New York. In 1936, the IOC yielded to Hitler as he stage-managed the Berlin Games to glorify Nazi Germany.

It's also worth noting the IOC has previously remembered deceased Olympic athletes during the Games. Two years ago at the Vancouver Olympics, a moment of silence was held during the opening ceremony for a Georgian luge competitor who died during a training accident.

The IOC's position on the Israeli athletes is a travesty of the values it claims to uphold. It's consistent with the organization's time-honoured hypocrisy and corruption, and its draconian, Orwellian copyright enforcement.

With its greedy servitude to corporate money and political interests, including some of the world's worst dictatorships, the IOC seems to have forgotten that its priority is supposed to be the athletes. This latest disgrace adds to the litany of IOC transgressions spanning decades. Little wonder there's so much disillusionment over the Olympics and cynicism at the sight of the shamelessly overcommercialzed five rings.

As columnist Rosie DiManno wrote so trenchantly in a recent column in the *Toronto Star*: "Four decades after the Munich Massacre, the Lords of the Rings continue to act as if 11 Israelis were never murdered by Palestinian terrorists smack in the middle of their gaudy sports spectacle – an atrocity that was not allowed to interfere with those 1972 Games, which proceeded as if nothing untoward had happened. Through nine Summer Olympiads since, the IOC has staunchly refused to hold any official observance for the slain Israelis. They talk a good game – the global community of athletes, the spirit of brotherhood and peaceful competition – but it is hokum, the mendacity of satraps with selective amnesia and slippery virtue."

It's heartening to see such moral outrage mounting. With the clock ticking down to the opening ceremonies in London on July 27, an international movement is now gaining ground to get the IOC to reverse its position. In addition to a global online petition that's attracted 85,000 signatures, public officials in half a dozen countries have come out in favour of the commemoration of the Israeli athletes. With any luck, it will move the IOC to finally see the light and do the right thing. It would make for what would likely be the most poignant, most dignified minute at the London Olympics.

*Robert Sarner is director of communication and public affairs at Roots Canada.*

Dr. David Mock and his wife, Karen, celebrated his career as dean of dentistry at U of T as well as her receipt of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal at the U of T Faculty Club last month. [*James Fiege photo*]

# U of T dean of dentistry rocking into retirement

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

University of Toronto dean of dentistry Dr. David Mock is a man of firsts. He is the first Jewish dean of the department, and, after serving two back-to-back terms as dean since 2001, he is very likely the first to receive a rocking chair at his retirement tribute.

When Mock was told that U of T would create a chair in his honour, he joked that he would like it to be a rocking chair. To his surprise, he received both the academic honour and the item of furniture.

"We're going to take it to the cottage," Mock said with a laugh, when asked what he would do with the unusual gift.

Mock's tribute was held at the U of T Faculty Club on June 28. His colleagues, friends and family, who had come from as far away as Israel, attended the event, which featured refreshments, music and a farewell video tribute.

Mock was presented with an official portrait, as well as a plaque to recognize his work. Dr. Harinder Sandhu, the director of the Schulich dentistry program at University of Western Ontario, presented the plaque.

"I'm very, very proud of my faculty," said Mock, who is a specialist in oral pathology and oral medicine. He has been at U of T, first as a student and later as a professor, virtually continuously since the first year of his undergraduate degree in 1963.

When he became dean of dentistry in 2001, one of the first things Mock did was to hang a mezuzah in the doorway of his office. "I felt it was an indication of the times and that things have gotten better," he said of his appointment as a Jewish dean. Mock said as a student, he witnessed unofficial forms of antisemitism and racism that he says are no longer present at the university.

Prior to Mock's first term as dean, there had only been a Jewish interim dean of dentistry, but not a full-term one. Mock will be succeeded by Dr. Daniel Haas, who is also Jewish.

U of T president Dr. David Naylor, a friend and colleague of Mock's, spoke at the reception, sharing fond memories of working with the former dean. "This is a man who has given his life in many ways to advancing this profession and this institution," Naylor said of Mock.

Also at the tribute, it was announced that a fellow graduate of U of T's dental school, Mark Nusbaum, and his wife, Edith, would establish an endowed fund in Mock's honour to support graduate students.

Mock chose to share his tribute with his wife, Karen, a well-known human rights consultant. At the Faculty Club, Karen Mock was presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for her service to the community.

"It's been wonderful to share the journey," she said of both their career accomplishments. The Mocks celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary this December.

Though Mock is on his way to retirement, he said he will continue with some part-time teaching as well as his work at Mount Sinai Hospital, both passions that he is not ready to leave behind just yet.

"I will do the things that I enjoy, and I won't do the things I don't enjoy," he said with a laugh.

Mazel Tov
מזל טוב
Mazel tov to Jason Mervin & Cheryl Klein on their engagement. Parents Allen & Jan Mervin, Melvyn & Renee Klein. Grandparents Gertrude Spiegel & Roslyn Ungar.
Mazel tov and happy 80th Birthday to our beautiful mother, bubby and great-grandmother, Fay Lusthaus. We all love you dearly!
Mazel tov to Helen & Aaron Yermus on their 60th wedding anniversary. With love, from Bob & Sura, Judy & Rob, Esther & Stephen, and all the grandchildren.
Bris of Liam Maxwell Doyle (Mordechai-Nachum) took place June 27. Happy mom Natalie is holding Liam. Proud dad is Jamey and big sister is Madelynn.
Congratulations to Ashley Kandestin on graduating from Université du Montréal's faculty of law and on passing the Quebec bar exams. I am proud of you. Grammy Shirley Frajman-Schrier.
Mazel tov to Ashley Lauren Bohan on her bat mitzvah. Love, parents Allison & Brahm Hauer and William Bohan, sisters and grandparents.
Email your digital photos to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click the "Family Moments"

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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

Social Networking @
for the :-) generation

**Deadline reminder: July 16 is the deadline for the issue of July 26. There is no issue July 19. July 23 is the deadline for the issue of Aug. 2. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or email whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, July 12

**CHRIS MCKHOOL KIDS SHOW**

**Chris McKhool** performs for children, Earl Bales Park. Activities begin at 5:30 p.m.; performance starts at 7 p.m. Free.

## Saturday, July 14

**ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL**

Orillia Country Shul, 151 Creighton St. S., Atherly, near Orillia, resumes its summer services at 10:30 a.m. July 14 **Rabbi Ilyse Glickman**; July 21 **Rabbi Jarrod Glover**; July 28 **Rabbi Nir Barkin.** All are welcome. 705-327-7069.

## Sunday, July 15

**KAVANAH GARDEN FESTIVAL**

The Kavanah Garden celebrates summer, noon-4 p.m., 18 Lebovic Campus Dr. www.shoresh.ca

## Tuesday, July 17

**CONCERTS IN THE PARK**

The North York Concert Band performs tonight at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre, in Earl Bales Park, 7 p.m. July 24, Danny's 11, a jazz/swing band with 2 vocalists performs. In case of rain, the performance moves to the Earl Bales Community Centre.

**JEWISH ICONS**

**Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses Jewish icons of the 20th century. July 17, Hank Greenberg; July 24, Hannah Senesh. Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 7:30 p.m.

## Saturday, July 21

**B'NAI SHALOM**

B'nai Shalom Congregation of Halton-Peel, a Conservative egalitarian congregation meets at 10 a.m. in Oakville. Call 905-901-9889; www.bnaishalom.ca.

## Wednesday, July 25

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Na'amat Canada Toronto members and volunteers are packing backpacks with school supplies 12-4 p.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre. Children over age 5 can help pack from 5-7 p.m. Volunteers must pre-register at 416-636-5425.

## Thursday, July 26

**DUFFLEBAG THEATRE**

Dufflebag Theatre presents *Robin Hood* for children at Earl Bales Park. Children's activities begin at 5:30; performance starts at 7 p.m. In case of rain, performances take place in Earl Bales Community Centre. Free

## Other News

**THE CUTTING VEG**

The Cutting Veg, a community supported agriculture program, delivers organic produce to Toronto-area synagogues throughout the summer and fall. For more information, call 647-388-7444 or www.thecuttingveg.com/CSA.

**Continued on page 25**

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100% ISRAEL

Since its founding in 1901, Jewish National Fund/Keren Kayemeth Le'Yisrael (JNF) has been committed to building Israel's future as well as responding in times of crisis and need.
Located in Toronto, Ontario, we are searching for an experienced:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The successful candidate is responsible for the overall coordination, design and implementation of programs, public activities and fundraising for the Toronto Region. The challenge of this opportunity is to marshal JNF's full organizational and philanthropic potential in order to engage, inspire and strengthen the Jewish community throughout Toronto and highlight JNF's impact on Israel and Jews overseas. This individual will be responsible for providing leadership to the JNF Toronto office staff and fostering a high performance culture and maintain good relations with staff leadership of synagogues, fraternal organizations, Jewish community organizations and other volunteer groups.

We are looking for someone who has a minimum of ten years of relevant experience with at least five years at a high level of management in a complex organization, preferably with some time spent as an Executive Director or General Manager or comparable position. Prior experience with fundraising and major gift cultivation and solicitation is required. The ideal candidate will have a combination of business/managerial knowledge and exposure to non-for-profit organizations in a lay or professional role. A commitment to Israel and Jewish values preferred.

Qualified applicants are invited to submit their resumes in confidence to Josh Cooper at:

**josh.cooper@jnf.ca**
416.638.7200 x26
No later than July 18, 2012
www.jnftoronto.ca

**Continued from page 24**

**THE SHIRA SINGERS**

The Shira Singers are looking for new choir members as they sing for seniors in the GTA. Call **Yair** 905-886-1755.

**TEMPLE SINAI SOCIAL CLUB**

The Temple Sinai Social Club is going to see *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Theatre By The Bay, Barrie, Aug. 15. Bus and matinee. $55. Reserve with **Marcie** 416-487-3281.

**KAVANAH GARDEN RETREAT**

An all-day workshop featuring yoga, meditation, drumming, Pilates, movement and drama will be held Aug. 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Shoresh's Kavanah Garden, 18 Lebovic Campus Dr., Vaughan. $100 (financial assistance available.) To register: http://tolifetolife.eventbrite.com/. For more information, email drjuliasegal@gmail.com.

**MOSAIC OUTDOOR CLUB**

Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America, for Jewish outdoor enthusiasts, is holding a Labour Day retreat in Colorado, Aug. 30-Sept. 3. Visit www.mosaicoutdoor.org or call 1-888-MOSAICS (667-2427) to register.

**TORAH IN MOTION TOURS**

Torah in Motion presents "Journeys through Jewish History" with **Marc Shapiro**, Italy July 9-19; Central Europe Aug. 2-12. 416-633-5770.

**JUMPSTART HEBREW**

JumpStart Hebrew is a program for children entering JK to Grade 2, Aug. 27-31 at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Children will be introduced to Hebrew through art, music and play. E-mail **Karen Goodis**, karen@bethsholom.net or www.bethsholom.net.

**TORAH TOTS REGISTRATION**

Registration for Torah Tots, September 2012, at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham is now open. Call 905-886-0420, ext. 227.

**HOUSING REGISTRY**

List your basement apartment or extra room free with UJA Federation's Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto. If you're looking for a place to live, JIST can assist you as well. Visit JIST in the Lipa Green Centre, 416-635-5600 or e-mail: jinfo@ujafed.org.

## JF&CS GROUPS

**BEREAVED PARENTS**

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Falls Prevention Program** will be held at Baycrest, starting July 30. The 8-week session provides exercise and education for older adults living in the community who have experienced one or more falls or have a fear of falling. OHIP covered. Call 416-785-2488.

**Caring for the Caregiver,** a free support group for caregivers feeling burned out caring for loved ones with dementia and other illnesses meets July 25, L'chaim Retirement Home, 718 Sheppard Ave. W., 7 p.m. 416-398-7898.

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. The Seniors Club will be closed until July 31 for construction. All activities will take place temporarily in the community centre in Earl Bales Park. Casino Niagara July 18; Casino Rama Aug. 15. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, social bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts. Call **Morty**, 416-783-6078; 416-630-6487.

**The Bridge Club** at Forest Hill Library is seeking new members. Call **Lea** (evenings), 416-487-7630.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Active Seniors, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. July 26, Historical guided walk through early Jewish Toronto neighbourhoods, 1:30 p.m. $12. Pre-register at ext. 0.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526. **Colin Blayney.** Ongoing yoga, dance fitness and aquafitness classes.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

Beginner and intermediate Mah Jongg classes start July 25, 1-3 p.m., drop-in duplicate bridge, Thursdays 12:30- 3:30 p.m.

Tickets still available for the Grand River lunch and show cruise, Aug. 8.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

**Keith Friedlander** teaches a course on "People of the Comic Book: Jews and the Graphic Novel," July 19- Aug. 9, 6:30 p.m. July 19, "History of Jewish Contributions to Comics", July 26, "Will Eisner's Contract with God."

*Curtains* is presented by No Strings Theatre and Al Green Theatre, July 26-29, ext.0

The adult daytime choir runs all summer, Tuesdays 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

A summer evening choir is being offered, Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. Open to all, no auditions. music@mnjcc.org.

*Aging Is Living: Myth-breaking Stories from Long-Term Care*, photography and words by **Irene Borins Ash,** is on display in the gallery till July 22.

*Kids Who Can*, photos by 13 photographers from Easter Seals summer camps is at the gallery from July 25-Sept. 9.

The Gallery is calling for submissions for fall exhibits (flat media only). Deadline is Aug. 1. Guidelines at www.mnjcc.org/in-the-gallery or ext. 250.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

## SCHWARTZ REISMAN CENTRE

9600 Bathurst St., Vaughan. 905-303-1821. www.srcentre.ca

Free Sunday programs all summer, ext. 3047. Register now for programs. Call **Monique** for family and children's programs, ext. 3047; **Staci** for adults/ seniors, ext. 3037; **Tonya** for fitness and health, ext. 3016; **Naama** for daycare and preschool, ext. 3018. **Alex** for JCC Chai Sports ext. 4465. The outdoor pool is now open. For swimming lessons, call **Yuri,** ext. 3034.

**SUPER VOLUNTEER: Ruth Rotman recently received the Volunteer Service Award for her 67 years of volunteerism to Na'amat Canada Toronto from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. From left are: Judy Margolis, Susie Shillow, Tillie Margolis, Ruth Rotman, Terry Dykopf, national treasurer, Na'amat Canada, Laurel Wiseman, president, Na'amat Canada Toronto, Doris Wexler-Charow, immediate past-president, Na'amat Canada Toronto and Lori Nusbaum, senior fundraising and development officer. Kneeling in front is Heather Freed.**

*SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 16*

# Church urged to reject boycott

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Nine Canadian senators sent a joint letter to the United Church of Canada Moderator Mardi Tindal in late June warning her that a deep schism between the Jewish and Protestant communities could emerge if the church adopts a controversial boycott proposal on Israel at its general council in Ottawa next month.

The senators, all of whom are United Church members, urged the church to reject a proposal being brought forward by its Working Group on Israel Palestine Policy that asks the church to boycott all products made in West Bank settlements, but stops short of asking for a total boycott of all Israeli goods.

Senator Nancy Ruth sent the letter from her office. Its co-signatories are senators Bert Brown, Yonah Martin, Dennis Patterson, Carolyn Stewart Olsen, Jim Munson, George Baker, James Cowan and Elizabeth Hubley.

They asked the church to remember that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is complex. "Humility would dictate that we approach this matter with care and respect to all parties," they wrote.

The senators called the boycott proposal "strange" and "baffling" and said the Jewish community worldwide and Israelis won't understand any distinction the working group makes between boycotting products from Israeli settlements versus Israel as a whole.

"What will be made clear to them is that the United Church has chosen sides, declaring Israel guilty and the Palestinians the only injured party," they said.

The senators also rebuked the church's working group for failing in its proposal to "mention a single expectation of the Palestinians" in its recommendations.

"To put it bluntly, the church cannot maintain credibility in criticizing Israeli policies… while relieving the Palestinian leadership of its own duty to advance peace," they wrote.

The senators asked Tindal to use her position as moderator to denounce the boycott proposal and remind church leaders that peace between Israelis and Palestinians requires that both sides "make the concessions necessary to end the conflict that has harmed so many."

The United Church posted the letter on its website last week and responded with letters from both Tindal and Rev. Bruce Gregersen, head of the church's working group on Palestine, to Ruth and the other senators on July 3.

The United Church is Canada's largest Protestant denomination. It has 650,000 members, but more than 2.5 million people identify themselves as followers.

In her letter, Tindal thanked the senators for expressing their concerns and acknowledged the upcoming challenge to the Jewish-United Church relationship.

She said she visited "Israel Palestine" last year with the working group, but withdrew from the group once it started deliberations on how to write up its report "recognizing the need to remain neutral and unattached to its recommendations, given that I will be presiding during the council." As such, she said it would be inappropriate for her to make any comment on the report prior to the general council.

***For full story, please go cjnews.com***

# דער יידיש ווינקל

## דזשערי קעין

**חאָס האָט יצחק נחמן שטיינבערג, לעבנס ערשטער מיניסטער איבער דעם סאָוועטישן יוסטיץ דעפּאַרטאַמענט, צו טאָן מיט ציוניזם, און וווּ יידן לעבן הײַנט אין דער וועלט?**

פֿאַרוואָס שטעלן איך די פֿראַגע? ווײַל כיום אַ צייט צוריק, דאָ אין טאָראָנטאָ, האָבן מיר עטלעכע די געלעגנהײַט צו הערן פֿראָפֿעסאָר שבע צוקער, אַ באַוווסטע לערערין פֿון יידיש און דער טעף- רעדאַקטאָר פֿון "אירפֿן שחיל" אַ צײַט שריפֿט איבערגעגעבן צו דער יידיש שפּראַך אין קולטור.

אָפּיציעל איז "אירפֿן שחיל" אַרויסגעגעבן פֿון דער יידיש-ליגע. אין אַן אַנדערער צײַט האָט די יידיש-ליגע נעהײסן די פֿרײַלאַנד-ליגע אין אַרגאַניזאַציע וואָס האָט געהאַט זיי איר ציל צו ברענג אַ יידיש רעדזשיק מדינה אויסער ישראל. פֿרײַלאַנדליגער האָבן נישט געגלויבט אַז דער ציוניסטישער חלום צו ברענ אַ לאַנד פֿאַר יידן אויף די זעלבע זאַמדן פֿון דער בבלישער ערד וועט קענען דערגרײכט וועדן. די אימפּעריאַליסטיש פֿאַליטיק אין די ערשטע יאָרן פֿון צוואַנציקסטן יאָר הונדערט, און דער רעאַליטעט אַז 600,000 אַראַבער וווינען שוין אין פֿאַלעסטינע, האָט די פֿרײַלאַנד ליגע געגלויבן צו פֿאַרשטיין אַז דער ציוניסטיש וויזיע האָט נישט קיין פֿונדאַמענט אין דער רעאַליטעט. יידן, אויב זיי הילן לעבן אין אַ לאַנד פֿאַר יידן, וועלן מוזן געפֿינען אַ טעריטאָרע אַנדערש ווי פֿאַלעסטינע.

די מיטגלידער פֿון דער פֿרײַלאַנד ליגע זײַנען געווען דער אָוואַנגאַרד פֿאַר אַן אידעאַלאַגיע וואָס מען האָט נערופֿן "טעריטאָריאַליזם" און שטיינבערג איז געווען זײַער פֿירער אין הירפּש אידעאַלאָג איך דער עלטסטער האָלב פֿון צוואַנציקסטן יאָר הונדערט.

הײַנט איז שטיינבערג כמעט פֿאַרגעסן געוואָרן אָבער ער איז אינער פֿון די וויכטיקסטע פֿיגורן אין דער מאָדערנער יידישער נעסיכטע ביז דעם אָנהײב פֿון חורבן. שטיינבערג איז געווען אַ פֿרומער יוד און אַ מיטגליד פֿון דעם רוסישן, גאָר לינקער, נישט מאַרקסיסטישער סאָציאַל רעוואָלוציאָנערער פּאַרטי. די אַ יונגער מאַן האָט ער פֿאַרזוכט דעם טעם פֿון צאַרס תּפיחה. נאָך דער ערשטער רוסישער רעוואָלוציע אין 1905 איז ער גדעוואָרן פֿאַרטרײַבן קיין הײַסשלאַנד. אין הײַסשלאַנד איז ער געוואָרן אַן אַדוואָקאַט. דאָס האָט אים געמאַכט גרייס, אין 1917, צו פֿאַרנעמען דעם יוסטיץ פּאָסט אין לענינס רעגירונג. אָבער ער איז נישט געווען באַקוועם מיט לענינס פּאָליטיק אין שטיינבערג איז אַרויס פֿון קאָבינעט אין פֿון רוסלאַנד. ער האָט געמאַכט ענגלאַנד זײַן היים אין דאָרט איז ער געוואָרן דער הירפּש שליח פון טעריטאָריאַליזם.

וווּ געפֿינט מען אַ לאַנד פֿאַר יידן וווּ די יידישע קולטור וועט הערשן אין יידיש, נישט העברעיש, וועט זײַן די שפּראַך פֿון טאָג טעגלעכן לעבן? שטיינבערג און זײַנע שליחים האָבן באַזוכט אוגאַנדע, טאַזמעניע, אויסטראַליע, סורינאַם, טעקסאַס און אַנדערע ערטער. אָבער דער אויסבליק פֿון דער צוויטער וועלט-מלחמה מיט אירע דעקס מיליאָן מערטנס יידיש רעדנדיקע קרבנות, האָט אײַנגעשטילט די שטימע פֿון די טעריטאָריאַליסטן. ווען ישראל איז פּראָקלאַמירט נעוואָרן אין 1948 האָבן די טעריטאָריאַליסטן געמוזט אַנערקענען אַז זײער חלום צו ברענ אַ יידיש רעדנדיקע מדינה איז פּאַרטיכטעט געוואָרן אין היטלערס אויסנס. ציוניזם און העברעיש זײַנען געבליבן און ישראל איז נעוואָרן אַ רעאַליטעט וואָס בעדט יידן איבער דער גאַנצער וועלט –אַפֿילו יידיש רעדנדיקע טעריטאָריאַליסטן.

שטיינבערג איז נישט געווען אַליין מיט זײַן טעריטאָריאַליסטישער אידעע. ישראל זאַנגוויל, חערצל, און נחמן סירקין זײַנען אַמאָל געווען נאָכפֿאָלגער פון דער פֿלאַן צו ברענ אַ לאַנד פֿאַר יידן אַנדערש ווי אין ישראל.

*אויב איר האָט געדאַנקען וועגן אונדזער וויקל שרייבט דורך פּאָסט אַדער בליץ- פּאָסט: info@cjnews.com*


# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

**Steeles Memorial Chapel**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Klein, Zsuzsanna | June 15/12 | 35 Canyon Ave |
| Nefsky, Jack | June 16/12 | 262 Torresdale Ave |
| Feldman, Ann Elise | June 16/12 | |
| Terner, Chaim | June 17/12 | 27 Pearl Gate Court |
| Binder, Larisa | June 17/12 | Private |
| Shapiro, Jakob Ari | June 17/12 | 240 Old Orchard Grove |
| Weisz, Sandor | June 17/12 | Private |
| Kalson, Jennie | June 16/12 | Private |
| Szikla, Ruth H. | June 19/12 | 550 Cummer Ave |
| Suchall, Shirley | June 19/12 | 11 Townsgate Dr |
| Odes, Sheila | June 20/12 | 784 Centre St. W |
| Dalfen, Mary | June 22/12 | 3000 Bathurst St |
| Meyers, Pearl | June 23/12 | Private |
| Barabash, Lea | June 25/12 | Private |
| Willinsky, Sheila | June 25/12 | Private |
| Pellman, Zelig | June 21/12 | 146 Shaftesbury St |

**BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Janet Hershfield | Jun 24/12 | 15 Barberry Place |
| Marlene Fein | Jun 22/12 | 82 Shaughnessy Blvd. |
| Martin Pearl | Jun 24/12 | 38 Franklin Avenue |
| Saul Fishbein | Jun 24/12 | 3900 Yonge Street |
| Mort Ison | Jun 25/12 | 77 Avenue Road |
| Andrew Kerzner | Jun 25/12 | 101 Subway Crescent |
| Ray Lewis | Jun 25/12 | 10 Avoca Avenue |
| Simon Miller | Jun 25/12 | 5550 Glendridge Drive |
| Sylvia King | Jun 26/12 | 15 Highbourne Road |
| Katie Lipton | Jun 25/12 | 4100 Bathurst Street |
| Mina Snow | Jun 27/12 | 7 Blue Forest Drive |
| Nathan Peck | Jun 27/12 | 12 Terrydale Drive |
| Lisa Shoub | Jun 28/12 | 1 Palace Pier Court |
| John Bliss | Jun 27/12 | 170 Red Maple Road |
| Lillian Claire Titleman | Jun 27/12 | 47 Brownstone Circle |
| Jack Winston | Jun 28/12 | 355 St. Clair Ave. West |
| Evan Michael Gross | Jun 27/12 | 260 Belsize Drive |
| Dianne Silver | Jun 30/12 | 625 Roselawn Ave. |
| Carol Cernis-Banner | Jun 28/12 | 6250 Bathurst Street |
| Dr. Charles Sklar | Jun 29/12 | 65 Spring Garden Ave. II |
| Robert Kirsch | Jun 30/12 | 16 Rosedale Road |
| Albert Morton | Jun 29/12 | 110 Bloor Street West |

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# Haredim volunteer before law expires

**Yair Ettinger**
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**JERUSALEM —** The uncertainty surrounding the aftermath of the Tal Law's Aug. 1 expiry has driven a record number of haredi men to volunteer for the national service program.

Some 200 men packed Jerusalem's Yad Sarah conference hall July 5, constituting the largest contingent ever to join the program, launched in 2008 as an alternative to yeshiva students' military service. The men, coming from the Lithuanian, Sephardi and especially chassidic factions of the haredi community, will be joining the 1,860 haredi men currently in the national service.

"Everyone here realizes that once the Tal Law expires, the terms might worsen for the volunteers," said Yisrael Meir Ravitz of the National Civilian Service administration for haredim.

Some men who had been planning to join the service in the next few years changed their mind in view of the current uncertainty and have joined now, he said.

Sar-Shalom Gerbi, the administration's director general, said the volunteers' numbers have increased consistently over the years.

"The service is not a melting pot, we want whoever enters [the program] haredi to remain haredi," Gerbi told the 200 volunteers at the conference.

Until about 1-1/2 years ago, it was difficult to find haredi volunteers, apart from yeshiva dropouts and young people on the fringes of haredi society, to fill the few national service slots allotted to haredim. Now the haredi establishment has changed its attitude and appears to be warming up to the program.

**Haredi Jew serving in an elite IDF sniper unit** *[Israel Sun photo]*

"Until recently they used to call volunteers to the national service brats and punks. Today the best of my kollel [yeshiva for married men] are here," said a Gerrer Chassid.

"If there were more places, thousands more haredim would join the national service," he says.

Asked if they came for ideological reasons, he says: "We're all practical people, we all want to work. This isn't Zionism. We're no better than the soldiers serving in the Army Radio."

Like the national service, the Netzah Yehuda Battalion in the IDF's Kfir Brigade barely fills the 100 places it has.

Many of the new volunteers will be employed by local authorities, the Ministry for Pensioners Affairs and even Yad Vashem, where they will advise haredi Holocaust survivors about their rights and take their testimonies, officials said.

The civilian national service is one of the volunteer programs set up in the wake of the Tal Law, in addition to the Netzah Yehuda Battalion and Shahar, an IDF project to train haredi men in technological professions. The current law exempts men who serve in the national service for at least a year from military service. It also entitles them to various financial benefits during the service and upon their discharge. Above all, they are permitted to work, or more accurately, to work legally.

The High Court of Justice, which declared the Tal Law unconstitutional earlier this year, dedicated extensive parts of its ruling to the flaws in the national service. "Implementing this project was paved with difficulties. In reality, although the law deferring [military] service was enacted in 2002, the national service administration was only formed in 2007 and started operating only in March 2008," then-Supreme Court president Dorit Beinisch wrote in her ruling.

Haredi volunteers to the national service, most of them married men, are allowed to serve one year of eight-hour work days, or two years at four hours a day.

MK Yohanan Plesner, who drafted recommendations for an alternative to the Tal Law, suggests prolonging the service, as the High Court recommended. Plesner proposed extending the national service for haredi men gradually from 12 to 18 months of full-time work (40 hours a week), or 24 months of part-time work (30 hours a week). "Five years after the law comes into effect [the government will] examine extending [the term] gradually to 24 months of full-time work, subject to the follow-up committee's recommendation and according to the number of volunteers," he wrote.

# German hospital stops religious circumcisions

JTA

**COLOGNE —** A German Jewish hospital has stopped allowing religious circumcisions in light of a court decision defining them as causing grievous bodily harm to young boys.

Last month's ruling by a Cologne district court did not outlaw circumcision, but still the Jewish Hospital in Berlin decided to stop allowing religious circumcisions, according to Ynet. Doctors may still perform circumcisions for medical reasons.

"We performed circumcisions on a regular basis until this ruling and we no longer have the legal freedom to do it," hospital spokesperson Gerhard Nerlich told Ynet.

Germany's foreign minister, meanwhile, sought to dispel "doubts arising internationally about religious tolerance in Germany."

"The free exercise of religion is protected in Germany. That includes religious traditions," Guido Westerwelle said in a statement, according to the Associated Press.

German Jewish and Muslim leaders have criticized the Cologne ruling, which said the "fundamental right of the child to bodily integrity outweighed the fundamental rights of the parents." Dieter Graumann, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, called it "outrageous and insensitive."

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# *Israel's right to the land undisputed*

"Occupiers," "Palestinian lands," "Arab east Jerusalem," "contrary to international law."

These catch phrases, and others with similar implications, have been used incessantly – not merely by Arab or Muslim sources, but by U.S. President Barack Obama, EU Foreign Secretary Catherine Ashton and countless writers and commentators. They have become part of the standard lexicon to decry Israel's territorial position since 1967 and after. The 1967 armistice line known as the "Green Line" has magically and cavalierly also been referred to as a "border."

***Guest Voice***

**Donald Carr**

The fallacy of this almost universally accepted usage was the subject of a conference in Israel on the status of Jerusalem under international law and future options for that city.

According to Jacques Gauthier, an international lawyer from Toronto whose presentation was the centrepiece of the conference, legal title to what was Palestine in 1919 (the current State of Israel; Gaza; the West Bank, also known as Judea and Samaria; *and* Jordan) belongs exclusively to the Jewish People, as represented today by the State of Israel.

Gauthier's conclusion has never been refuted in any accepted analysis of international law. It was first presented by Howard Grief, an Israeli lawyer who made aliyah from Montreal many years ago, in an article written in 2004. However, it has never been researched as carefully and with such detail and references as by Gauthier.

Israeli (Jewish) sovereignty arises through a series of declarations and international treaties that followed the defeat of Germany and its allies at the end of World War I.

The chronology, in brief, is as follows:

1. The 1917 Balfour Declaration of the British Government declared the intention of Britain to create a "national home for the Jewish People" in Palestine.

2. Prof. Ian Brownlie said in his *Principles of Public International Law*: "After the defeat of the Central Powers, the leading victor states assumed a 'Power of Disposition' to be exercised jointly over the territory of the defeated states."

As a result of the exercise of that power, huge tracts of national lands in Europe were ceded by the defeated countries. These included what are known as Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Thrace and part of Turkey. Those dispositions were confirmed by treaties signed by the defeated states. Nobody has ever questioned the rights thus created.

In the Middle East, the Arab peoples' claims were submitted by Emir Feisal to the "Principal Allied Powers" (Britain, the United States, Japan, Italy and France) at the Paris Peace Conference. The Jewish claims were submitted by Chaim Weizmann.

3. The claims of the Arabs were satisfied by a Mandate allocated to France, being the territory that later became Syria and Lebanon, and by a Mandate to Britain of lands that later became Iraq.

The claims made by the Jews resulted in a Mandate for Palestine, given to Britain. That Mandate repeated explicitly the operative parts of the Balfour Declaration. The Mandate included all of the lands to the west of the Jordan River as well as the huge territory that lay to the east of that river. Britain was to hold all of those lands in trust for a national home for the Jewish people. Britain's Mandate was adopted by the Supreme Council of Allied Powers at the San Remo Conference in April 1920. It was confirmed by the Treaty of Sevres, Aug. 10, 1920. Turkey was a party to that treaty.

4. Upon the creation of the League of Nations in July 1922, Article 22 of its covenant reconfirmed the French Mandate and the British Mandate relating to Iraq.

However, in 1921, acceding to further claims by Emir Feisal, Britain proposed to lop off that part of Palestine to the east of the Jordan River to create Trans-Jordan, later known as Jordan.

On behalf of the Arabs, Feisal, formally and in writing, abandoned any claims to the lands west of the Jordan River, then known as West Palestine. The League of Nations approved that dismemberment of Palestine. The Jews were impotent to do anything about it.

5. In Article 80 of its charter, the United Nations confirmed the then-existing mandates, thereby recognizing Jewish sovereignty to the whole of Palestine west of the Jordan River.

Subsequently, of course, came the Partition Plan, adopted by the United Nations and accepted by the Jewish People, the creation of the State of Israel, the 1948 war, Security Council Resolution 242, the later wars, the peace treaties with Jordan and Egypt, the disengagement agreements with Syria after the 1967 war and the Oslo accord.

**In January 1919, following the First World War, Chaim Weizmann, left, and Emir Feisal agreed upon a set of principles to ensure that both Zionist and Arab aspirations would be met in a new unfolding Middle East.**

It is argued that by accepting the partition of Palestine and engaging in the subsequent "arrangements," Israel gave up its legal rights to lands west of the Jordan, other than those constituting what is recognized generally as Israel, including Jerusalem. It should be pointed out, however, that all of the Arab states, as well as representatives of the Palestinian Arabs, either rejected or, with respect to the Oslo accord, breached so many of its provisions that Israel's legal rights, if they ever were surrendered, have not been lost, or were revived.

Jerusalem, no matter how that city is defined territorially, presents a somewhat different set of issues, as Israel has never given up any claims to it and has, indeed, formally annexed large parts of it.

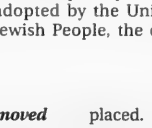
*Donald Carr is the president of* The CJN.

***China to build Eilat railway***

Israel and China signed an agreement to build the Eilat railway and other projects. Israeli Minister of Transport Yisrael Katz, who headed a 12-member delegation of officials and executives to China, signed the document with Chinese Minister of Transport Li Shenglin in Beijing. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has declared the Eilat railway a national priority project. The Eilat line will be 180 kilometres long. Officials hope it will cut travel time between Tel Aviv and Eilat to two hours. It will cost at least 20 billion shekels, *Globes* reported.

***Segregation sign removed***

A sign calling for women to refrain from using sidewalks in order to avoid contact with men was removed from a neighbourhood in Beit Shemesh. The sign was taken down after a complaint from a female city resident who told Ynet news that she had been the victim of an attack for not dressing modestly in the past, when a rock was thrown at her head by a haredi man. City inspectors removed the sign in an effort to avoid confrontation. The signs had been removed last summer but were reportedly replaced. Beit Shemesh, 30 kilometres west of Jerusalem, has been the site of violence against women by extremist haredi men over the past several months.




***Yigal Amir out of solitary***

Yigal Amir, the assassin of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, will be let out of solitary confinement after 16 years. An Israel Prison Service committee decided to integrate Amir into the general prison population. His case is reviewed by a prison committee every six months. He will now be allowed to watch TV and to make more frequent phone calls. In February, an Israeli court ordered the Prison Service to let Amir pray with up to three prisoners each day. Amir has been in prison since 1995 and is serving a life sentence for Rabin's murder on Nov. 5 of that year. He has been in solitary confinement the entire time because of fears he'll spread his ideology to other inmates and that his life could be in danger from other prisoners.

***Scientists grow pot, minus high***

Israeli researchers say they have developed a cannabis plant that gives no high. The research firm, called Tikun Olam, operates a marijuana plantation in northern Israel, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. Medical marijuana has been legal in Israel since 1993, although recreational use is illegal. Tikun Olam says its new marijuana plant doesn't contain THC, the constituent that gives users a high. But it still contains cannabidiol, which doctors say can aid the treatment of a variety of illnesses. The *Post*, citing the Healthy Ministry, reported that cannabis is used to treat 9,000 people in Israel. "Sometimes the high is not always what they need," Zack Klein, head of development at Tikun Olam, said. "Sometimes it is an unwanted side effect. For some of the people it's not even pleasant."

*– Files from JTA and JNS.org*

# Authors reveal heroism of iconic cyclist

Continued from page 1

"He was also known as being stubborn and strong."

Another factor influencing his actions was the role of the Catholic Church. Cardinal Elia Dalla Costa approached him in late 1943, after the Nazis occupied Italy, to help a clandestine network that hid Jews, Aili said.

Bartali was brought up a Catholic, and "he respected him and he listened," Aili said. "He loved Italy and racing for Italy, but he was distraught that Italy had turned into a nightmare place with fascist policies."

Risking his life – he would have been considered a traitor and his family might have been in jeopardy if he had been caught – Bartali agreed to help.

He passed through police checkpoints fairly easily, under the pretext that he was training. Usually, his fame made it easy to do so, but once, near the end of the war, "he had a close call," Aili said. "He was arrested by a bloodthirsty police chief" who was known for using electric shocks to torture his victims.

Bartali was held for three days on suspicion of smuggling food. His alibi was that he was doing relief work for the church.

He was released only because a guard, who was also a fan, stood up for him, Aili said.

Bartali's humanitarian efforts were known within the Italian Jewish community after the war, "but it was not widely known at all," she said.

Bartali did not want to talk about it – his first cousin had been "taken away," Andres said, and his experience was "too raw," Aili added.

But at least one first-hand witness was available to tell his part of the story.

**Andres, left, and Aili McConnon**

Giorgio Goldenberg was a youngster when the war broke out. He now lives in Tel Aviv. "He knew Bartali" and adored him as a cycling champ, Andres said.

In 1941, before the Nazi occupation, he was living in a village outside Florence. Bartali came for a visit that brought out the whole town to see him. It turned out that Bartali had known Goldenberg's father, and to the amazement of all present, he gave Giorgio a small bike and a signed publicity photo, addressed to "Goldenberg Giorgio."

Goldenberg so revered Bartali that he kept the precious souvenir throughout the war, even while being hidden in a Catholic orphanage under the Italian name "Goldini."

"At that time, everyone was hiding their Jewish identity," Andres said. "He kept the picture… showing his real name and not his gentile alias."

After the war, Bartali put his wartime activities behind him. "He focused on returning to his cycling glory. He wanted his legacy in Italy to be as a cyclist," Andres said.

Ten years after he won his first Tour de France, the chain-smoking, wine-drinking cyclist won his second at age 34. It cemented his position as a cycling legend, and the 10-year span is still the record for most time between victories.

Andres, a cycling fan, was intrigued by Bartali when, standing on the sidelines at the Tour de France, people were amazed that Lance Armstrong was able to win the event in his 30s.

A historical researcher, Andres began examining Bartali's life, and Aili, a journalist who was helping put together an anthology that examined the Holocaust, agreed to help him.

Their book is the first that looks beyond Bartali's sporting exploits and considers the personal heroism he displayed in risking his life to save others.

After the war, he made a comeback, and during the 1948 Tour de France, an assassination attempt in Rome led to political protests and riots. Bartali persevered in the race and won in a way that inspired people back home.

"Cycling was seen as transcending politics and uniting the country," Aili said.

Just as Bartali's father would have wanted.

# *PA's responses 'not entirely satisfying'*

Continued from page 1

He added the impetus for CIJA's visit was a trilateral invitation by the PA, Israeli and Canadian governments.

The trip also served as an opportunity for CIJA to raise concerns with the PA about issues regarding incitement of hatred against Jews and Israelis that have become "toxically" entrenched in both the Palestinian media and its educational systems, Fogel said.

He said he and Koschitzky also asked PA representatives why they don't simply recognize Israel as a Jewish state.

The PA's responses were "not entirely satisfying," he said.

"On issues like incitement, [the PA] diminish both their own responsibility for what's being broadcast and what messages are being conveyed to the Palestinian people. And their rebuttal is always, 'Well, there's incitement on Israel's part, too.'"

Fogel said that in his opinion, there is no equivalence between incitement by some "hard-line" individuals in Israel and a state-sponsored system of incitement by the PA.

Asked about the possibility of CIJA being officially sanctioned by the Canadian government to be part of the effort to restart the peace process, Fogel said his organization has been "encouraged [by Canada] to take this kind of role."

"Without exaggerating our influence or importance, we see ourselves as genuinely trying to offer whatever modest contribution we can make to the peace process and to greater understanding," Fogel said.

On this latest visit, CIJA had hoped to identify some potential role Canada could play in the peace process. While that role has yet to be established, he said both the PA and Israel "expressed interest in Canada taking a more vigorous role in the talks."

Fogel said CIJA will "formally communicate" its findings to Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird shortly.

Rick Roth, a spokesperson for Baird said that the department of foreign affairs has "a great and ongoing relationship with CIJA, however, we are not going to go into the specifics of our discussions."

In 2007, Ottawa announced it would provide $300 million over five years to help the Palestinian people reduce levels of poverty, increase security, shore up governance, increase prosperity and engage in the peace process.

**Members of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and the Palestinian Authority meet in Ramallah on June 24. From left are Richard Bruneau, counsellor and head of the political section to the Representative Office of Canada to the Palestinian Authority; Thaer Mukbel, a Palestinian-Canadian foreign affairs adviser; Jonathan Schneiderman, CIJA's director of development; Chris Greenshields; Shimon Fogel, David Koschitzky and PA President Mahmoud Abbas.** ***[Thaer Ghanayem/WAFA photo]***

# Entrepreneurs publish guide for summer fun

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

You know that farm, the one that's downtown, in Cabbagetown, the one with the farm animals – what's it called?

Isn't there a white-water rafting place on the Ottawa River? How do you get in touch with them?

Or that apple farm, the one down the 401, where you pick your own apples and the kids get to play on slides and roll around in the hay – where is it exactly?

If you're a parent with small kids looking to keep them busy, or you have friends in from out of town looking for something special to do, you've probably struggled with those very questions and many more.

There are hundreds, if not thousands of activities available in and around Toronto, but who can keep track of them all and which is the best choice?

There may not yet be "an app for that," so a couple of aggressive entrepreneurs have come up with a solution that brings together old and new technologies.

Elisa Palter and Shari Wert recently published their *Summer Fun Guide, Ontario's Comprehensive Guide to Year-Round Fun*. They also launched a website, www.SummerFunGuide.ca, which contains all the information found in the printed guide along with updates to keep it current.

Much of it is family oriented – as in Riverdale Farm and Chudleigh's – but there are also listings for adult activities like casinos and horse racing.

Activities are divided into 16 categories in seven regions, and they range from the commonplace to those that are a bit off the wall. Of course, there are the festivals, fairs and shows that attract thousands every summer, plus boat and train excursions. But there's also information about a helicopter tour of Ontario, the location of the highest bungee jump in the province and the address for the St. Mary's Quarry, which is today the largest pool in Ontario. "There are a lot of cool things here," Palter said.

Though the website was launched about a year ago, the print version of the guide came out only in May. Palter and Wert had 250,000 copies printed and they're available in numerous locations across the province. ONroute, the service centres on Highway 401 is the guide's main sponsor and it stocks the directory, as do hotels, restaurants, attractions and other venues.

The partners were pretty confident the guide would be a hot seller. In 1994, they had teamed up to produce *Help! We've Got Kids*, a print and now Internet directory. They sold it in 2009.

"We loved dealing with the clowns," Palter said.

"But it's 17 years, time to move on," Wert added.

**Shari Wert, left, and Elisa Palter**

In the years between the two businesses, Wert and Palter each celebrated bar or bat mitzvahs.

"Afterwards, we said, 'what now?'" Wert said.

Hence, the *Summer Fun Guide*.

Over the years, businesses became comfortable advertising in their first directory and they developed the credibility they needed when they approached them with the idea for a new guide.

Business school graduates, Palter and Wert conducted their own market research, financial analysis and marketing plan and sunk their own money into the fun guide.

It's a results-oriented business, they said.

"It has to drive the business for advertisers," Wert explained.

Opening the website allowed potential customers to see how their ads looked and, along with their track record of more than 17 years, they built a level of credibility for the product.

So far, advertisers are comfortable with the product and they've managed an 80 per cent retention rate, Palter said.

"Most people renew because our intention is to make it work. You always have to keep the end-user in mind. So far, the feedback has been positive," Wert said.

In the first months of operation, the website generated 15,000 visits a month, and that number has climbed to 40,000 monthly hits.

The partners won't reveal their revenues, but Palter and Wert acknowledge it's in the six figures. Revenue is based on fees for boxed and display ads.

Printing the booklet and setting up the business are the biggest costs. "Margins in the directory business are very high," Palter said, "more than 50 per cent."

"If you do everything right and make it work, and advertisers and readers are happy, then it can be an annuity" business, Palter said.

And, there's room for growth. Unlike *Help? We've Got Kids*, which was aimed at something of a niche market, the fun guide appeals to people at all stages of life. They plan to expand it from 80 pages to 120 next year.

"One of the things we learned was to broaden our target market," in terms of both demographic and region, Wert said.

An important consideration today, as it was 18 year ago, was to find a way to use their business skills while raising a family.

"We were looking for balance," Wert said.

"Our goal was to be in business and to have balance in our lives," Palter said. "But we're not dabbling."

"We're working our Jewish butts off," Wert added.

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# *Israel business briefs*

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**New master plan for Haifa port area:** The Haifa port has a new master plan that combines an international port for shipping and a tourist centre. The National Planning and Building Council approved the plan last week as part of the detailed national master plan. That will allow the city to start issuing building permits after the regional planning committee reviews the plan, comments and considers any public objections. One purpose of the new plan is to open the city to the sea.

**Diamond exports down sharply:** The global economic crisis is having an impact on the Israeli diamond industry, which is also being buffeted by domestic crises, including criminal investigations and the bankruptcies of several major dealers. Diamond exports dropped almost 20 per cent in the first half of 2012, compared to the same period last year. Net diamond exports totalled $3.26 billion (all figures US) in the first six months of the year, compared to $4.03 billion last year, the Industry, Trade and Labor Ministry reported. Of that amount, $1.52 billion was for uncut diamonds, compared to $2.26 billion for the same six-month period in 2011 – a 33 per cent drop. The United States is still the main destination for polished diamonds, with 47 per cent of exports heading to America. That's followed by Hong Kong, with 29 per cent; Belgium, 7 per cent; Switzerland, 6 per cent; and England, 2 per cent.

**MSCI considering adding Israel:** International stock index company MSCI is considering adding Israeli stocks to its European index, instead of leaving them in the Europe and Middle East index, where they currently are. MSCI moved Israel from its developing nation index to a developed one in 2010, but did not include Israel in its Europe index at the time. This is considered one of the reasons trading volume on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange has been so thin lately. Esther Levanon, CEO of the TASE, said the exchange would welcome the move.

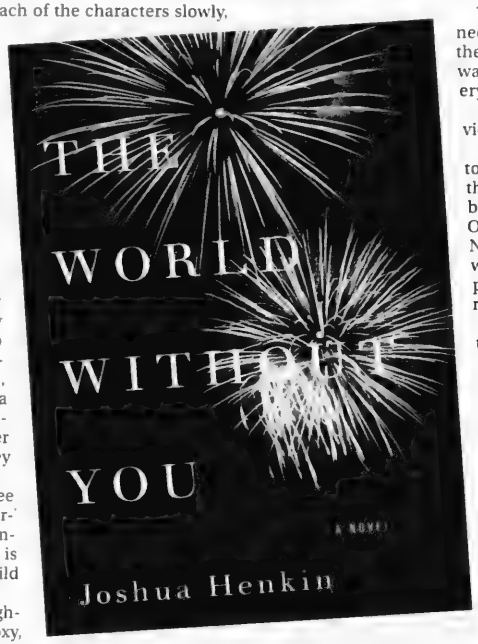
# *Family reunion novel a* 'Jewish Big Chill'

**Joseph Serge**
Arts Editor

In *The World Without You* (Pantheon), Joshua Henkin's third novel, three adult sisters travel to their parents' Massachusetts summer home on the July 4 weekend for a memorial for their younger brother who died in Iraq a year earlier.

It's sort of a Jewish *Big Chill*.

We are introduced to each of the characters slowly, in successive chapters. David and Marilyn Frankel, the parents, are having trouble coping with Leo's death. The youngest of four children, Leo was a journalist working in Iraq in 2004 when he was kidnapped and murdered.




They are a Jewish family but very secular. David's circumcision, we are told, was the first and last Jewish ritual he ever observed. Much as they are looking forward to the family's reunion despite the solemn occasion, they also plan to launch a bombshell on their children, telling them that after 40 years of marriage, they are separating.

The oldest of the three red-haired siblings is Clarissa, a professor at Columbia University who, at 39, is trying to have her first child with her husband.

Noelle, the middle daughter, converted to Orthodoxy, a surprising move for someone who was kicked out of two high schools for her promiscuity. Now living in Israel with her husband, Avram, she has four boys, Akiva, Yoni, Dov and Ari, and has great disdain for secular Israelis. She caused a stir in the family when she refused to attend Leo's marriage to a non-Jew.

Lily, the youngest sister, is a Washington lawyer who calls her four pale, blue-eyed nephews "Aryan Israelis." She holds all 50 million George Bush voters responsible for Leo's death, including Noelle, who voted from Israel.

Leo's widow, Thisbe, and their three-year-old son Calder, who looks remarkably like his father, join the family for the weekend. Thisbe also has a bombshell of her own she needs to tell the Frankels.

Much as *The World Without You* is about this "get-together," it's really about separation – the distance all the characters have from each other. David and Marilyn's impending separation, and Thisbe and Noelle's alienation from the family, are just some examples.

Marilyn and David go to great lengths to make the weekend kosher for Noelle, buying kosher food and dishes. But Noelle offends them by bringing her own sandwiches.

The kitchen itself would need to be kosher, she tells them. "The oven, the dishwasher, the microwave, everything."

"You're kidding me?" David says incredulously.

The daughters bring far too much baggage with them for this weekend to be anything but a disaster. One evening, Lily berates Noelle for living "in your warmongering country, practising your delusional religion."

Throughout the book, the author finds ways to bring two of the characters alone together in a sort of round-robin tournament. In one chapter, for instance, it's David and Lily sharing quiet conversation. In the next, it might be Noelle and Thisbe. In this way we learn more about the complicated relationships between the characters and some of the baggage they've been carrying.

The novel has a great premise and some of the scenes, especially the memorial they hold for Leo, are powerful and moving.

But there is just a tad too much brooding and flashback that ultimately hold this book back. While they are necessary to flesh out the people in this character-driven novel, they tend to slow the pace to a crawl at several points.

The characters get together, they fight, bicker, resolve some issues and leave, but the lack of a major plotline will give readers a sense of incompleteness. As much as the characters in the book are looking for some kind of closure, so, too, are the readers left looking for one.

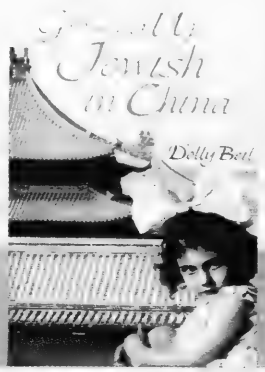
***

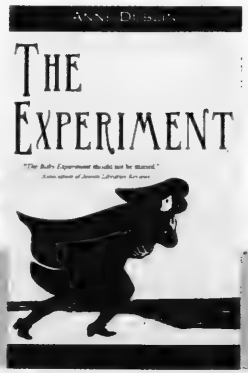
**Other new releases:**

• Dolly Beil spent the years between 1927 and 1952 in China, living through the Japanese occupation, the civil war and the flight of foreigners from an increasingly closed and hostile society.

*Growing Up Jewish in China* (BPS Books) is her colourful and compelling account of coming to maturity in China and the difficult years she faced as a young mother. Her entertaining stories take readers behind the scenes of a China that few know.

• Johanna is a 14-year-old Jewish girl in 18th-century Germany in Anne Dublin's *The Baby Experiment* (Dundurn). Stifled by the daily drudgery of her life, Johanna dreams of seeing what lies outside the confines of the Jewish quarter. She lies about her identity and gets a job as a caregiver at an orphanage where secret experiments are taking place.

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The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

***The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.***

## EYE ON ARTS

### SHAW FESTIVAL PRESENTS RAGTIME

The musical *Ragtime*, based on the outstanding novel by **E. L. Doctorow** and produced by **Garth Drabinsky's** ill-fated Livent, made its world premiere at the Toronto Centre for the Arts in 1996 and went on to win multiple Tony and other awards on Broadway.

The current revival of *Ragtime* at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, directed by Shaw artistic director **Jackie Maxwell**, demonstrates once again the power of the syncopated music and lyrics to skim over a compressed narrative while still managing to power the turbines that generate emotional excitement and theatrical electricity.

The story spotlights a wealthy white family living in a New York suburb in the early years of the 20th century, whose lives intersect with the families of a poor Jewish immigrant and a black man named Coalhouse Walker Jr., who is radicalized after being victimized by racial bigots in the local fire department.

Most of the characters possess only generic labels such as "Father," "Mother," "Older Brother" and "Tateh": they seem as archetypical as china figurines, yet all are players in a well-paced dramatic narrative powered largely through music. The new syncopated ragtime of the day helped to lift America "out of sedate and square, and into vibrant," as Shaw musical director **Paul Sportelli** notes, adding that ragtime was the precursor to jazz.

Famous personalities of the times, including **Henry Ford**, **Emma Goldman**, **Evelyn Nesbit**, **Harry Houdini** and **Booker T. Washington**, float through the production like so many Banquo's ghosts, each espousing the ideas and energy that helped to give the era its flare. By story's end, the survivors of all three families meld together into a single family, emblematic of the great American melting pot.

This Shaw production rekindles the kinetic spirit if not the actual fireworks of the original. Standouts among the cast include **Thom Allison** (Coalhouse) and **Alana Hibbert** (his girlfriend Sarah), whose voices were particularly strong and resonant as accompanied by the 17-piece orchestra. The cast also features the wonderful **Patty Jamieson**, **Jay Turvey**, **Kate Hennig**, **Benedict Campbell**, **Julie Martell**, **Evan Alexander Smith** and **Kelly Wong**; the theatrical book is by **Terrence McNally**, music by **Stephen Flaherty**, lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**. On stage until Oct. 14; for tickets, please visit www.shawfest.com

* * *

**People of the Comic Book: Keith Friedlander** continues his series on "People of the Comic Book: Jews and the Graphic Novel," which runs the gamut from the superhero comics to modern graphic stories like *Maus* and *The Rabbi's Cat*. The topic on July 19 is the "History of Jewish Contributions to Comics," and on July 26 the topic is "**Will Eisner's** *Contract with God*." Series continues to Aug. 9. $45 for series, $12 drop-in, students $6. Thursdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. sharonis@mnjcc.org, 416-924-6211, ext. 0.

* * *

**Names in the News:** In tribute to Argentine Jewish writer **Alicia Steimberg**, who died in June, jewishfiction.net has published an excerpt from Steimberg's latest novel, *Innocent Spirit*, which JewishFiction editor **Nora Gold** had already accepted for August. Before her death, Steimberg "was delighted" to learn that her story had been accepted, Gold reports, adding: "She was also delightful. Even in the short time we corresponded, it was obvious what an unusual person she was: full of warmth and completely unpretentious."

The website (jewishfiction.net) also features a tribute to Steimberg by translator **Andrea Labinger**. Born in Buenos Aires in 1933, Steimberg is best known for her 1998 novel *Musicians and Watchmakers*, about a Jewish family in Buenos Aires in the 1940s, told from the perspective of an adolescent girl.

**Eden Kennedy as *Little Girl* and Jay Turvey as *Tateh* in *Ragtime*. *(David Cooper photo)***

* * *

**At the Galleries:** The exhibition *Kids Who Can – Easter Seal Camps* features the work of 13 photographers who capture the energy and enthusiasm of Canadian youth with physical and developmental disabilities at Easter Seal summer camps. Known collectively as **Photosensitive**, the photographers' work is in black and white. Miles Nadal JCC Gallery, Bloor at Spadina, July 25 to Sept. 9.

Also at the MNjcc, **Irene Borins Ash's** *Aging Is Living*, an exhibition of photos about life in long-term care homes, continues until July 22.

# *Dance festival puts Laurentians on the cultural map*

**Heather Solomon**
Special to The CJN

Engineer Lou Gordon found a way to make the Laurentians a dance magnet.

The former board member of the Saidye Bronfman Centre (SBC) and Broadway theatre lover felt that his summers in the mountains had become a little flat.

"The whole cultural scene was barren. People talked about their boats and about cutting their lawn and where they were going for dinner. I met choreographer Michael Montanaro in Montreal and told him I wanted to start a dance festival," says Gordon.

"Why did I choose dance when my first love is theatre? Because there's no language barrier, and since we're in Quebec, it would be terrific to have the French and English communities come together."

He opened his festival 21 years ago, and for the first four years, the old Hiawatha summer camp served as its venue. Despite the primitive conditions there, companies such as the Royal Winnipeg Ballet filled the roster.

Gordon began scouting out sites in St. Sauveur and was offered the Cirque du Soleil's original tent.

The Festival des arts de Saint-Sauveur, or FASS as it is affectionately known, has since graduated to a state-of-the-art big top supplied by FASS board member Jack Wiseman.

**Nathalie Grosshenny and Lou Gordon roll out a warm welcome at Festival des arts de Saint-Sauveur (FASS), July 26 to Aug. 4. *(Heather Solomon photo)***

It is air-conditioned and boasts 600 seats on risers, all with an excellent view of the stage. Instead of bunkhouses, the dancers are treated to rooms in the best local hotels.

"You want to spoil them because they give you their gift onstage," says Gordon. "We love what they do, and they love us in return. We've had the best companies in the world from the Kirov to the Royal Ballet of Sweden."

Former principal dancer of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Anik Bissonnette, is the artistic director of FASS.

This year, Nathalie Grosshenny has been appointed executive director. She is a former ballerina from Mulhouse, Alsace, in France who danced here with La Compagnie Eddy Toussaint and co-founded the Gala des Étoiles dance showcase.

She's been passionate about dance since the age of eight. "I was a tomboy and my mother said, 'It's enough now. You're going to become a lady and go to dance class. From the moment I touched the boards and did my first plié, I knew it was what I wanted to do," she says.

A taste of dance at FASS has similarly made enthusiasts out of even first-time viewers. The July 26 to Aug. 4 lineup tempts with a variety of dance as well as music.

The exquisite Hong Kong Ballet, under the direction of Madeleine Onne, who was pronounced Dancer of the Swedish Royal Court by King Carl XVI Gustaf, opens the festival with sensual and dramatic pieces.

Hélène Blackburn, who studied with Linda Rabin, choreographs her internationally popular company, Cas public, to the music of J.S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations*.

Esmeralda Enrique brings her flamenco troupe from Toronto to burn up the stage, and Moses Pendleton of Momix turns dancers' bodies, with the aid of props, puppetry, costumes and lighting, into a riot of hothouse blooms in *Botanica*.

The award-winning Trey McIntyre Project salutes survivors of hurricane Katrina in one of its choreographies. Dance critic/filmmaker Philip Szporer leads all pre-performance discussions.

On the musical front, opera star Gino Quilico brings his lyric baritone to arias, love songs and Broadway tunes. And the Canadian Vocal Arts Institute under Joan Dornemann, which trains young opera singers in Israel and elsewhere, gives FASS audiences the chance to hear rising stars.

Poetic pop-rocker Lewis Furey sings a recital of selected songs, including a film score he co-wrote with Leonard Cohen.

Free shows on the outdoor stage feature Acadian music, Quebec clogging, cellists playing heavy-metal music, tango, hip hop, circus acrobatics and jazz. The Tohu Bohu Youth Festival in Parc Filion gets the younger set involved. The full slate of events is at www.fass.ca.

"For the past 12 years we've sponsored 100 seniors from Camp B'nai B'rith. One 89-year-old man fell in love with one of the dancers and didn't want to leave!" says Gordon. "For all our audiences, it's like going to a good Passover meal – you want to come back."

# British musician channels Jerry Lee Lewis

**Kathryn Kates**
Special to The CJN

British recording artist Martin Kaye is making his professional theatrical debut playing rock 'n' roller, Jerry Lee Lewis in the *Million Dollar Quartet*, running at the Toronto Centre for the Arts until July 29.

Martin Kaye

*Million Dollar Quartet* is based on a night in Memphis in December 1956, when four rock 'n' roll pioneers – Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley – ended up at Sam Phillips' Sun Records storefront studio, jamming. Phillips discovered all four musical icons.

"It was meant to be a Carl Perkins recording session," Kaye said in an interview. "Jerry Lee Lewis was actually there as a session piano player. Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash were both in town and dropped by, so it turned into this jam session. The tape was left on, so the session was recorded. Today it is actually available on iTunes."

Although most of the songs sung that evening were from the gospel realm reflecting the musicians' roots, *Million Dollar Quartet* also includes the icons' many hits, among them *Blue Suede Shoes, Fever, Who Do You Love?, Great Balls of Fire, Folsom Prison Blues* and *Hound Dog*.

Kaye, 28, admits he didn't grow up listening to this music. "My parents listened to Elton John and music from the late '60s and '70s era, rather than the '50s, and my grandparents were slightly too old and were probably the ones that disagreed with it."

Despite this, he said, he sees many similarities between himself and Jerry Lee Lewis.

"I am honoured to play Jerry Lee Lewis – he's the last one standing, the one who is still alive. I definitely relate to him when I'm on stage. We are both very wild on stage and we both have a passion for what we do, think about and dream about. Obviously, there are personal things that happened in his life that haven't happened in mine."

He feels the show gives audiences a sense of history about a time that revolutionized music and resonates with both those who lived through the '50s and remember these hits from their youth, and those who are enjoying this music for the first time.

Kaye, who recently relocated to New York, has worked as a professional musician for 10 years and spent the last four years performing on cruise ships. He's known for both his colourful piano playing and his equally colourful mismatched socks – a memorable fashion statement that sets him apart.

He is about to release the followup to his first CD, *About You*, called *Everything The Pen Wants To Say*. He has also been collaborating with L.A.-based, '70s artist and songwriter Kenny Nolan on a future album.

Kaye started singing at the age of three and playing the piano at seven. He went to a Jewish elementary school and sang in the choir. From the ages of 11 to 16, he joined a local Jewish youth theatre group that his aunt was active with. His experience on stage made him realize that this was something he really wanted to do. His parents thought he was a natural and encouraged him to follow his dreams.

He still loves the Jewish traditions, and when he gets back home to the Manchester area, he especially likes to be part of family Sabbath dinners.

Kaye will marry his American fiancée, Holly Fonda, on Sept. 2 in England.

For more information on Martin Kaye, go to www.martin-k.com. For tickets to *Million Dollar Quartet*, call 416-644-3665 or 1-866-950-7469 or visit www.DancapTickets.com.

# Turkey's soul lies in its capital city, Ankara

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

**ANKARA, Turkey** — Western tourists don't normally visit Turkey's sleepy capital, Ankara, preferring to focus on such glitzy destinations as Istanbul, Izmir or Cappadocia.

Big mistake.

Ankara is well worth your time for at least two good reasons: the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, which speaks to Turkey's historic origins as a nation, and Anitkabir, the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder and first president of the Republic of Turkey.

It's true that Ankara lacks Istanbul's sophistication, Izmir's Mediterranean flair and Cappadocia's exoticism.

But if you really want to plumb the depths of Turkey's soul, you should spend a day or two in Ankara, only a 45-minute flight from Istanbul.

The museum, housed in the shell of an old Ottoman bazaar storage building, contains the most extensive collection of Anatolian archeological artifacts in the world, from the Paleolithic era onward.

The exhibits are arranged in chronological order, and as you move from one display case to the next, you will see an impressive array of artifacts from the Neolithic, Early Bronze, Assyrian, Hittite, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman periods.

There are prehistoric stone tools, wall paintings and reliefs, clay figurines, statuettes, sculptures, decorative jewelry, coins, Cuneiform tablets, pottery, furniture and weapons of war.

Apart from the museum, the citadel, the original site of Ankara, is also worth visiting. From its ramparts, panoramic vistas of Ankara and its hilly terrain come into view.

Resembling a Turkish village, the citadel is a remnant of both the Hittite empire, which encompassed Asia Minor, and the Byzantine empire, which was conquered by the Seljuks, the predecessors of the Ottomans.

Within walking distance of the citadel are arts and crafts stores, gift shops, spice and dried fruit vendors and restaurants, all bringing you back to the present.

Another must-see attraction is Anitkabir, a complex dedicated to the life and times of Ataturk (1881-1938).

**Anitkabir is dedicated to the founder of Turkey's republic, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.** ***(Sheldon Kirshner photo)***

Ataturk, born in Salonika, was an Ottoman and Turkish army officer who distinguished himself in battle in the Balkan wars from 1912 to 1913, in World War I and in Turkey's War of National Independence from 1919 to 1922.

With the proclamation of the Turkish republic on Oct. 29, 1923, Ataturk assumed the presidency, transforming Turkey into a modern, westernized secular state.

Ataturk abolished the caliphate and Ottoman sartorial traditions, separated governmental and religious affairs, replaced Arabic script with a Latin alphabet, granted full civic rights to minorities and women, and reorganized universities.

In foreign policy, his guiding principle was "peace in the world," a formula that prompted him to sign a treaty of friendship with Turkey's nemesis, Greece, and conclude a mutual defence agreement with neighbours Romania, Greece and Yugoslavia in the Balkan Pact.

At Anitkabir, a concrete courtyard vast in scale, you wait in a long queue to enter the mausoleum.

Passing through massive brass doors, you reach a huge hall whose red marble walls are inscribed with mosaics of Hittite, Hellenic, Roman, Seljuk and Ottoman civilizations. Ataturk's tomb lies beneath a cenotaph.

On the eastern side of the courtyard, inside a museum, some of Ataturk's personal effects, namely his black Cadillac and Lincoln sedans and his houseboat, are displayed.

The gun carriage that carried his remains at his funeral is also exhibited.

Most Turks revere Ataturk, and the veneration that is bestowed on him harkens back to Stalin's Russia, Abdul Gamal Nasser's Egypt and Kim Jong-il's North Korea.

A Canadian visitor may look askance at this cult of the personality. But the adoration in which Ataturk is held seems genuine. Ataturk was a modernizer and a democrat who reformed Turkey, and this achievement is respectfully recognized by many Turks.

Anitkabir reflects their deep-seated feelings.

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# Italian soccer star raised by Jewish parents

Compiled by CJN Staff

Italian soccer star Mario Balotelli, who scored twice against Germany to lead the Azzuri into the final against Spain, grew up as the foster son of a Jewish mother in the village of Concesio, east of Milan.

Balotelli, 21, dedicated the two goals he scored in Italy's 2-1 semifinals victory over Germany on June 28 to his foster mother, Silvia, who raised him from the age of three. Newspapers and websites ran a dramatic photo of Balotelli tearfully embracing her after the match.

An article on Moked, the website of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, called the embrace "an emotion for all Italians and a special emotion for Italian Jews."

Balotelli revealed the fact that his adoptive mother was Jewish in early June, when, like other teams, the Italian national squad visited Auschwitz ahead of the start of the games.

Radio Netherlands reported that during the visit, Balotelli sat down, all by himself, on the train tracks and stared silently ahead. "A while later," the report said, "he tells his teammates about a box of letters that his Jewish adoptive mother kept underneath her bed. He had never told anyone."

The white supremacist website Stormfront attacked Balotelli, who is black, with vicious racist and antisemitic insults.

"He's black and Jewish he should play for Israel not Italy," wrote one person.

Balotelli was born Mario Barwuah to Ghanaian immigrant parents in Palermo, Italy. He suffered from health problems as a small child and eventually his financially strapped parents placed him in the care of Francesco and Silvia Balotelli.

A writer in the Italian Jewish monthly *Pagine Ebraiche* called Balotelli "the symbol of the commitment that brings together the experience of immigration, of acceptance and of success. But [he is] also a tribute to his adoptive mother, the Italian Jew who welcomed the child and whose family suffered during the dark years of the Shoah."

According to Ynet, the Balotellis have relatives in Israel and their daughter studied at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya.

When he became successful as a soccer player, his biological parents sought to reenter his life, but Balotelli rejected them as "glory hunters," the Times of Israel reported.

Despite his health issues, at age 15 Balotelli became the youngest player ever to play in Italy's third division. He later played for Inter Milan before moving to England to play for Manchester City, where he won the Premier League title this past season.

A volatile personality who has been redcarded four times in the Premier League to go along with 21 yellow cards, he reportedly was also wearing out his welcome with the Italian side.

Some reports suggest that the abuse he faces because of his background prompt some of the behavior. Radio Netherlands reported that, "Irish fans during the Euro 2012 match made monkey noises when he entered the pitch."

Nevertheless, Balotelli came up big in the game against Germany, and later he described the win as "the most wonderful night of my life so far."

According to The Times of Israel, he dedicated the goals to his mother, who had come from Italy to watch him play.

"At the end of the game when I went to my mother, that was the best moment. I told her these goals were for her. I waited a long time for this moment, especially as my mother is not young anymore and can't travel far, so I had to make her happy when she came all the way here."

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# *Pressel's par not good enough at LPGA event*

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

**WATERLOO, Ont.** — Shooting even par would be quite the accomplishment for most golfers, but not for a pro.

Morgan Pressel flirted with par over four rounds at the Manulife LPGA Classic at the Grey Silo Golf Club, shooting rounds of 70, 71, 72 and 71, good for even par but only 59th place overall.

Pressel, a native of Boca Raton, Fla., finished 16 strokes behind tournament winner Brittany Lang, who won the event in a playoff. Pressel took home $3,189 for her efforts.

Along with Anna Nordqvist and Na Yeon Choi, Pressel had her share of spectators follow her during the second round at the Grey Silo course, including this reporter.

They weren't disappointed if what they were looking for is length and accuracy off the tee. In nine holes that I watched, none missed the fairway.

**Morgan Pressel**

With wide and flat fairways, this was a second shot course, and in round two, that's where Pressel's game seemed to lag. Pressel is ranked 90th on the LPGA tour for greens in regulation, with 62.4 per cent, but in the back nine, she failed to hit a single one, despite good lies.

Nevertheless, all three showed good ability to get up and down, with Pressel's chipping a major asset.

What the ladies were lacking, at least on day two, was the ability to make a putt. There were lots of oohs and aahhs after near misses, but you didn't see the consistency that gets you into the winner's circle.

Pressel's stats are actually not bad; she's 45th on tour in "putts per green in regulation," with 1.83.

She's also 41st in scoring with an average round of 72.35.

So far this season, she's earned $249,573 (all figures US) but she's finished in the top 10 only once. Since she joined the tour in 2006, she's won two events and taken home $4.64 million.

# U of T part of major Israeli archeological find

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

University of Toronto archeologists are part of a team that unearthed a stunning mosaic floor that decorated the interior of a synagogue that stood in Israel around the fourth to sixth centuries CE.

Since June 2011, U of T's archeology centre, led by Michael Chazan, has been participating in the Huqoq Excavation Project, which is directed by Jodi Magness, the religious studies professor at the University of North Carolina, and David Amit, an archeologist with the Israel Antiquities Authority.

The goal of the project, expected to continue for the next five years, is to excavate the late Roman and Byzantine site of Huqoq in Israel near the Sea of Galilee to uncover the remains of a synagogue and understand its setting in the village.

Huqoq, which was abandoned in the Middle Ages and was later re-inhabited by Arabs until the State of Israel was established in 1948, lies about five kilometres west of Capernaum, which is where Jesus is believed to have lived as an adult, and about five kilometres north of Migdal, the birthplace of Mary Magdalene.

Alex Gropper, president of U of T's Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies (CIMS) who has led past archeological digs to Israel, said this discovery is exciting because not only did the archeologists find the synagogue they were looking for, but also a beautiful mosaic floor with an inscription on it.

According to a press release on U of T's website, the mosaic is made from high quality coloured stone cubes and includes a scene depicting Samson placing torches between the tails of foxes.

Another part of the mosaic features two female faces that flank a Hebrew inscription that refers to rewards for those who perform good deeds.

"This discovery is significant because only a small number of ancient synagogue buildings are decorated with mosaics showing biblical scenes, and only two others have scenes with Samson – one is at another site just a couple of miles from Huqoq," Magness was quoted in the U of T press release.

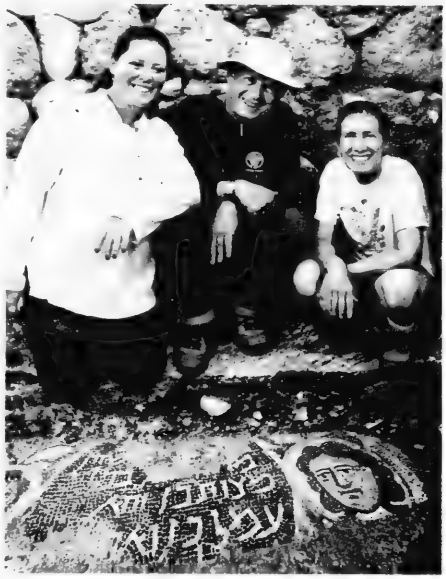
Although Gropper, who said the discovery of the mosaic was a "complete surprise," added that based on the photos he's seen, he hasn't been able to translate the inscription, which is either in Hebrew or Aramaic. He said he looks forward to learning exactly what the inscription says.

But what the elaborate mosaic reveals is that the village where the synagogue stood was likely very prosperous, Gropper said.

"It also indicates that there was a very strong Jewish presence in the land despite the fact that it had supposedly been depopulating because of the revolts against Rome… This just buttresses and highlights the Jewish presence in the area."

He said he hasn't yet been able to visit the site since they began digging in June 2011, but said he's looking forward to hearing from Magness, who was invited by the CIMS to speak on Nov. 1 at U of T.

The Huqoq Excavation Project is supported in part by U of T's Centre for Jewish Studies, the Archeology Centre, as well as the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies, which is accepting donations to continue to fund the dig.



**Jodi Magness, left, David Amit, and Shua Kisilevitz, co-directors of the Huqoq Excavation, with the mosaic.**
*[Jim Haberman photo]*

# Presbyterians narrowly reject divestment

JTA

**WASHINGTON** — In a narrow vote, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) rejected divestment from companies doing business with Israeli security forces in the West Bank.

The 333-331 vote, with two abstentions, in Pittsburgh on July 5, was the closest that the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement has come to a win in a major arena.

The vote replaced a measure recommending investment for peace among Palestinians instead of the majority report of a Middle East committee, which had recommended divestment from Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions and Hewlett Packard for supplying settlements and the Israeli army with security products for use in the West Bank.

A similar measure was defeated more decisively at a Methodist assembly in May, and last month MSCI-ESG, an influential adviser on investment for progressive causes, said that Caterpillar's supply of bulldozers to Israel was a factor – although not the decisive one – in the decision to remove the company from recommended investments.

The Jewish community had been particularly active in lobbying against the Presbyterian measure.

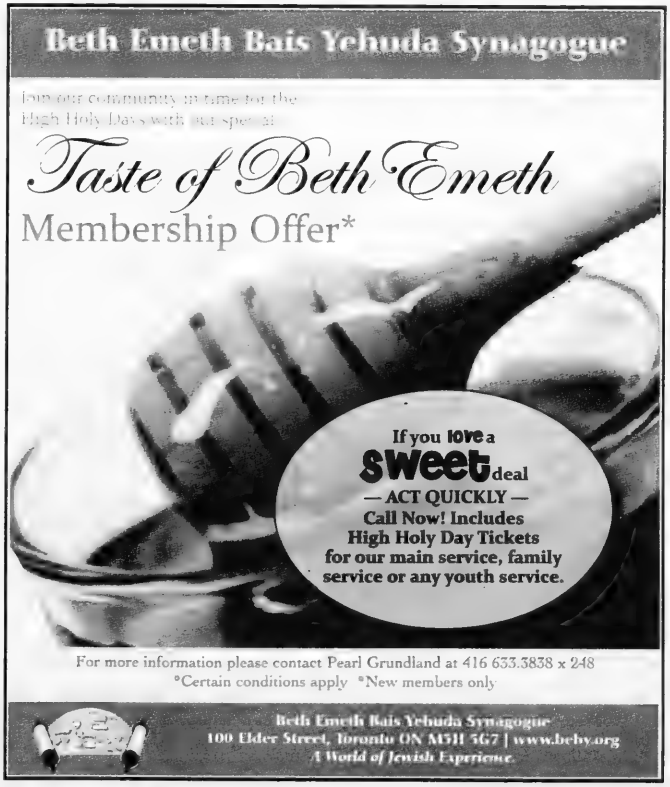
Earlier this week, the dovish American Jewish groups, Americans for Peace Now and J Street, also called on the Presbyterian Church's plenary to vote down the resolution.

Also, Ethan Felson, vice-president of the Jewish Council of Public Affairs and the umbrella agency's point person on interfaith relations, was at the convention to speak with church leaders about toning down the resolution, according to a JCPA spokesperson.

In the lead up to the vote, more than 12,000 Jews had signed a letter urging delegates to the Presbyterian General Assembly to reject the resolution. The "Letter of Hope," which followed an earlier letter signed by 1,300 rabbis sent to the PCUSA, called on Presbyterians to deepen their "understandings of the multiple narratives in the region" and "focus on positive steps including economic development, Palestinian state building, and a return to negotiations."

However, Rabbi Alissa Wise, Jewish Voice for Peace's director of campaigns, was also in Pittsburgh for the convention and lobbied on behalf of the resolution.

"It's too early to know what is going to happen, but I have been moved to tears on multiple occasions as I saw authentic recognition of Palestinian experience and deep commitment to justice for all people by the Presbyterian Church," she said after the vote. "This is a historic moment in the struggle for dignity and justice, and I commend the PCUSA for getting us this close to holding corporations accountable for profiting from the occupation."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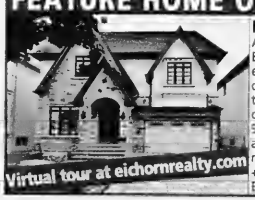


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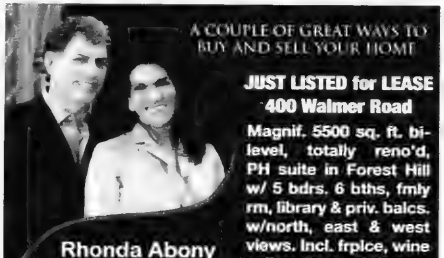


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# CONTROVERSIAL MAGAZINE SPREAD INSPIRES PHOTOGRAPHER

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Israel's *BelleMode* magazine's decision to publish controversial photos depicting Orthodox Jews in provocative poses on buses earlier this year inspired a Toronto-based photographer to run a workshop examining the role of women in Israeli society.

Liat Aharoni, a 22-year-old fifth-year political science student at the University of Toronto who calls herself a "self-taught fine arts photographer," said she's excited about leading a workshop on July 22 that will combine both the technical and the analytic aspects of photography.

She said the goal of the event is to hone participants' photography and editing skills while examining the tensions that bubbled to the surface when women began protesting being pressured by the Orthodox community in the Jerusalem suburb of Beit Shemesh to sit at the back of public buses.

Aharoni, Hillel of Greater Toronto's event co-ordinator – a role she is serving as part of the Kohn Internship program, a 10-week Jewish Vocational Services initiative that places students at Jewish non-profit agencies each summer – applauded *BelleMode* for publishing the photos, which ran a few weeks after women's rights protests in some of Israel's most religious Jewish communities.

For years, Israeli women have been pressured to move to the back of public buses that serve primarily haredi Jews.

This practice is seen as a prime example of the growing tensions between the secular and Orthodox communities, but tensions peaked late last year when an eight-year-old girl was spat on by haredi men in Beit Shemesh because they felt she was dressed immodestly.

This sparked demonstrations against the segregation of women, and weeks later, the Israeli magazine ran photos that Aharoni felt were published in support of women's rights in Israel.

To view the photos by Israeli photographer Guy Gomel, visit guygomel.livejournal.com/755004.html.

"From what I gathered from other people, a lot of people were offended by [the photos], but for me, I think they represent something so powerful," Aharoni said.

"These models who were dressed as Orthodox chassidic men, they were also being very provocative, and to me, that symbolized that regardless of your faith, you're still a sexual being at the end of the day," she continued.

"In one picture, the woman's mouth is taped shut, yet she's still posing in a sexual, provocative way, with her hand on her taped mouth, while the men are gazing at her. Even the way the photo was taken, I find it voyeuristic in a way."

Liat Aharoni

Aharoni's photo, titled *Saudade*, is one of her favourites

Aharoni said that although she only delved into photography "in a meaningful way" a few months ago, she has always been inspired by the art.

"It's a recent thing for me that I've taken this very seriously, but I've had a lot of positive feedback about my work so far in such a short time, so it's been very encouraging," she said.

On top of her internship with Hillel and her two jobs, Aharoni said she still makes an effort to find time to hone her photography skills.

"I try to come out as much as possible – for me that means giving up on a lot of my social life and working into the wee hours of the night because it's something I'm so passionate about."

And Aharoni hopes her passion for the art will inspire others later this month when students meet for the workshop, which will be held between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life.

She wants the event to push students to think critically about issues where women are demeaned and marginalized, but also explore how women are celebrated in Jewish and Israeli cultures.

"I don't know what knowledge each participant will be coming with, what understanding they already have, so it'll be an opportunity to learn about Judaism and women, and also hopefully to inspire their own opinions during the several hours that we'll be together," she said.

Following a lecture and discussion, the students will work with three experienced photographers, including Aharoni, to learn how to edit photos on software such as Photoshop.

The participants will have two hours to take photos in Toronto's Kensington Market, and each will have time to work with a model.

The lead photographers will also take the participants through the process of editing a photo step-by-step.

"They don't have to come with the best camera and they don't have to have a lot of knowledge about it, but if it's something they're interested in, it can be a really interesting experience for anybody."

For more information, or to sign up, email Aharoni at liat.aharoni@hilleltoronto.org.

More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca

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# אז אני צפונית

נינה שנהב
nina.shenhav@gmail.com

"תראי איזה בובון התינוק הזה." טלי מנידה ראש לעבר תינוק זהוב פלומה, שמחייך אליה בפיו חסר השיניים. "בעלי, מאתמול, לוחץ על בן קטן." היא אומרת. "לבעלך יש טריק סודי לעשיית בנים קטנים?" אני מבררת קצת מעוצבנת. "ומה אם תיוולד לכם בת? הוא ישאיר אותה על הר גבוה ונטוש?"

טלי: שום הר. הוא ישמח גם בבת שלישית, אני רק אומרת שמתחשק לנו תינוק. בא לי לשבת בקניון על קפה, כמו האמא הזו, ולשחק עם התינוק שלי. זה הכל.

אני (מתבוננת בחסר השיניים החייכן): אני זוכרת את הגיל הזה. ישבנו חבן שלי ואני בדיזינגוף סנטר. הוא היה כזה אפרוח מדהים. רק התחיל ללמוד מילים ראשונות. קראתי לו שילגיה, עמי ותמי, וכל סיפרות הפחד והאימה לתינוק המתחיל. והנה ניגשה אלינו אשה מבוגרת עם שיער שיבה פרוע ואף עקום. והתחילה לקשקש איתו בשפה תינוקית. הילד שלי, באותה שנייה, גילה את הוורבליות החבויה שלו, הצביע עליה וצרח בשימחה: מכשפה! הנה מכשפה!...

טלי (צוחקת): קיבל את הגנים טובי הלב שלך, אין ספק. פשוש קטן.

אני: לא. תעשי לי טובה. רק לא פשוש. זה מזכיר לי אימהות אנורקסיות עם עגיל בטבור שמזמזמות בשיניקן לתינוק המינשא האפטי שלהן - פשוש. פשוש. איחס. שנאתי את האימהות האלה. שנאתי גם את האימהות מבבלי. עגיל בפופיק לא היה, אבל אטיטיוד של מלכת העולם שהצליחה לעשות ילד, היה גם היה.

טלי: את חיית אמא בבלי! עם גישה של מישהי שצריך להישבע בשמה. חצי אלוהים הרגשת. וככה גם התנהגת. חוץ מזה מה רע בפשוש? יותר טוב אפרוח?

אני: יותר טוב. ותדעי לך שבגילך כבר לא תהיה לך סבלנות ל...פשוש חדש. כל כך שמחת שהבנות גמרו את הגן ועלו לכיתה א'. תשמעי לי, תקני אוגר. חתול.

טלי: מה זה היה ה"בגילך" הזה? תסלחי לי, אבל את גדולה ממני בשנתיים.

אני: ואני גם לא מעוניינת בתינוקות נוספים. אם לבעלך כל כך בוער על בן זכר, שיציא מהמערה שלו, יבעיר מדורה, וירקוד עם כמה דינוזאורים בשביל המזל!

טלי (מהורהרת): את מה-זה צודקת. חוצפן. אני לא עושה תינוק עם גבר כזה. שיכנעת אותי! אני רוצה להתגרש! (קמה) נינה, טוב שהארת את עיניי!

אני (מבוהלת): זה לא מה שאמרתי! תירגעי, ממי, שבי. תיכנסי לפרופורציות. הוא בעל נהדר, מה אני יודעת. את כולה צריכה שינוי, לצבוע את החיים קצת.

טלי (מתיישבת): כשהתלוננתי אתמול, הוא באמת שאל אם אני רוצה תינוק, או להחליף את הכיסוי לרהיטים בסלון. אין לו בעייה עם ורוד פוקסיה לכל הבית.

אני (נרגעת): את רואה? הוא לא שוביניסט! לכי על הרהיטים, ממי, תאמיני לי.

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2 c Jasmine rice
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1/4 c finely chopped scallions
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Rinse rice several times until water runs clear. Drain. Make rice in a) Rice Cooker: combine rice, broth and coconut milk and cook. Or b) Stove Top: place rice, broth and coconut milk in pot; bring to a boil. Once boiling, turn heat to low; cover with tight fitting lid; let cook 20 mins. Turn off heat and without opening lid, let it sit for another 10 min to finish steaming.

*After rice has cooked:* Fluff with a fork; mix in pineapple, soy sauce, brown sugar, sesame oil. Top with chopped scallions and any other recommended toppings. Drizzle a touch more soy sauce if desired.

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## On cjnews.com

*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

Bruno Tertrais, senior research fellow at the Fondation pour la recherche stratégique in France, who analyses the issues related to Iran's nuclear capability.

Renowned Muslim Algerian writer Boualem Sansal who recently attended an international writers festival in Jerusalem, knowing he would be censured for this in his own country and the Arab world.

*Exclusive to cjnews.com*

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa says that the fact that only 50 percent of the population serve in the IDF undermines the foundations of the State of Israel.

Winnipeg federation funding remains stable for 2012-13 with the Gray Academy of Jewish Education receiving a larger increase in funding than any of its other recipient organizations.

Eight Canadian senior high school students are in Israel until July 27 to do scientific research at Israel's Weizmann Institute.

***As there will be no print issue for July 19, please stay with cjnews.com throughout July for all your news and feature updates.***

# Bill C-31: I crawled into bed

When Bill C-31 was passed by the Senate, I fell into a deep sadness. I did because I couldn't understand how men and women elected to lead our country could unanimously decide to deny a place of refuge, and vital medicine, to men, women and children longing for the safety and security we cherish.

Bill C-31 implicitly determines that if a Jew persecuted in Hungary, as is happening today, or a Roma who has been attacked and is the victim of what Amnesty International calls (regarding Hungary) "violent and hate crimes" (see this report: http://www.amnesty.ca/amnestynews/upload/EUR270012010.pdf), it will still be nearly impossible for them to stay in Canada. Furthermore, when they're denied refugee status, they won't be able to appeal the verdict and will be sent back to the place they fled within 45 days, a place where right-wing thugs are openly calling them vermin and bugs.

I fell into bed on the night of June 27, the night the Senate passed Bill C-31, struggling with the reality that every single Conservative party member (except a few who didn't vote) voted "yes." I'm confused about how our government remained deaf to the pleas and protestations by the Canadian medical community – including the Canadian Medical Association,

***Urban Writer***

***Avrum Rosensweig***

the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Canadian Pediatric Society – as well as churches, the Toronto Board of Rabbis, refugee lawyers, experts on the refugee issue and Canadian citizens en masse. Our governing bodies heard speeches by respected doctors such as Dr. Philip Berger on the effects that changes to the Interim Federal Health Program will have on children and pregnant women – the risk of severe illness and death.

Please note that as of July 1, all refugees no longer have access to medication through the Interim Federal Health Program, including lifesaving medications such as insulin. Please be clear that individuals from "designated countries," including Jews from Hungary, will not have access to emergency care. This includes children, pregnant women and people facing acute crises, such as heart attacks.

Hear the words of Senator Jane Cordy, who stated in her speech prior to the passing of the bill in the Senate: "What is written in law can often be far different than what is happening on the ground in many so-called 'safe countries.' Indeed, it is when a country is deemed safe that those facing persecution often face the greatest challenges. Fellow Canadians, there is a rise of antisemitism in Hungary. Please read articles on June 5 in *The Canadian Jewish News* stating this very clearly... Judaism teaches the concept of tikkun olam, an exhortation to repair the world. If passed, Bill C-31 would be antithetical to these values. Ironically, we also understand that, were our families to arrive today under the federal government's new rules, they would be denied health care and, ultimately, citizenship. Returning to the retrograde policies that inspired 'none is too many' must be rejected."

We have three years to go before the next federal election. I strongly suggest that we stand very much on guard over what happens to those refugees who are denied medical care. If one should die, we must hold our government accountable. And let's also begin questioning the logic and morality behind the concept of a majority government, particularly one in which every single member of that government must vote the party line.

We were once refugees. Thank God we made it in.

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## This Week

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**Marky's Deli** closes after 43 years. *Page 7*

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**Mark Cohon** leads CFL into its 100th season. *Page 34*

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# BBC Olympics website fudges Israel's capital

JTA

**JERUSALEM** — The BBC has amended the information about the capitals of Israel and Palestine on its Olympics web page following complaints from Israel.

Under the Israel entry, the British public broadcast system amended the site to say that the country's "seat of government [is] Jerusalem, though most foreign embassies are in Tel Aviv." It amended the Palestine entry to say that its "intended seat of government [is] East Jerusalem. Ramallah serves as administrative capital."

*'We will not accept those who deny our history'*

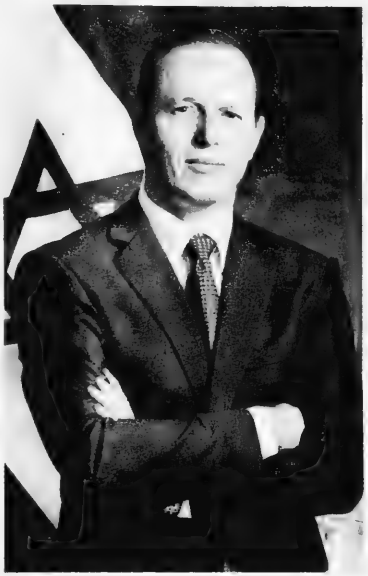
The website at first had listed "East Jerusalem" as the capital of Palestine and listed no capital for Israel – the only country with no capital listed.

After complaints from the public and a letter from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesperson Mark Regev, the BBC amended its site late last week.

"Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel, and accordingly we respectfully request the immediate rectification of this matter," Regev wrote.

"We will not accept those who deny our history, our sovereignty and our right to determine our own capital. Irrespective of the BBC's political agenda, Jerusalem was, is, and will always be the capital of Israel and the spiritual, political and physical centre of the Jewish People," Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat said in a statement.

Palestine has been recognized as a member of the Olympic Council of Asia since 1986 and of the International Olympic Committee since 1995.



**Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat**

# *Dr. Seuss and the Holocaust in France*

**Rafael Medoff**
JNS.org

**WASHINGTON** — Annie Kriegel, 15, was sitting in her Paris high school classroom taking an exam when her mother burst into the room and warned her not to come home – the Nazis were preparing to round up and deport any Jews they could get to.

More than 3,000 miles away, Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, was setting pen to paper to alert Americans about what was happening to the Jews in France.

Annie found a place to stay that night. The next morning, she later recalled, she was making her way to the city's Jewish quarter and "at the crossing of the rue de Turenne and the rue de Bretagne, I heard screams rising to the heavens. [They were] not cries and squawks such as you hear in noisy and excited crowds, but screams like you used to hear in hospital delivery rooms. All the human pain that both life and death provide. A garage there was serving as a local assembly point, and they were separating the men and women."

Stunned, the teenager sat down on a nearby park bench. "It was on that bench that I left my childhood." (Kriegel's experience is recounted in Susan Zucotti's 1993 book, *The Holocaust, the French and the Jews.*)

**Continued on page 28**

**Dvarim**
**Candlelighting: 8:28**
**Havdalah: 9:30**
*Greater Toronto Area*

**A plan for investing in Jewish education – please see page 15**

## CANADA

### Another Jewish OC

**OTTAWA** — William (Grit) Laskin was one of four Jews named recently to the Order of Canada. Laskin received the honour for his contributions to arts and music. A guitar maker since 1971, his steel-string, classical and flamenco guitars are played around the world. He is a past recipient of The Saidye Bronfman Award for Excellence and is known for customized instrument decoration.

### New Charges

**MONTREAL** — Police have accused Omar Bulphred, convicted of firebombing an Outremont chassidic school and planning to bomb the Snowdon YM-YWHA, of breaching the terms of his release. Police allege Bulphred violated his release conditions peace bond, loitered and uttered threats, but the new charges appear unrelated to his previous crimes. The new allegations come less than a month after his release from prison on June 11 after serving 40 months for the 2006 firebombing. He was ordered to undergo 30 days of psychiatric testing. Bulphred, 27, has reportedly been unrepentant over his crimes against the Jewish community and previously declared his support for jihad.

## WORLD

### Canada in Sights

**PARIS** — An Islamic terrorist killed in a shootout with French police claimed Al Qaeda operatives tried to recruit him to attack Canada and the United States. French TV station TF1 aired a recording of a conversation between Mohamed Merah and police during a 32-hour standoff prior to his death. "They offered me attacks in America, Canada," he said. Merah killed three Jewish schoolchildren, a rabbi and three paratroopers in Toulouse last March.

### Gift to Birthright

**NEW YORK** — Billionaire casino magnate Sheldon Adelson and his Israeli-born wife, Dr. Miriam Adelson, have pledged $13 million (US) to Taglit-Birthright Israel in recognition of its bar mitzvah year. The money is earmarked to reduce Birthright's 20,000-person waiting list. It comes on top of a $20-million challenge grant made by the Adelsons earlier this year. Altogether, the Adelsons have given more than $140 million U.S. to Birthright.

### Nazi Collaborator

**BUDAPEST** — Hungarian police have charged Ladislaus Csizsik-Csatary, a former Nazi collaborator, with the war crimes of personally torturing Jews. Csizsik-Csatary, 97, lived in Canada until 1997. He left the country rather than face deportation proceedings after losing his citizenship over his war crimes. He "played a key role in the deportation of over 15,000 Jews to Auschwitz in the spring of 1944," said Nazi hunter Efraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Israel office. Zuroff alerted authorities to Csizsik-Csatary's presence in Hungary.

### Obama calls for Moment of Silence

**WASHINGTON** — U.S. President Barack Obama has joined the campaign for a moment of silence at the London Olympics to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the massacre of 11 Israeli Olympians at the 1972 Olympics.

"We absolutely support the campaign for a minute of silence at the Olympics to honour the Israeli athletes killed in Munich," National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor told Yahoo News in an email.

The families of the victims of the 1972 massacre have mounted a global campaign to get the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to hold an official moment of silence at the Games – something IOC officials already have rejected for this year and have never done in the past. However, IOC representatives have attended Israeli and Jewish-organized commemorations.

Aside from Obama, the U.S. Senate, the German Bundestag, the Canadian and Australian parliaments, about 50 members of the British Parliament, the Israeli government, Jewish organizations worldwide and about 100 members of Australia's Parliament have urged the IOC to hold a moment of silence. Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard recently sent a personal letter to IOC President Jacques Rogge calling for a moment of silence.

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# Binstock has medal hopes at London Olympics

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

Josh Binstock has been a volleyball prodigy since he was about 16 years old. Long considered one of the best beach prospects in Canada, the 31-year-old native of Richmond Hill, Ont., is in London this week, fulfilling his dream to compete in the Olympic Games.

Binstock and Martin Reader were selected to represent Canada following a competition earlier this month at Ashbridge's Bay in Toronto.

They were joined in London by the women's team of Marie-Andrée Lessard and Annie Martin.

"It's been a long, hard road for these two teams," commented Hugh Wong, president of Volleyball Canada, "travelling all over the globe and playing against the best teams in the world. They clearly demonstrated that they belong in the 2012 Olympic beach volleyball tournament by dominating their competition at the Continental Qualifier last month in Mexico, and by their wins [at Ashbridge's Bay]. We know that they will represent us well at the Olympic Games."

Josh Binstock in action at Ashbridge's Bay in Toronto

"Right now, I couldn't be more excited," Binstock said. "I played hockey originally, and used to play with lots of emotion. Today, I brought that emotion with me on the beach volleyball court and it helped me."

Heading into the Games, Binstock and Reader were ranked 34th in the world. At their last pre-Olympic tournament in Klagenfurt, Austria, they finished 41st – the same position as at an event in Rome a month before.

Continued on page 13

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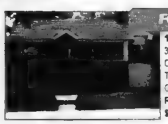
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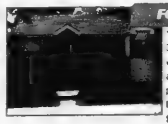
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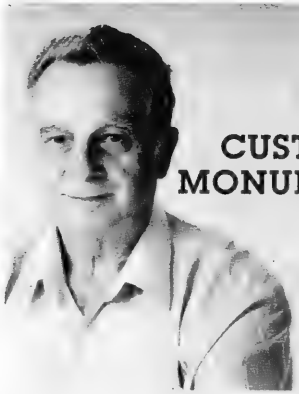
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# The IOC's shame

*From the editor's desk...*

Is there a people whose emotions rise and fall, stir then settle, with the tugging of the calendar more than the Jewish People? Probably not.

The annual calendar is the recurring canvas of time on which our collective memory each year paints the latest image of our peoplehood.

The Torah sanctifies five distinct holy periods of the calendar: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the three pilgrimage holidays. The ancient rabbis sanctified two additional "lesser" holidays: Chanukah and Purim. They also designated six periods of fasting in addition to the fast of Yom Kippur.

The sense of peoplehood that our acute affinity to the calendar has created and recreated over the many millennia also ensures that our collective memory is permanently engaged.

Thus, we recalled last week on July 18, with as much anger as sorrow, the 18th anniversary of the murder of 85 people at the Jewish Community Centre (AMIA) in Buenos Aires. Hundreds more were wounded. Two years earlier in the same city, on March 17, a car bomb destroyed Israel's embassy, killing 29 people and injuring 242. In both terror instances, Iran was suspected. Indeed to this day, there are still six outstanding warrants of arrest at Interpol for Iranians assumed to have been involved in the AMIA atrocity.

The commencement of the Summer Olympics in London later this week compels us to recall the slaughter of 11 Israelis at the summer Olympics 40 years ago in Munich.

By now it is widely known that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will not set aside any time – neither one second nor one minute – at the opening ceremonies to recall the lives of the Israeli Olympians killed in Munich.

IOC president Jacques Rogge on the weekend repeated his refusal to do so, saying that the opening ceremony was not an appropriate occasion for honouring the slain Israelis.

But many people disagree with Rogge.

The Canadian Parliament was one of the first western bodies to urge the IOC to include a moment of silence at the opening ceremonies of the London Olympics.

Last week, U.S. President Barack Obama also added his voice to the call for a moment of silence. In addition to Canada and the United States, the German Bundestag, the Australian Parliament and about 50 members of the British Parliament have also formally requested the IOC to hold such a moment of silence at the start of the games.

Even renowned American sportscaster Bob Costas joined the debate. "I intend to note that the IOC denied the request," Costas told the *Hollywood Reporter*. "Many people find that denial more than puzzling but insensitive."

In the past, IOC representatives have attended Israeli or other commemorations of the 1972 Munich massacre. But they have steadfastly refused every request from the families of the Israeli victims and from western government officials to hold a 40-year commemoration at the opening of the London games.

Rogge will indeed lead an IOC delegation to Germany on Sept. 5, to attend a memorial ceremony at Munich's Furstenfeldbruck airbase, the actual date and place where the Palestinian terrorists massacred nine of the 11 murdered Israelis. It has also been reported that Rogge plans to hold a reception of some sort for the slain Israelis on Aug. 6. But he refuses to set aside a moment of silence at the opening ceremonies.

His refusal is utterly unconscionable.

Moreover, his assertion that a moment of silence would politicize the ceremonies is a sham. As recently as two years ago, during the winter games in Vancouver, the IOC set aside a moment of silence to memorialize the Georgian athlete who died in a training accident.

American historian Deborah Lipstadt is blunt in her assessment of the IOC's refusal. She attributes it, simply, to antisemitism.

"The IOC's explanation is nothing more than a pathetic excuse. The athletes who were murdered were from Israel and were Jews – that is why they aren't being remembered.

"Imagine for a moment that these athletes had been from the United States, Canada, Australia or even Germany. No one would think twice about commemorating them. But these athletes came from a country and a people who somehow deserve to be victims. Their lost lives are apparently not worth a minute."

Last Sunday, a modest memorial service attended by the mayor of London was held in the atrium of a London apartment block. Prayers were read, wreaths were laid, a memorial plaque was unveiled. This small group of concerned and caring individuals remembered.

We will remember, too. And we will set aside more than the mere moment of silence that the IOC refuses, to recall and hallow the memories of the 11 Israelis slain 40 years ago at the Olympics. The calendar calls. But so does our conscience. – ***MBD***

**SeeJN**

## 103 YEARS YOUNG!

**Miriam (Margaret) Kamin-Zysman recently celebrated her 103rd birthday at the Baycrest Apotex Centre. She's currently taking computer classes at the centre and played mah-jong there and crocheted hats and scarves until recently. Her son, Jules Kamin, from Los Angeles, is seated beside her.**

# Academy Award-Winning Actor, Friend of Israel, Coming to Toronto

## *Jon Voight the Featured Speaker at UJA's Campaign 2013 Launch*

*By Daniel Horowitz*

Oscar-winning actor Jon Voight learned about anti-Semitism and intolerance at an early age, and even though he was only eight, he didn't like what he learned about the dark side of humanity.

The non-Jewish actor, best known for his roles in such iconic films as *Deliverance*, *Midnight Cowboy* and *Coming Home*, for which he won the Best Actor Academy Award, and the father of actress Angelina Jolie, is proud to call himself a friend of Israel and of the Jewish people.

"My father, Elmer Voight, was the golf pro at Sunnydale, a German-Jewish Country Club in Scarsdale, New York," Voight told me during a telephone interview from Los Angeles. "Because of that connection to the members of the club when I was very, very young, I learned, first-hand, about anti-Semitism. These wonderful people were not allowed to join other country clubs at the time, so they gathered together and built their own club. I learned a lot of strong lessons from Dad and I learned about the insanity of anti-Semitism.

Growing up, many of my best friends were Jews, probably because I saw how wonderfully these people treated my father, and how deeply he was affected by them. I remember thinking to myself, 'how can so many not like these people, just because they're Jewish.' Ironically, when my dad was also just eight-years-old, he caddied at the same country club. He was a very lovable little kid; the members fell in love with him. Some became his surrogate uncles and aunts, and even raised and groomed him to become a golf professional which he did at just 18."

Voight, who created a new generation of fans thanks to television roles on hit series including *Seinfeld* and a recurring role on *24* where he played Jack Bauer's (Kiefer Sutherland) uber-nemesis Jonas Hodges, will be the featured speaker at the community launch of United Jewish Appeal of Greater Toronto's Campaign 2013 – chaired by Sarena Koschitzky and Bruce Leboff. "Israel has a deep meaning for the world, and I believe it is setting a standard for the world," says Voight. "The Jewish people down through the centuries have given us so much. I've been enamoured of the great legacy of all the great people from the time of Moses down to the present. There is so much the Jewish people have contributed – and continue to contribute - to world information and knowledge, the sciences, medicine and the arts as well. I've fallen in love with that legacy. Then, of course, there is that land that has been the basis – the landscape of all of that history is, of course, Israel. It's very important to the history of the Jewish people. The Balfour agreement was the basis to provide the Jewish people with some sort of haven where they can be safe, and where there would be no attacks. I believe that is what the Balfour Declaration states, that the Jewish people have a homeland."

*Oscar-winner Jon Voight is the featured speaker at UJA's Campaign 2013 Launch on August 21st*

*(from top, clockwise) Voight in the terrifying Deliverance, Voight in Coming Home, for which he won the Academy Award for Best Actor; Voight in Midnight Cowboy; Voight in his role on television's 24.*

Voight, who has been to Israel on a number of occasions, spoke about an emotional visit he recently made to the city of Sderot, one of the areas on Israel's periphery, which receives funding derived from UJA's Annual Campaign. "Sderot has been attacked by thousands of rockets over the years, and it is part of their daily lives that they will be attacked," says Voight. "Nobody in America or Canada would ever stand for even one rocket landing in their towns; indiscriminate bombings every day on their children. The remarkable and beautiful people of Sderot refuse to leave simply because it's their home. They refuse to give into the terror. The people of Sderot have a system, whereby you have literally seconds to get to a bomb shelter, which they have all over the town so that they can safely get out of the way of these rockets. And many of the children of Sderot are growing up with post traumatic stress disorder. It's an appalling, tragic situation, yet, on the other hand it's very deeply moving to see the bravery of the residents of this little town. Despite their bravery, you see the weight that they are carrying, etched on their faces. Sderot is a metaphor for all of Israel, and the world doesn't rise up to protect it. It's a gross injustice."

UJA's Campaign Launch will take place on Tuesday, August 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York hotel (100 Front Street W.)

The event will also include a musical performance by Hagit Yasso, winner of *Kochav Nolad*, Israel's version of the popular TV show, *American Idol*.

Tickets to UJA's Campaign Launch are $45 and can be purchased online at www.ujaevents.com/registration/voight as well as by email at: srotman@ujafed.org, or by telephone at: 416.631.5705

# Tribute to an outgoing consul general

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Israeli consul general to Toronto and Western Canada, Amir Gissin, arguably did more than his predecessors to promote Israel and stave off anti-Israel sentiment in North America during his time here.

Next week, the affable diplomat-warrior returns to Israel with his family after five years of service in Toronto.

Since his arrival in 2008, Gissin's list of accomplishments include leading a major rebranding campaign of Israel that touted the positive impact the Jewish state has had on the world via technology, medicine and cultural exports.

He made it a priority to ensure the many disparate Jewish communities in and around Toronto – those of London, Hamilton, Kingston and Kitchener-Waterloo, among others – were always included in the discussion on ways to promote Israel and combat anti-Zionism.

He championed intra-cultural dialogue between the Jewish community and almost every other ethnic community in the Toronto area.

And for a man who is self-admittedly uneasy making public speeches, Gissin delivered more than 1,000 addresses to the community and other events during his term, all of them unscripted. It's one of the functions of his role he really won't miss, he admitted.

More than that, the 49-year-old career diplomat developed a much-deserved reputation as someone who was approachable, thoughtful, and unwavering in his passion for his country as he was averse to the trappings of his position.

Pretentiousness was anathema to him.

In short, he was the best of Israeli diplomacy personified.

On the eve of his and his family's return to Israel, Gissin sat down to speak with *The CJN* one final time at the consulate.

Asked how he felt about his accomplishments in Canada and his imminent return home – Gissin is a sixth generation Israeli – he said he was "overwhelmed."

"My years in Toronto have become an experience much bigger than I ever imagined, in all aspects of my life," he said. "Professionally, I feel I've achieved much more than I anticipated. [Toronto] was a very good match for me. The culture. The Jewish community. Business partners… I was privileged to be in a place where I could implement my ideas. And more importantly, that those ideas worked and succeeded."

On the personal side, Gissin said the initial relocation process to Canada for his family was difficult. "But the last few years were wonderful," he said.

He said he and his wife eventually managed to find the balance between the demands of his job and the time necessary to raise their children in a foreign land, despite all the security requirements that are endemic an Israeli diplomat's life.

"Toronto provided us with great experiences, which we will take back with us," Gissin said.

Though he'll miss the community and the friends he made in Canada, Gissin is looking forward to returning to Israel to finally set down permanent roots and dedicate more time to his wife and family.

However, the return to Israel, while greatly anticipated, is also fraught with many obstacles, he said.

Having spent nearly half of his adult life away from his homeland on different postings across the world, reintegrating back into Israeli society is likely to prove a difficult transition this time, Gissin said.

That's because he will be leaving the diplomatic corps to follow an as yet undetermined new career. In essence, he's returning to Israel without the safety net of a government job.

"Reintegrating into society won't be easy for me, my wife or my kids. But beyond the initial process, at least we know we'll be home. We've missed our family and friends. And I will never feel at home in any place other than Israel," he said.

While it won't be easy to start a new life and new career in Israel, especially at this stage of life, Gissin said this is something he really wants to do.

"I'm energized by the thought" of starting fresh, he said.

The upcoming change in career and status is already having a profound effect on him, he said.

Relinquishing the weighty role of "symbol of Israel" to Canadians and Canada's Jewish community means shedding an identity that he has lived with every minute of his life while he was the consul general.

"It will be quite a relief to return to being just myself. Because most people who view the consul general as the symbol and role model of Israel are unaware of all the limitations and challenges that an Israeli representative has."

**Amir Gissin**

He said the time is right for him to let go the trappings of the diplomatic life.

The constant need for formalities and the personal distancing necessary for the role were "never things that spoke to me. I'm informal by nature, a people person," Gissin said.

Outside of his job, one of Gissin's greatest passions is his love of music. A guitar player, percussionist and singer, he said one of the first things he plans to do upon his return to Israel is to get together with friends and jam.

Music, he said, is one of the things that defines him, and it was often hard to tap into that expressive outlet while he was consul general.

"I don't think I'll be making a living doing sing-alongs," he joked. "But I will bring music back to my life, big time."

Referring back to his time in Toronto, he said he feels deeply privileged to have had the opportunity to be an Israeli consul general in Canada at a time when both countries have such strong ties of friendship, both governmental and communally.

"It's a golden age" of bilateral relations, he said. "I'm glad I had a chance to contribute to it. My main goal was changing the way people perceived Israel and it happened on many levels, in many places and with many people. And it's still happening."

While not quantifiable, Gissin said that looking back at the relationship Canada and Israel had five years ago, and the perceptions Canadians had about the Jewish state and compared them to today's relationship, a sea change has occurred.

As for regrets, he said he wished it hadn't taken him quite as long to understand that the Toronto Jewish community and local Israeli representatives suffered from a dearth of grassroots relationships with other ethnic communities in the city.

"It took me two years to figure that out," he said. "It's something that increased our isolation and irrelevance [to others]. Once I realized it, I worked very hard to bring change by building bridges personally and professionally with other communities and by trying to encourage my partners in the Jewish community to do the same."

Though there's been some progress in this area over the last three years of his term, it's disappointing that there hasn't been more concerted effort by the Jewish community to reach out to other cultures in the city, he said.

He said he hopes the issue remains on the community's radar, though he realizes that issues such as Jewish education, providing services for those in need in the community and enhancing the Diaspora's understanding of Israel are all pressing items that must be prioritized over and above all else.

Next week, incoming consul general D.J. Schneeweiss will succeed Gissin, who will help transition his replacement before his departure. The two are friends.

Gissin said Toronto and Western Canada can expect a terrific new consul general.

Over the course of the last month, numerous community organizations and individuals have feted Gissin as part of a long, celebratory send-off for a job well done.

*The CJN* wishes to thank him as well, and we wish him and his family good luck and good health on the next part of their life's journey.

*Todah rabah*, Amir.

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# Marky's Deli closes after 43 years

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

Marky's Deli & Restaurant, a glatt kosher restaurant located at Bathurst Street and Wilson Avenue in the heart of Toronto's Jewish community, closed July 18 after 43 years in business.

Erez Karp, 54, son of Marky's founders Rivka and the late Azriel Karp, cited the economy for his "quick decision" to shut the landmark eatery's doors, which leaves Toronto without a kosher sit-down delicatessen.

"I believe there is an economic crisis in the Orthodox world. People are focusing on their priorities, such as school and synagogue, and there is less and less money left for restaurant meals."

As well, according to Karp, many Conservative Jews are not strict about eating in kosher establishments. "Part of the [kosher] market has disappeared."

He said that four other local kosher meat restaurants – King Solomon's Table, Miami Grill, 398 West, and Delicacies Bar and Grill – have closed recently, and "the fact that my business did not increase at all tells me something. It is clear what is happening."

Karp said that his parents, who met in Israel, and moved to Toronto in 1968 via Montreal, bought a non-kosher restaurant with the idea of making it kosher.

"It was one of the first few kosher restaurants in the city, and they brought in a European/Zionist attitude. Not only was the food delicious, but it became a social place, with a lot of young Israelis hanging out," he said.

"My mother was a great cook. She converted a lot of recipes into kosher, and everything is made from scratch. We still pickle and smoke our own meat and grind our own breadcrumbs. Chicken fingers are a favourite [for all ages.]"

Erez Karp

Karp, a lawyer by profession, took over Marky's in 1988. "My first job there was washing dishes when I was 11 years old. I had to stand on a box to reach the sink. I have [since] worked every position in the restaurant."

He said despite popular belief, the restaurant business does not involve extra-long hours.

"We just work different hours than everyone else. We open up when everyone has already started working, and when they come in for dinner after work, we're working."

He said he has no immediate plans for his post-Marky's future.

"It all happened very quickly. I haven't had a chance to figure it out."

# Federation reinstates funding for Yiddish

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has reversed its decision to stop funding its Committee for Yiddish, a change that took effect July 1.

In a July 11 email to committee president Mark Egit, Adam Minsky, the federation's senior vice-president of community capacity building, wrote that, "effective immediately, UJA Federation is committed to providing the following:

1. Part-time staff support to the Committee for Yiddish.
2. Program grant funding in the amount of $20,000 per year. [The amount is $16,000 less than the $36,000 the committee received last year.]
3. Complimentary meeting space in the Lipa Green Centre."

As well, Minsky added, the professional staff person assigned to the committee would likely change. Ester Klimitz, who served as the committee's part-time co-ordinator, will remain on staff until September to ensure a smooth transition, Minsky wrote.

The changes are considered "an interim solution" for the coming year until a long-term plan is worked out, according to an email from federation spokesperson Dan Horowitz to committee supporters.

Sol Hermolin, a member of the Committee for Yiddish and president of the Yiddish Vinkl (an independent group), told *The CJN*, "At this point we have to scramble and get flyers and ads out and let the community know that classes will be starting again and the theatre workshop will be going on.

"It looks like we'll be carrying on as we did before, but we'll try and have a stronger presence in the community, so something like this doesn't happen again," he added.


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# *Masterminds gloat as murdered are mourned*

One day after a suicide bomber killed five Israelis, wounded two dozen more and killed one Bulgarian at the airport in Burgas, Bulgaria, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad preened over the atrocity.

"The bitter enemies of the Iranian people and the Islamic Revolution have recruited most of their forces in order to harm us," Ahmadinejad said. "They have indeed succeeded in inflicting blows upon us more than once, but have been rewarded with a far stronger response."

He was responding directly to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who, earlier that day, had accused Iran and Hezbollah of involvement in the slaughter.

Despite a transparent effort on the weekend by Bahman Kalbasi, a BBC lackey for Ahmadinejad, denying that Ahmadinejad's remarks related to the Burgas murders, and despite the farcical statement by an Iranian foreign ministry spokesman, Ramin Mehmanparast, earlier in the week that "Iran's position is to condemn all terrorist acts in the world," the import of Ahmadinjed's remarks was clear. By boasting about his country's "far stronger response" merely hours after Netanyahu had pointed the finger of responsibility at Tehran as the dead and wounded were being flown back to Israel, the unsubtle Iranian leader merely confirmed what knowledgeable observers and government leaders suspected: that Iran had indeed brought last week's terror onto the fields of Bulgaria.

Indeed, that the Burgas suicide bomber acted on behalf of Iran has now been clearly established.

As reported in the *New York Times* last week, American officials confirmed that the bomber was a member of the Iranian terror surrogate, Hezbollah, and was "acting under broad guidance" to hit Israeli targets.

The Burgas atrocity was committed 18 years to the day after the Iranian-directed terrorist slaughter of 85 people at the AMIA Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires. Hundreds more were injured in that attack. Six Iranians are still on Interpol's most wanted list for that attack, including current Iranian Defence Minister Gen. Ahmed Vahidi.

Unchecked, the thuggish, murderous theocrats of Tehran will simply implement more of their hegemonic ambitions, wreaking more of the deadly havoc and political instability that have become their signature. Its involvement in the Syrian regime's battle with its own people is merely a grossly obvious example of Tehran's way.

Ahmadinejad gloats with smug, religiously sanctified self-assurance about the murders he and his agents mastermind while the families of the murdered mourn.

At what point will western leaders draw the line with the leaders of Iran?

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir said proposals by the Labor party – his partner in the governing coalition – for an international peace conference was "an idea of suicide and surrender" that had undermined Arab acceptance of Israel and killed chances for peace.

*Editorial Advisory Board:* **Maurice Benzacar, Michael Brown, Donald Carr, Rabbi Michael Dolgin, Jake Goldstein, Jeffrey Kopstein, Keith Landy, Lou Ronson, Alan Sandler, Rabbi Philip Scheim, Mike Shriqui, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, Ehud Telem, Nelson Wiseman.**

### Two states now (1)

What Arie Raif proposes in "Two states now, peace later" (July 5) is precisely what the Palestinians are demanding "now," without specifying what will happen later: evacuation of settlements; Israeli withdrawal from the eastern part of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount; abandoning most of the West Bank. But at least some Palestinian officials have the honesty to say that such moves will eventually seal the death of Israel, as Abbas Zaki, a member of the Fatah Central Committee, stated on Sept. 23, 2011, in an Al Jazeera interview: "Everybody understands that the greater goal cannot be accomplished in one go. If Israel withdraws from Jerusalem, evacuates the settlers and dismantles the wall, what will become of Israel? It will come to an end... If one says that one wants to wipe Israel out... it's not an acceptable policy to say so. Don't say these things to the world. Keep it to yourself." Need I say more?

**Salomon Benzimra**
**Toronto**

### *LET THEM GO...*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

* * *

### Two states now (2)

Arie Raif in "Two states now, peace later" (July 5) espouses the typical left-wing view in relation to the peace-making process, which is blame the right wing, give away land to try to placate the enemy and hope that this will be sufficient to bring about peace.

As a civil litigation lawyer, I am an advocate of the mediation process. Mediation usually leads to a settlement. However, it requires the parties to come to the table without preconditions and with an open mind to bring about a resolution. It is absurd and ludicrous for Israel to come to the negotiation table by submitting to preconditions and furthermore being told what the ultimate resolution of such a negotiation is before negotiating.

It is clear from a historical perspective and from the comments of Palestinian leaders that any settlement is an interim agreement, as the ultimate goal still remains the destruction of the State of Israel. A resolution of this conflict will only come about once the Palestinians come to the realization that Israel is not a temporary but a permanent entity.

**Arnie Recht**
**Toronto**

* * *

### Church report on 'Israel/Palestine' (1)

*The CJN* has published a number of articles relating to the August meeting of the General Council of the United Church of Canada, which will vote on a proposed church policy regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I recently wrote to the Rev. Mardi Tindal, moderator of the United Church of Canada, as follows:

"I take issue with many parts of the report [of the church's working group on Israel/Palestine policy]... that delegates... will discuss in August. The report contains significant factual errors and distortions, which are unworthy of a respected body such as the United Church of Canada. The report contains a direct comparison of the Holocaust to the challenges faced by Palestinians. It questions Israel's status as a Jewish state. It blames Israel's presence in the West Bank as a primary contributor of injustice that underlies the violence of the region. The report makes no mention of Hamas and Hezbollah, which are committed to the destruction of the State of Israel and the annihilation of the Jewish People.

"Christians in Israel enjoy full rights as citizens. Your church should compare this to Saudi Arabia and other Arabs states where churches are simply not allowed. If you want to discuss oppression, why not deal with the plight of the Coptics in Egypt or the ongoing murders of Christians in Nigeria. The report's focus on Israel as opposed to the abuse of Christians in the rest of the world smacks of antisemitism."

**Bert Raphael**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

* * *

### Church report on 'Israel/Palestine' (2)

There is nothing fairly "balanced" about the United Church's working group's report on Israel/Palestine policy ("The United Church report," Letters, July 5). The fact that the church would even consider studying the boycotting of Israel while ignoring all of the rest of the Middle East is blatant antisemitism.

**Len Bennett**
**Montreal**

*For more letters, visit cjnews.com.*

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# The circumcision dilemma

**Rabbi Wayne Allen**

Shortly after a judge in a district court in Cologne, Germany, ruled that circumcision was the equivalent of "grievous bodily harm" and left open the possibility that both doctors who perform the surgery and parents who permit it might be subject to criminal prosecution, CTV News contacted me for an interview. As a representative of the Toronto Board of Rabbis, I would be asked for an "on-air" reaction. Aside from confirming time and place for the interview, the producer asked me for some "talking points." I responded that while I recognize the fact that is was a German court that issued this ruling, I would prefer to focus on the content of the decision and its context. I was prepared to demonstrate how its reasoning was flawed yet entirely explicable given a secular society that privileges individual rights over communal values. I was not interested in making visceral attacks against antisemitism. But what I wanted to avoid was precisely what the producer wanted to include. So I was "dis-invited" to appear.

The fact that the ruling was issued by a German court within living memory of the Shoah is chilling. And, as columnist Michael Gerson noted in the *Washington Post*, antisemitism has always been as much about Jewish bodies as it has been about Jewish beliefs. But simply dismissing the Cologne ruling as a manifestation of historic antisemitism is too neat and simple. After all, the ruling could have just as well been issued in Sweden, Norway, Finland, the Netherlands or San Francisco (where a proposed ban on circumcision was removed from a ballot measure by a Superior Court judge in July, 2011). It is true that antisemites (read "Nazis") cited the practice of circumcision as an example of the inherent cruelty of Jews, thus paving the way for the Shoah. But historian Robin Judd, in her 2007 book titled *Contested Rituals*, shows that Jewish parents in Germany were already abandoning the practice of infant circumcision as early as 1843, long before the rise of National Socialism.

Rabbi Wayne Allen

Unlike antisemitic vitriol directed against circumcision, the Cologne judge did not condemn infant ritual circumcision as cruel, barbaric or primitive. That judgment, it seems, belongs to Jewish groups such as NoCirc, Intact or JAC (Jews Against Circumcision). The Cologne judge argued that circumcision "permanently and irreparably" changes the human body, causing a "not insignificant loss of substance." Of course the same could be said about an amputation. But amputations are not illegal, because they are, presumably, medically justified. Medical justification is an exception to the rule of maintaining bodily integrity. Any surgical procedure that cannot be medically justified is mutilation and criminal. On this basis, female genital cutting, including clitoridectomy and infibulation, would similarly be banned.

No doubt some defenders of ritual circumcision would hasten to claim that medical justification is precisely why circumcision ought to be endorsed. While medical opinion and scientific studies are far from unanimous, current opinion considers circumcision useful in promoting better genital hygiene and preventing the transmission of disease, as well as effective in controlling AIDS. That is why circumcision is being promoted in Africa. The best interests of society are served by encouraging circumcision, not banning it. The judge considered the medical testimony, but was assured by experts that there is no advantage to circumcision in countries, such as Germany, with better hygienic awareness and practice than in Africa.

The judge also understood that Jews (and Muslims) do not defend circumcision on the basis of medical justification. On this point, the judge was absolutely correct. Besides, medical opinions do change. And once Jews begin to tie rituals to medical science, there is an inherent danger: should the reigning scientific opinion change, ritual would have to change as well. If, for example, fasting on Yom Kippur were defended on the grounds that an occasional fast serves to purge the digestive system of toxins and promote better health, it would have to be rejected if new studies indicated that depriving the human body of nutrients for more than a day disrupts regular metabolism and inhibits the production of desirable hormones.

The judge was also correct in omitting the issue of pain. He did not argue that circumcision is painful – even though many Jews have that impression. Babies cry as much – if not more – from being exposed and restrained than from the very short surgical procedure itself. And with an analgesic, whether wine or the application of lidocaine, or both, the pain is mitigated, if not eliminated. And I have attended a number of brit milah ceremonies when the baby did not cry at all. The judge was not concerned with the issue of pain, because libertarian society accepts the possibility of imposing momentary pain for long-term gain. That is why vaccinations are advocated and sometimes mandated.

However, the judge erred in arguing that circumcision "permanently and irreparably" changes the anatomy. He is wrong on two counts. First, circumcision is reversible. Jewish history, particularly during the Hellenistic period, mentions how some men in attempting to fit in with the Greeks who had to participate naked in the gymnasium, reversed their circumcisions through the manual stretching of the remaining foreskin or through surgery. While neither method may seem attractive, they are certainly available. Second, to argue that an anatomical part is "irreparable" is to argue that the part is broken, no longer able to serve its natural and beneficial purpose. What the natural and beneficial purpose of the foreskin might be is difficult to identify, particularly since the judge conceded that the foreskin can be a sponge for harmful bacterial growth. Moreover, it is unusual – but not rare – for males to be born without foreskins and with no identifiable disadvantage. According to Jewish lore, Adam, Jacob, Moses and David among others were born this way. (Interestingly, the rabbis considered aposthia as an indication of saintliness rather than deformity.) Were foreskins considered essential, doctors would be promoting restorative surgery for aposhthiac babies which, of course, is not the case.

But what impelled the judge to rule as he did is the emergence of individualism as the pre-eminent societal value. At the dawn of the modern period, Judaism welcomed this nascent socio-political concept. No longer would Jews be barred from professions or neighbourhoods solely on the basis of the group to which they belonged. The demise of "corporativism" – as historian David Rudavsky described it – was accompanied by the disintegration of the ghetto and the full admission of Jews into western society. Exemplified by towering personalities such as Moses Mendelssohn, Jews could now rise as high as their own individual talents would take them. But this radical change came with a price. Aside from the threat of rampant assimilation, individualism challenged the cherished idea of Judaism as a covenantal community. Traditionally, Jews saw themselves as members of a collective with shared values and a shared destiny rather than as a voluntary association of individuals. Judaism was seen as a system of obligations that supersedes individual choice. In this system, circumcision is considered a ceremony of initiation in which an eight-day-old male is introduced to the covenant and added to the ranks of Jewish community. It is reason to rejoice. But increasingly today, individual "rights" are trumping religious "rites."

Oil painting by Giovanni Bellini

The Cologne judge reflected this reality in his ruling when he argued that membership in a religious body is a voluntary choice that must be made by an adult. Parents can no longer make that choice for a child. Religion cannot be imposed. It can only be adopted. Further, children are not the "property" of parents who have power over them but individuals for whom parents have responsibilities, including protecting them from physical assault. Should a child grow up and wish to adopt Judaism, let him choose to be circumcised then.

It remains to be seen how this ruling will play out over time, particularly since it leaves certain questions unaddressed. For instance, research has shown that Down Syndrome children who undergo facial reconstruction surgery and are subsequently treated as "normal" children tend to succeed in school far better than those who do not undergo surgery. To be sure, the surgery is not "life-saving." Given the absence of medical justification, would parents who opt for the surgery be subject to criminal penalties? And if not, that is, if aesthetic or psychological justification sufficiently outweighs a child's bodily integrity, why wouldn't religious justification? But what this ruling clearly does is highlight the dilemma faced by modern Jews. On the one hand, we applaud and cherish the values that are the hallmark of the modern period. These are the same values affirmed by the German judge: the protection of the person against harm, individual rights and freedom of choice. Yet at the same time, we want to preserve our sacred tradition.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper asserted that "the declaration of one person in a German court will have zero impact on the Jewish people." Perhaps so. But the dilemma exposed by the recent ruling endures.

*Rabbi Wayne Allen holds a PhD in philosophy. He serves as provost of the Canadian Yeshiva and Rabbinical School in Toronto.*

# How I discovered the Talmud

As the date of the global Siyum Hashas, the celebration of the completion of a cycle of Talmud, study draws near, I find myself thinking about my own belated discovery of the joys of Talmud.

Although I had a fulsome Jewish education, it was not until my graduate school days that I began to learn Talmud. Oh, I encountered a talmudic text here and there – mostly aggadah (stories), sometimes bits of halachic deliberation, but never an entire *sugya* (analysis). When I was growing up, I didn't know of a single girl or woman who learned Talmud. In our co-ed school, girls studied Mishnah, while boys learned Gemara.

I'd like to say that even in those days, my soul yearned to swim in the sea of Talmud – but that would not be precise. Because I did not have a sense of what Talmud study was, I didn't know to desire it. But what I did yearn for, even then, was to be able to study what the boys studied. In my school, the boys' schooling continued after hours – one night a week, and Sunday mornings.

I organized the girls in my Grade 5 class, and together we requested that we, too, be offered this opportunity. After a bit of resistance, the principal acceded to our demand. "Get to school Sunday morning," he told us, "and we'll begin."

We showed up at 8 a.m, and our principal was there, waiting. So was our "home economics" teacher. As the boys filed into their classrooms, we followed our home-ec teacher into the kitchen. Our task was to prepare a hearty and tasty breakfast for our male classmates, who would surely be hungry after a morning of study.

So it was that my encounter with the Talmud was deferred for more than a decade. Years later, when I was a graduate student at Brandeis University, several of my friends organized a Talmud study group that met one morning a week in someone's apartment. The group was self-directed, chevrutah-style, rather than led by a teacher. They invited me to join them. Tentatively, I accepted.

I quickly realized I was in over my head. The responsibility for taking the lead rotated among the members of the group. Each week, a different person was charged with doing advance preparation, working through the text to be studied, doing outside research if necessary. There were four of us: a Judaic studies PhD student at Harvard University who went on to rabbinic ordination, a graduate student in Bible, a sofer and me.

My colleagues in study radically outpaced me. My knowledge of Aramaic was ad hoc and acquired, over time, by osmosis, and I'd never worked through a page of Talmud. I felt I should do the gracious thing and offer to quit, but my friends encouraged me to try to stick it out.

***Sara R. Horowitz***

***in Toronto***

The section of Gemara we chose – I shouldn't say "we," because I was clueless – wasn't an easy one for a beginner. It was Ketubot – marriage contracts – and very complex. Typical for the Talmud, it began by plunging into a discussion not of marriage contracts, but of divorce. It took weeks before I ventured to shoulder my responsibility to prepare the text in advance. This was before the wonderful translations into modern Hebrew and English were available. I struggled, pitted myself against the text, making friends with Aramaic dictionaries and talmudic reference works.

I was way out of my comfort zone, but I was hooked. I had never encountered material so intellectually difficult and so stimulating. And the discourse of voices in the text brought the personalities and minds of long-ago people into the present, as though they were sitting around the kitchen table with us. The vignettes, dilemmas and illustrations brought us slices of life from the past, opening a window onto the daily lives and passions of our ancestors. I was seduced by threads of argument that seemingly meander and digress, only to forge an exquisite weave of text.

"So this is what it is," I remember thinking.

And how wonderful to celebrate not only a cycle of study, but a changed world where girls and women, too, had access to this Judaic treasure.

# *Rabbis and same-sex marriages*

For several years, when the Reform movement needed a dinosaur from its ranks to debate the issue of same-sex marriage, I'd be invited to sit on panels and make presentations. Because I had been among the relatively few Reform rabbis who had publicly argued against performing same-sex ceremonies, even after the movement sanctioned them, it made me a sought-after, but less-than-welcome, guest.

I had two main arguments, one formal and one substantive. The formal reason for not officiating at same-sex ceremonies was that as the state didn't sanction them, I wasn't prepared to be involved in something that at some point could jeopardize my Ontario licence to perform marriages. Since then, however, the province has changed its law and, therefore, that argument is no longer valid.

***Rabbi Dow Marmur***

***in Toronto***

My substantive reason against officiating is now also being challenged. I had stated that I couldn't find justification for same-sex unions in tradition, however leniently interpreted. But recently, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly, the governing body of the Conservative rabbinate in North America, has sanctioned them.

The Conservative movement has always maintained that it's committed to Halachah, Jewish law. It seems to continue to do so also after this ruling. Thus, for example, almost at the same time as it decided in favour of same-sex marriage, it also issued a statement urging its adherents to refrain from using electronic devices on Shabbat. Both rulings, its spokespeople insist, are consistent with Jewish law. The former celebrates human dignity irrespective of sexual orientation, which they maintain takes precedence over much else, whereas the latter seeks to enhance Sabbath sanctity, which is central to the Jewish way of life.

Whenever I've argued with my Reform colleagues against seemingly fundamental departures from Jewish tradition on the grounds that such actions may isolate us from the rest of the Jewish people, I'd be told that in due course, the Conservatives will embrace the Reform stance, and between them, they're the majority. Both movements seek to attract the same non-Orthodox Jews and, therefore, they're compelled to adapt to the "market." Reform rabbis, more openly ready to modify Jewish law, just get there earlier.

Apparently it's this need to catch up with Reform that created a split within Canadian Conservative Judaism, resulting in de facto two Conservative organizations here. The latest ruling about same-sex marriage will probably deepen the rift. The fact that the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has devised ceremonies that exclude the traditional notion of marriage as kiddushin, sanctification decreed by God, isn't likely to convince the dissenters.

But it has deprived me of my strongest argument against officiating at same-sex unions. As I retired from the pulpit rabbinate a dozen years ago and nowadays am rarely called upon to conduct marriages, this won't have any practical consequences for me. Nevertheless, I'm being challenged to rethink my position.

Needless to say, often when I've argued against same-sex marriage ceremonies, I've been accused of homophobia. In my defence, I'd bring evidence that the congregation I served in London had already in the 1970s created a gay chavurah; that it would accept gay couples as members on the same basis as straight couples, and that I had been actively involved in campaigning for equal civil rights for gays and lesbians, etc.

I doubt whether any of this convinced my critics. They may also have failed to understand why I advocated civil marriage for gays and lesbians while refusing to officiate at such unions. The fact that I'm strongly in favour of civil marriage, in Israel no less than in Canada, which includes marriage between Jews and non-Jews, yet wouldn't officiate at such ceremonies on traditional grounds, may have added to the confusion.

In view of recent developments, reflected in the decision by the Conservative movement, and the popular approval with which it has been greeted, it's likely that had I still been serving a congregation today, I'd have to modify my stance and officiate. As important as it may be for a rabbi to adhere to principles and beliefs, he or she is also duty-bound to serve the people. And the current mood in the Jewish world is decidedly in favour of officiating at same-sex marriages.

Happily, there're many rabbis serving congregations today who say they're willing and eager to do so. I respect, nay applaud, them.

# Chief rabbi combats xenophobia in Turkey

When Isak Haleva, the chief rabbi of Turkey, was teaching a Hebrew language course at an Islamic theological seminary in Istanbul, he was gratified to learn that his Muslim students were of the view that Judaism and Islam share common values. But on the flip side, he discovered that some of his pupils harboured misconceptions about Judaism and Jews, he said in an interview in his ornate office in the heart of this pulsating city.

Disturbed by the anti-Jewish stereotypes tumbling forth from their mouths, Rabbi Haleva resolved to do something about it.

With moral support from the Jewish community and funds from the European Union, he launched an interfaith program some years ago designed to break down barriers between Jews and Muslims in Turkey.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Istanbul*

"The duty of religion is to bring people together," he said through an interpreter who translated his Turkish into English.

Rabbi Haleva, who sat under a sombre oil portrait of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, Turkey's George Washington, added, "This is a concept that has been all too often forgotten. Some people, regrettably, have used religion to sow disunity between different religious groups. Religion should not create conflict. Religious leaders should be role models."

With these utopian ideas inspiring and galvanizing him, Rabbi Haleva established a bridge-building program to introduce Muslims in Istanbul to Judaism and Jewish culture.

Thanks to his initiative, Muslim high school students have visited synagogues, and theology students have listened to the rabbi expound on Jewish beliefs and customs. And in the program's piece de resistance, Rabbi Haleva brought 18 Turkish theologians to Bar-Ilan University, in Tel Aviv, for a round of lectures and meetings.

Asked to assess the impact of the program, Rabbi Haleva said it has been beneficial in combating prejudice.

Since his appointment as chief rabbi a decade ago, he has promoted the spirit of ecumenism. His dedication to this task is evident in several of the framed photographs that hang on his walls. They show him posing with such dignitaries as Pope Benedict XVI, the current Dalai Lama, U.S. President Barack Obama and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Despite the rabbi's dedication to building a kinder, gentler world bereft of intolerance, misunderstanding and strife, Turkey is hardly free of anti-Jewish animus and stereotypes.

Three years ago, Yilmaz Esmer, a Turkish academic at Bahcesehir University, released a survey on Muslim attitudes toward Jews, and the results were disheartening. The survey, funded by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, found that almost two-thirds of Muslim Turks did not want Jewish neighbours. A Pew Research Center survey conducted a year earlier was just as discouraging, finding that three-quarters of Muslim Turks viewed Jews negatively, while only seven per cent expressed favourable opinions of Jews.

"There are widespread negative attitudes to Jews in Turkey," said Esmer, a secular Muslim. "The majority of Turks do not want Jewish, or foreign, neighbours."

Yilmaz Esmer

In a reference to the xenophobia present in Turkish society, he observed, "There is a low degree of tolerance. Turks don't want people who are different."

Esmer believes that xenophobia has grown due to Israel's political disputes with Turkey in recent years. As a result, he noted, Turks generally have trouble distinguishing between Jews and Israelis.

In his view, Erdogan fanned xenophobia by harshly condemning Israel's invasion of the Gaza Strip in 2009 and by verbally attacking Israeli President Shimon Peres at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, a year later.

In an angry exchange, Erdogan, referring to Israel's thrust into Gaza, declared, "When it comes to killing, you know well how to kill." In a rejoinder, Peres responded that Turkey would also have reacted militarily had enemy rockets fallen on Istanbul.

"The [Turkish] people liked what Erdogan told Peres," said Esmer. "He was seen as standing up for Muslims."

Although Erdogan is not perceived as antisemitic, having denounced antisemitism as a crime, he is basically anti-Israel and plays to such sentiment in Turkey, Esmer stated. He is concerned that the Davos affair, as well as the Mavi Marmara incident, which took place four months later, have prompted some Turks to regard the Arab-Israeli conflict in religious terms.

Antisemitism is rooted in Turkish Muslim society, particularly in lower socio-economic echelons, he said. But antisemitism is not as deeply embedded in Turkey as in Iran, Saudi Arabia or Syria.

As for Muslim theology, he observed: "There are verses in the Qur'an that are anti-Jewish. But you can also find positive references to Jews in the Qur'an. You can find what you want."

Esmer suggested that ultra-nationalists and Islamists, as well as leftwingers who do not bother to differentiate between antisemitism and anti-Zionism, have propagated anti-Jewish tropes.

Examples abound.

Writing in the Islamist newspaper *Milli Gazete*, columnist Fahri Guven accused Jews of overthrowing the Ottoman Empire and equated Judaism with treason. In the far right-wing newspaper *Ortadogu Gazetesi*, columnist Selcuk Duzgun complained that Adolf Hitler "did not do enough to these Jews."

Comparing Israel's leadership to "any other racist-fascist regime," Murat Belge, a professor of English literature, claimed that the international community tolerates Israeli policies because of "the very strong Jewish presence in western societies."

**Rabbi Isak Haleva sits under an oil painting of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.**
*[Sheldon Kirshner photos]*

Antisemitism crops up even when Israel is not the topic at hand. When the renowned Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk wrote that a million Armenian Christians had been killed in the Ottoman Empire during World War I, right-wing nationalists condemned him as "a Jew-lover" and "the servant of Jews."

However, columnists in mainstream newspapers such as *Hurriyet* and *Radikal* have denounced antisemitism.

The Turkish government has not been passive, having initiated legal proceedings against two authors, Cemal Anadol and Mustafa Akgun, who defamed Jews in *Turkey Under the Threat of Israel and Zionism* and *The Wooden Sword of the Jew*.

According to Esmer, Turkey is considering the possibility of introducing anti-hate legislation to supplement existing clauses in the criminal code that deal with such matters. "But there is no consensus on this issue," he said, "and no one knows when it will happen."

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# Toronto woman finds link in prewar pictures of Polish Jewry

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

It was just by fluke that Rosalie Selick and her husband, Avram, ended up visiting a photo exhibit of prewar Polish Jewry on a trip to Madrid this past February.

The retired public school principal, who had accompanied a group of exchange students to Spain as a chaperone, was stunned to discover that her aunt and uncle were in one of the pictures, unidentified.

With a couple of days on their own in Madrid, the Selicks decided to take a guided walking tour. Part of the way through, Avram noticed a poster outside a Jewish cultural centre advertising the exhibit, titled *And I Still See Their Faces – Images of Polish Jews.*

"We didn't want to stray from the group, so we made a mental note to try and find it [again]," Rosalie said in an interview at her Toronto home. They returned the next day.

When she happened on the group shot that included her aunt and uncle, she was "frozen," she said, but once she regained her composure, she asked the curator for more information about where the picture came from.

Selick was surprised to learn that the Shalom Foundation exhibit she saw at the Casa-Sefarad Israel had been in Toronto almost 10 years ago.

The foundation's director, Golda Tencer – a child of survivors and an actor, in Warsaw's National Jewish Theatre – initiated the project in 1994 with an appeal for prewar photos of Polish Jews. She received 9,000 pictures and published the project in book form in 1996.

Selick marvels at the series of coincidences that led her to discover the picture: she happened to be in Madrid, happened to learn of the exhibition, and the picture with her aunt and uncle happened to be one of the ones on display.

Most of the pictures were provided by non-Jewish Poles, Selick noted. "There were many [Poles] who were good to their Jewish neighbours, and many Jews who gave their pictures to their neighbours for safekeeping."

She stressed that the real story isn't her own, but that of the Shalom Foundation and the book. "Even if you don't know the people [in the pictures,] it's nice to know they won't be forgotten."

The picture that captured Selick's attention, labelled "The Tajblum Family," appears to have been taken in a park, circa 1932. A group of nine adults and a child are posed playfully.

Selick's uncle, her father's brother Issac Denderowicz (Daniels), is at the bottom right, sitting on the grass facing to the right, with his legs stretched out in front of him. A bemused smile is on his face, which is turned toward the camera. Behind him, in the centre of the row, is his future wife, Hinda, her arms on his shoulder.

The name "Tajblum" wasn't familiar to Selick, who was born here in 1953, five years after her parents immigrated. Her 96-year-old father, Sol Daniels – a native of Oksa, Poland, outside of Warsaw – recognized a friend of his brother's when Selick showed him the picture after she returned to Toronto: Moishe Aba was the name of the man at the bottom right. He survived the war and moved to France.

**Rosalie Selick holds a copy of the picture she discovered at a Shalom Foundation exhibit in Madrid. Her aunt and uncle are at the bottom right of the picture.**
***[Frances Kraft photo]***

Selick's cousin, Dena Wolfe, had never seen that picture of her parents, who married before the war and survived in Russia. Her father was in a Russian prison for seven years. Another snippet of information: Wolfe remembered that her parents had visited Moishe Aba in France.

Selick emailed the Shalom Foundation to ask for more information, particularly the name of the person who had provided the photo.

Within days, she received an e-mail from Rivka Slomka Ostaszewski of Springfield, N.J., a board member of the Shalom Foundation in Warsaw and of the Friends of the Shalom Foundation in the United States.

Ostaszewski had sent the picture to Tencer for the project. The two women are childhood friends who attended Jewish school together in Lodz in the 1960s and late 1950s.

Ostaszewski, who immigrated to the United States in 1971, told *The CJN* she didn't know much about the picture, because her late mother, one of 10 siblings who had lost all her blood relatives in the Holocaust, didn't like to talk about what had happened to her.

Five of her relatives are in the picture: two uncles and their wives, and a young cousin (all the people in the middle row, and the man at the top left). Only one of the aunts survived. She remarried and moved to Melbourne, Australia.

Ostaszewski said she was shocked but excited to hear from Selick, and, she added, she was sorry to learn that Selick had missed the exhibit when it was in Toronto. Now, Ostaszewski said, there is no one she can ask for more information about the picture and connections between the two families.

But, Ostaszewski said she's glad to have learned as much as she did.

She noted that other people have also discovered pictures of relatives in the Shalom Foundation collection. Some of them had no other pictures of their loved ones. Without those pictures, she said, the people in them "would have just perished."

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# 'One of the best Canada has ever produced'

**Continued from page 3**

But Binstock's old coach and friend, George Shermer, believes if he and Reader play up to their potential and things go right, the pair can make it to the Olympic quarter-finals. And from there, anything can happen, Shermer said.

At six-foot-five, Binstock has the size to be successful, but there's more to his game than that. "He's tremendously co-ordinated, and mentally, he can focus really well," said Shermer. "He's definitely one of the best beach players Canada has ever produced."

Even for a gifted athlete like Binstock, attaining a national status did not come without setbacks, Shermer continued. "What really held Josh back for a few years was that he developed a serious injury in his shoulder. He needed major reconstructive surgery and it took a lot of physical rehabilitation to get back to compete with the best players in beach [volleyball].

"Nobody believed he could recover and be good enough versus the good, younger players out there," Shermer said. "But Josh is not a quitter. He got a partner that complemented his play and they have a chance to get to the quarter-finals – one of the eight best teams out of 24 countries competing."

Shermer's association with Binstock goes back 15 years to the time when he coached the JCC Blues, a hardcourt volleyball team at the now defunct Bathurst Street Jewish Community Centre.

A native of Czechoslovakia who excelled in volleyball, Shermer took on the coaching job to provide his three sons with a competitive environment in a Jewish milieu. The Blues were one of the city's best teams.

Binstock was also a key member of the team that Shermer coached at the JCC Maccabi Games – an event that brings together the best Jewish teen athletes in North America each summer.

Binstock, along with Shermer's sons Elie and Daniel, also competed in hardcourt volleyball at the Maccabiah Games in Israel.

Though the team did not win a medal, its presence in Israel marked the return of Canada to volleyball competition after a 20-year hiatus.

Back from Israel, Binstock continued to work out with Shermer, training at Beach Blast, an indoor facility Shermer owns and operates. As Binstock developed as an athlete, Shermer could see he possessed "the strong will and perseverance" necessary to attain excellence.

Next summer, Binstock will again represent Canada – this time at the Maccabiah Games in Israel. He'll be back on the hardcourt as the Canadians stack their team in a bid to upset the favoured Israeli national team. Joining Binstock on the Canuck squad will be Daniel and Joshua Shermer and Sam Schachter, an up-and-comer on the Canadian beach scene. Schachter has already won the Under-21 World Championship and has a good shot at representing Canada at the next Olympics, Shermer said.

And behind Binstock and Schachter, there's yet another, younger, elite Jewish volleyballer, Shermer said. He's Cole Grossinger, who was recently invited by Ontario Volleyball to train at its summer High Performance Centre.

# Blog prompts camp to reverse decision about blind camper

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

Camp Ramah in Canada and the Jewish community learned a lesson last week about the power of social media.

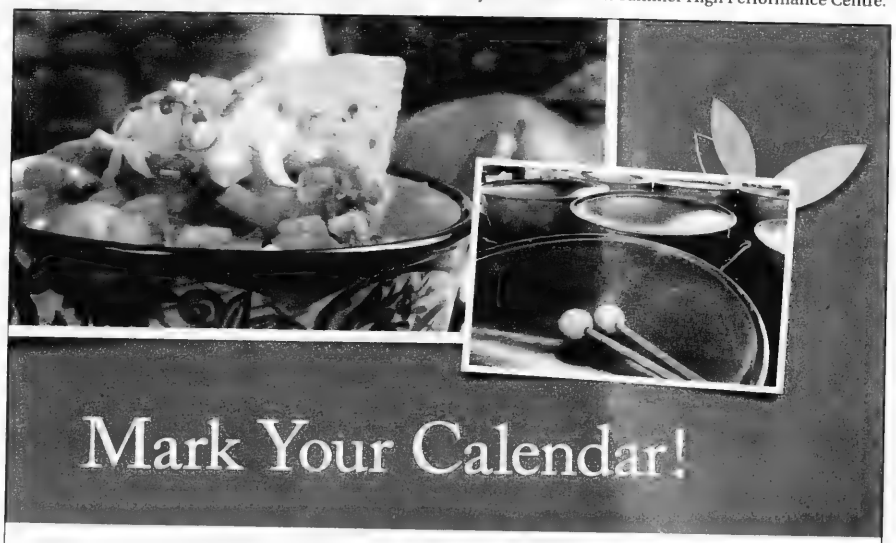
Rabbi David Krishef, a Ramah parent, blogged about the Utterson, Ont., camp's decision to send his blind son, Solomon, home early, because it couldn't accommodate the boy's special needs.

The decision was reversed last Thursday, the day after the blog entry was posted and shared on Facebook and Twitter, prompting dozens of emails to the camp and its oversight body, the National Ramah Commission, to protest the treatment of Solomon, 15, by the camp, which is affiliated with the Conservative movement. Rabbi Krishef's blog can be found at http://embodiedtorah.wordpress.com.

Following the camp's new decision, Rabbi Krishef, who is spiritual leader of Congregation Ahavas Israel in Grand Rapids, Mich., posted a followup blog entry last Thursday night. In it, he wrote that camp director Ron Polster had apologized and reassigned staff so that Solomon could remain at camp for the rest of the summer.

As well, the rabbi apologized "for the damage I have done to the reputation of Camp Ramah in Canada... I did so only because I thought it was the only way that I could effect change."

*For full story, please go to cjnews.com.*

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# Siyum HaShas events unite Jews worldwide

Jennifer M. MacLeod
Special to The CJN

It may be a surprising crowd for New Jersey's MetLife Stadium: 100,000 Jews, mostly men in dark jackets and hats – but it's no surprise that the 12th Siyum HaShas on Aug. 1 will draw a huge crowd, says Rabbi David Appelrouth of the Forest Hill Jewish Centre in Toronto.

"It's going to be a very powerful experience."

Toronto participants will gather simultaneously in the Sony Centre, joining many cities worldwide.

Celebrating the 12th completion of a daily cycle of Talmud study known as Daf Yomi ("a page a day"), the event marks the largest celebration of Jewish learning in over 2,000 years, according to MySiyum.com. It is organized by several Jewish outreach organizations.

The term *shas* is an acronym for the *shisha sidrei* (six orders) of Mishnah comprising the oral Torah, given at Mount Sinai along with the written Torah, Rabbi Appelrouth said.

After the Mishnah was written down, it was compiled with commentary into the Talmud, whose 63 tractates have been "the mainstay of Jewish academia for the last 2,000 years," local organizer Mark Mandelbaum said.

A siyum is a traditional celebration for completing any significant Jewish text.

It was inaugurated in 1923 by Rabbi Meir Shapiro, a Polish rabbi who desired unity among Jews and saw that certain tractates were being neglected. With over 2,700 pages, the cycle takes about 7-1/2 years.

"Tens of thousands of Jews around the globe study the *daf* on a daily basis," said Mandelbaum, who's proudly among them. "It's an enormous accomplishment… a big, big cause for celebration."

Since Rabbi Shapiro's time, groups and *chavrutas* (partners) have carried on, even through the Holocaust. While the first two siyums, in 1931 and 1938, attracted tens of thousands of European Jews, the third was marked only by scattered relics in Israel and Germany. Now, it's grown beyond anything they could have imagined.

"It's great to be in shul when it's packed on Rosh Hashanah – imagine a *stadium* that's packed," Rabbi Appelrouth said. He is taking his nine-year-old son to the MetLife gathering.

**Thousands gather in 2005 for the 11th Siyum HaShas held at Madison Square Gardens in New York.** ***[Agudath Israel of America photo]***

Toronto organizers are confident they'll fill the 3,200-seat Sony Centre. At the event, the last few words of the final tractate will be recited, Rabbi Appelrouth said. "There's an elaborate ceremony, followed by a lengthy *Kaddish*."

Then there's singing and dancing, followed by distinguished speakers. About half of the program will be broadcast live from MetLife, including Rabbi Yissocher Frand of Baltimore and Rabbi Yaakov Perlow, known as the Novominsker Rebbe and head of Agudath Israel, a coalition of haredi organizations.

Though Mandelbaum doesn't know of any women participating in Daf Yomi, they're welcome to attend. "Absolutely! This is a celebration of the Jewish community, [including] wives and spouses of people who study… Without their support, it wouldn't happen." Women will be seated in a separate section.

One woman, who is not attending, is "very proud" of her husband's accomplishment. "[Men] bring their Gemarah [Talmud] when they go away for yom tov. They learn even when a new baby is born. Obviously, this is all with the support of the wife. Throughout the cycle, my husband has shared with me things he has learned that he knew would interest me."

But, New York's Dov Weinstock said, "We have a number of women who participate on a daily basis" in his modern Orthodox Daf Yomi class. He's part of a group behind an alternative Aug. 6 Siyum HaShas study evening in New York (www.siyumhashas12.com) welcoming "all those with an interest in Talmud study… men, women and children.

"Our siyum reflects a more diverse and inclusive approach to Torah study."

With co-sponsors including Toronto's Torah in Motion, four of 14 teachers will be women. Another will be Toronto's Rabbi Martin Lockshin, who is also a *CJN* columnist.

Weinstock stresses that the two events are not mutually exclusive – many will attend both. His group aims to highlight the diversity within the Orthodox world. Like the Torah, the Talmud belongs to all Jews, and as Rabbi Appelrouth said, studying it has "been the main staple of Jewish living – it has sustained the Jewish People for thousands of years."

For more information or tickets to the Toronto event, call 1-855-SIYUM-12 or email siyumhashastoronto@gmail.com.


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# How to turn around Jewish education investments

**Abraham H. Foxman**
JTA

Much has been said and written about the financial priorities of the Jewish community and whether they are misdirected. All too often in these discussions, an artificial dichotomy is created between two goals: sustaining support for Israel and attending to the domestic priorities of the community.

Reams of paper have been used in arguing where the financial priorities of the community should lie.

We need more and more to integrate these two challenges: to recognize, as the Taglit-Birthright Israel project has, that rather than a competition, the twin goals of strengthening Israel and strengthening the local Jewish community are linked and reinforce each other.

I believe the best way to strengthen a Jewish community is through Jewish education. That is why, in my recent remarks to the Israeli Presidential Conference in Jerusalem, I called for a five-year, $500 million-per-year reinvestment in the Jewish Diaspora.

For whatever reason, it is very difficult to raise money in the Jewish community in North America for Jewish education. It has always been much easier to raise money for Israel. Raising funds for Israel is certainly important. But what if we redirected some of the community purse back locally for the purpose of giving the next generation the possibility of a fuller immersion into Jewish life through all that a Jewish education has to offer?

Education, among other things, makes the real Jewish connection to Israel. And the best way to ensure continued Jewish support for Israel is by having a highly identified Jewish community.

Let's face it: North American Jewish ignorance on Israel is the primary obstacle to Jewish identity, continuity and North American-based Zionism.

Here is where we are falling down as a community. Too many young Jews receive only rudimentary Jewish training. And those who do often stop studying and practising their faith at age 12 or 13, right after their bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah.

Abraham H. Foxman

Throughout the crucial teenage years, when peer pressures are intense and young people are truly learning what it means to be responsible adults in a confusing and challenging world, we neglect their spiritual development and allow the highly secular mass media and educational systems to work on them unchecked. When they go off to college, we hope that Hillel and other Jewish campus organizations will attract them. But why should they when our Jewish youth have seen their religion and their being Jewish treated as unimportant in their own homes and communities?

Why not let North American Jews continue to raise the money for Israel, but let Israel take the money and invest in North American Jewry. Invest in the infrastructure of day schools, whether Reform, Conservative, Orthodox or Reconstructionist and to make scholarships available so that Jewish schools can be more affordable, especially for those students most willing to continue their Jewish education through high school and beyond.

Times have changed.

Many years ago, when Israel was struggling to survive as a fledgling agrarian nation-state, $500 million would have been a princely sum. Today, Israel is a nation that has its own millionaires. The economy and tourism are robust and growing. That sum of $500 million is not as significant in Israel as it used to be.

Imagine how far we could advance Jewish education with such a commitment, which comes to $2.5 billion over five years. That is a significant sum of money for schools, scholarships and teachers.

A certain percentage of the money – perhaps 20 per cent – should be invested in programs to continue, enhance and ensure bringing young people to Israel. There should be no waiting list.

We have developed the most exciting audiovisual Jewish identity program that anyone could dream of and it is called Israel. We know it works. This is the tourniquet. I believe that if 100 children go to Israel, one-third will be Zionists forever, for one-third it won't matter and one-third will be "different." That is a pretty good investment for $3,000 per youngster.

The remaining 80 per cent of the money should be invested in Jewish education in North America – in expanding its infrastructure, in substantial tuition subsidies, and in paying teachers' salaries that will attract the best and brightest. Only an estimated 35 per cent of Jewish children are now attending private Jewish schools and yeshivas. The main reason is the cost

If I could, I would make Jewish day-school education at all levels available and affordable for as many Jewish families as possible. It would be expensive, but worth every penny. It could also help bring about a vibrant Jewish future in North America, which will reap benefits many times over in terms of future support for the Jewish State of Israel.

*Abraham H. Foxman is national director of the Anti-Defamation League.*

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# Siyum Hashas - completing the Talmud

On, Aug. 1, corresponding to the 13th of Av, 5772, thousands of people around the world will celebrate as they finish studying the 73rd page of the Tractate Niddah and thereby complete their study of the Talmud, known as Siyum Hashas. The very next day, they will begin learning the first tractate of the Talmud, Brachot. And they will continue in this shared learning experience until the entire Talmud is next completed on the seventh of Tevet, 5780 (Jan. 4, 2020)!

In the 1920s, Rabbi Meir Shapiro, the Lubliner Rav of Poland, had a ground-breaking idea: to unite Jews everywhere by having each of them study exactly the same text of Talmud on a daily basis. By reading a double-sided page (*daf*) a day (*yomi*), they would complete the Talmud's 2,711 pages in approximately seven years. **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi10]**

Rabbi Shapiro's vision has caught on. When the 11th *Daf Yomi* cycle was completed in March 2005, thousands of people crowded into Madison Square Garden and were linked by satellite with dozens of other communities around the world. **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi11]** You can watch a video of the late Bostoner Rebbe Levi Yitzchok Horowitz, as he explained the importance of the moment to the gathered crowd. **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi12]**

Written in Hebrew and Aramaic, the Talmud is the often-terse compendium of law, logic and philosophy that became the foundation for modern Judaism. Eric Chevlen does a very good job explaining the importance of the Talmud, its component sections of Mishnah and Gemara, as well as his own early challenges in learning a *daf* a day. **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi13]**

The best way to learn Talmud is under the guidance of a teacher or with a knowledgeable friend. But

***Jewish & Digital***

***Mark Mietkiewicz***

there are many online resources that can also help. The premier *daf yomi* site on the Web belongs to the Dafyomi Advancement Forum. **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi16]**

Why do so many people drag themselves out of bed, year after year, to learn the Talmud? Herman Wouk, author of *This is My God* and *The Winds of War*, explains: "Because by now the Talmud is in my bones. Its elegant and arcane ethical algebra, its soaked-in quintessential Jewishness, its fun, its difficulty, its accumulative virtue all balance against the cost in time and the so-called 'remoteness from reality.' Above and beyond all its other intellectual and cultural values, the Talmud is, for people like us, 'identity,' pure and ever springing." **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi19]**

Rabbi Aryeh Markman elected to complete the Talmud at the relatively leisurely pace of 15 years, but it had no less profound an effect. He writes, "As I stand in the end zone, I am reminded of the story of the man who went to the Kotzker Rebbe and announced with great pride: 'I went through Shas, the entire Talmud.' At that, the Kotzker looked at him and said, 'Very nice. Now tell me, did the Shas go through you?'

"Talmud study is all about changing oneself. Becoming wiser, more Jewishly committed, more connected to the Source of it all. They say that prayer is man's way of talking to God, and Talmud study is God talking to man. After 15 years, I'm starting to really listen." **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi20]**

*Highway@rogers.com*

# *Life is a bit like a movie*

As I write this, an old and dear friend is struggling for his life.

This beloved rabbi – 43 years old, married with children, and whose wife is expecting another child in a month – was stricken with pneumonia, which was soon followed by a heart attack and kidney failure.

Life is indeed fragile.

And so, the old question of "Why do bad things happen to good people?" confronts me with painful immediacy.

According to the Talmud (Brachot 7a), Moses himself asked God this very question.

The story of Job, with which we are all familiar, treats this question at length.

Job was a thoroughly righteous person who had done little wrong to warrant the personal destruction he experienced. Yet Job lost his health, wealth and even his family.

The soul of Terach, Avraham's father, was reincarnated in and rectified by Job (Sha'ar HaGilgulim, Ch. 36) because God in His kindness created the concept of *gilgulim* – re-incarnations – so that no soul would be excluded from the world to come. (Ramban, Rabbeinu Bachya).

Indeed, the Arizal explains (Sha'ar HaGilgulim, Ch. 38) that in order to cleanse the soul, God creates incarnations so that the transgressor has opportunities to do tshuvah and reach purity. Consequently, it's next to impossible for us to figure out why we suffer. It is simply incumbent upon each of us to undergo our travails in order to

***Sephardi Window***

***Rabbi Ilan Acoca***

improve our lot in this world and the world to come.

One thing is certain: just as mourners say, as they rend their clothing at the death of a close relative, "God is just," we have a mitzvah to judge others favourably, even when it seems they are guilty. Furthermore, should they be found guilty in the future, even then we should judge them with compassion, trying to understand with empathy how they arrived at their guilt. How much more so must we trust that God decides justly in every case, even if we fail to understand the judgment at the time!

We human beings are like moviegoers, watching a film on the screen and unaware of the diverse aspects required to make a film. We trust that the director has co-ordinated all of the parts and people to make something of worth and promise, even if we don't know where the script is going as we watch.

This is quite similar to life, except that in life, we are both viewers and actors. As actors, we know our roles, but as viewers we are unable to fathom the entire plot or to see the technical aspects of the production. We simply commit ourselves to the experience and trust the Director.

When bad things appear to happen to good people, perhaps we can draw comfort from this simple analogy, even though life is not a film, where we can leave the theatre at any time. In fact, God, our Director, as it were, is with us all through and after "the feature" – which is life. Trusting in this idea is a guiding principle and a comfort for us Jews.

We have much to be grateful for!

# Zionism is in our DNA

**Rivka Carmi**

*Guest Voice*

The history of science and Zionism are intricately related. Both movements are rooted in the rationalism of the 19th century, which placed humanity at the heart of its own destiny.

Israel's first pioneers were optimists who believed in the power of people to change history. Their tools would be science and technology. This was to be the New-Old Land, a utopia envisioned by Theodor Herzl that would transform the desert region into a land of milk and honey.

This is the force and strength of Zionism that led to the creation of Israel, and it's this unbounded energy that has turned the country into the world's leading "start-up nation." It's not by chance that Israel's first and fourth presidents – Chaim Weizmann and Ephraim Katzir – were first and foremost scientists, or that a number of world-class research institutions were founded during the early years of the Jewish Yishuv, long before it was even clear if there would ever be a sovereign Jewish nation in this land. This year, the Technion – the Israeli Institute of Technology marked its centennial, while Hebrew University of Jerusalem is only a few years younger.

Some claim that Israeli higher education is "threatened" by "anti-Zionist" faculty members. But the truth is that the attention lavished on a few academics with extreme views has transformed them, falsely, into a symbol for all of Israeli academia. This does a genuine disservice to the significantly larger silent majority who are busy with teaching and research, more often than not in ways that benefit the country.

Last February, the Israeli Foreign Ministry released a report that showed the Israeli and Jewish press was distorting the importance of "Israeli Apartheid Week" (IAW), an annual event on college campuses around the world, by "magnifying the issue rather than playing it down."

According to the study, "Taking the apartheid frame (and the IAW activity itself) as the starting point for our actions paradoxically may strengthen the IAW brand and message, rather than weaken it."

A similar process is going on here.

In the name of "saving Israeli academia," some groups are doing real damage to the image of many of the country's most successful universities. In a world where Israel has enough enemies, it's distressing to see time and resources dedicated to fighting this non-battle.

By all international standards, Israeli universities are a huge success story that is in no way threatened by the political views of its people.

As president of the only university in Israel created by a decision of the Israeli government – to be a catalyst for development of the Negev region – I know that Ben-Gurion University of the Negev integrates the highest standards of intellectual thinking and research with the pioneering spirit that has defined its very development. As chair of the Committee of University Heads, I see the same spirit and commitment on other campuses.

I encourage you to visit an Israeli university today and learn more about how higher education has, and is, transforming this country.

Let's face it: Zionism is in our DNA.

*Rivka Carmi is president of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and chair of the Committee of University Heads in Israel.*

# *Making educators of counsellors*

*Class Act*

***Daniel Held***

I carry clear memories of my camp counsellors. David had a magical way of setting original stories to classical music. Each night at lights out, he would read a chapter, weaving his words with the movement of the music playing in the background. The cliffhanger at the end of the reading left us hounding him with questions throughout the next day.

Mike imbued us with Jewish curiosity. When he returned from a day off with a new poncho, he wondered aloud if he needed to put tzitzit on the four-cornered garment. The next night, after lights out, we went to the library and learned the Halachah with one of the camp educators.

Ofer, a shaliach, only spoke to us in Hebrew. It still isn't clear to me if this was clever pedagogy or a demonstration of his poor English. At the start of the summer, we couldn't understand him, but with enough repetition and charades, by the end of the summer, his mealtime requests in Hebrew for the milk or napkins to be passed down the dining hall table were clear, even to those with no prior Hebrew.

Notwithstanding their impact on my education and personal growth, like many counsellors, David, Mike, and Ofer likely wouldn't call themselves educators.

Counsellors play countless roles. They're group facilitators and social workers, sports specialists and swimming teachers, friends and confidants, nurses and *in loco parentis*. In the layers and layers of responsibility, and with a staff of seasonal workers largely comprising students pursuing careers in unrelated fields, the conscious role of educator is frequently buried.

The challenge of role identity is not isolated to camps. Across Hillels and youth movements, synagogues and travel programs, those who do educative work – connecting young people to Jewish activities, enacting experiences, and inculcating Jewish values – don't take on the label of educator, often reserving that title for those who teach formal classes.

Instead, we have developed a litany of amorphous terms such as adviser and chaperone, youth worker and engagement professional.

But they do educate. The most important educative role they play is that of serving as a *dugmah ishit*, a personal example. They're role models, teaching through act and word. The way they act and speak, the manner in which they treat others and the language they use, the consciousness with which they engage in Jewish life and living is eagerly observed and absorbed by their campers.

Without consciously considering these roles as educative roles, we belittle the impact they have on the life of youths.

It's a lot to ask of an 18-year-old university student to spend the summer acting as an educator and role model for children barely younger than himself. But we must help the counsellor see his role as deeper than simply a recreationist.

David, Mike and Ofer were natural educators. Reflecting back on my experiences as a camper, their educational impact was likely a natural outcome of their personalities.

If, however, they were to have conceived of themselves as educators, shaping experiences and teaching through the acts of daily living, their potential could have been even more profound.

The Board, Staff and Students of
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Mrs. Nancy Friedberg
on the passing of her dear mother,

**Mrs. Norma Harris, ז"ל**

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# *No moral equivalence between Israel and Egypt on peace*

*New York Times* columnist Tom Friedman has outdone himself.

In a July 3 piece, he argued that what he calls "a real peace" can be had between Israel and a Muslim Brotherhood-led Egypt if both change "some deeply ingrained behaviours."

**According to Reports**
By PAUL MICHAELS

A real peace, as opposed to the current "cold" peace, would involve people-to-people harmony. To achieve this, Friedman maintains, Israel would have to give up the naïve idea that it can have peace with a Mubarak-like dictator instead of with 80 million Egyptians. The Brotherhood, mindful of the need to deliver economic well-being to the masses under its rule, would have to endorse liberal values such as tolerance, pluralism, minority and individual rights – which would also lead to accepting Israel.

Friedman admits that this sort of transformation for the "deeply illiberal" Brotherhood is a "long shot." Still, he believes it's possible, especially if "liberal" Egyptians push the Brotherhood in that direction.

If Friedman's vision is anything other than a pipe dream, he'd have to provide even a faint indication of why the Brotherhood might be willing to overturn decades of core anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist ideology. But there's not even a glimmer of that in his column.

**Tom Friedman**

Where Israel is concerned, Friedman is equally off base, but not because of any similar refusal to endorse the warmer ties he insists are essential. Indeed, Friedman's failure to acknowledge the nearly complete rejection for over 30 years by a Mubarak-led Egypt of stronger ties with Israel is astonishing.

He ignores even the most basic facts. For instance, the 1979 Israel-Egypt peace agreement contained scores of articles concerning trade, tourism and cultural exchanges that would have resulted in the very people-to-people ties Friedman claims Israel avoided. Yet, it was Egypt that, with few exceptions, repeatedly stymied the implementation of these ties. Following Anwar Sadat's assassination in 1982 at the hands of radical Islamists, Mubarak was hardly anxious to inflame anti-Israel attitudes further by establishing even lukewarm ties with the Jewish state.

To mention just two examples among many: Israeli efforts to encourage academic exchanges were rebuffed by the Egyptian intelligentsia under the control, variously, of anti-Israel leftists, Nasserites, and the Muslim Brotherhood (who also dominated many professional guilds, such as the lawyers' and writers' associations). In those rare cases when Egyptian academics did participate in conferences in Israel, they were blacklisted back home. Likewise for Egyptian journalists who dared to meet with Israeli colleagues: they were expelled from the journalists' union upon returning to Cairo. The message was clear – deal with Israelis at your peril.

How could Friedman discount the huge number of Israelis who (until relatively recently) travelled, year after year, to Egypt (and well beyond merely the Sinai's Red Sea tourist spots)? In one year alone (1999), more than 400,000 Israelis visited Egypt, while only a tiny fraction of that number came to Israel from Egypt. Egyptians were discouraged from doing so.

Those who claim that Egypt could not forge better ties with Israel because of the "plight of the Palestinians," should remember that even in the heyday of the Oslo process when Israel and the Palestinians had entered a period of historic reconciliation, Egypt's attitude towards Israel remained bitterly cold.

Israeli academic Dan Eldar captured the crux of the disparity in these attitudes in an essay he wrote about a decade ago for the *Middle East Quarterly*: "While Israel has yearned for a real peace including normalization of all its relations with Egypt, to be followed by other Arab countries, Egypt has framed the peace with Israel in its narrowest possible interpretation. Egypt has assiduously amassed the fruits of peace, primarily U.S. aid on a large scale. But it has refused to see its diplomatic and cultural relations with Israel as a fruit of peace. Indeed, to the extent it must maintain such relations, it regards them as an embarrassment and a burden."

How pathetic, then, for Friedman to insist on a moral equivalence between Israeli and Egyptian responsibilities for advancing peace.

*Paul Michaels is director of research and media relations for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

# Couple's new gift advances palliative care at NYGH

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

Zoltan and Yetta Freeman have pledged $1 million to establish the Freeman Centre for the Advancement of Palliative Care at North York General Hospital.

The pledge follows a donation the couple made to NYGH in 1999 that helped create the Freeman Centre for Palliative Care.

In a recent interview at the hospital, their daughter, Dr. Risa Freeman, a physician at NYGH since 1988, said her parents – her father came to Canada from Hungary after World War II and now owns Allan Candy – made their original donation because they wanted to give a meaningful gift to North York General.

"They asked what the hospital's needs were [and learned] that it was looking to start a unique palliative care program with an in-patient and out-patient component."

In a statement, the hospital said that thanks to the partnership between the Freemans and North York General, the centre has created a model for care that's both compassionate and innovative.

"The centre is a rare example of a palliative care program that provides services on a community outreach and an acute in-patient basis," the hospital said.

Within the hospital, the oncology unit has six dedicated short-term palliative suites, designed with a focus on pain and symptom management.

Since its founding, the Freeman Centre has provided end-of-life care to more than 1,000 patients.

**Freeman family members in front of donor wall**

The Freeman's recent pledge will help expand the reach of the centre's clinical care and augment its training and research capacity.

Yetta Freeman said that the family has "always been aware of the hospital's reputation for providing the most compassionate care. We were so pleased to help create such an innovative program to help patients at a difficult, vulnerable time."

Their daughter said that "as a compassionate society, we know that it's our responsibility to care for dying patients. That's why our partnership with [NYGH] to establish the Freeman Centre provided us with so much satisfaction.

"It's a privilege to know that people in their end stages of life receive great medical care that is compassionate and professional."

Dr. Nina Horvath, medical director, of the Freeman Centre, said palliative care is not just end-of-life care. "It's also for pain management and the comfort of patients with life-threatening illnesses."

A family physician, Horvath said that her interest in palliative care came about when she saw terminally ill patients being sent to emergency rooms and then being treated in acute care wards.

"I wanted to figure out how to provide them with the care they needed, rather than have them going though the ER."

Dr. Freeman said that she feels lucky to work in a place that embraces palliative care. "Being able to help patients and their families during this difficult journey is a privilege. It is a gift for us to get so close to people's lives."

# Mother's blog raises awareness of little known condition

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

Alana Vertlieb, 33, is spreading the word about her son, Spencer Kastner.

Just less than a year old, Spencer had a five-hour surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children last month to correct right coronal synostosis, a condition by which the bones in the skull fuse together prematurely.

The skull of an infant or young child is made up of bony plates that allow for growth of the skull. The borders at which these plates intersect are called sutures, and they normally close when the child is two or three years old. In some cases, one or more sutures may prematurely fuse shut.

On the side of the skull where the suture has closed, you can feel a raised ridge of bone, and when you look at a child who has coronal synostosis from above, you can see that the forehead is further back on that side. In looking straight on, one eye may seem bigger and the tip of the nose is slightly deviated toward the side of the fused suture.

In Spencer's case, one suture fused on the right side.

Vertlieb said that shortly after Spencer was born, she noticed one eye seemed bigger than the other. "I went to my doctor, and he was concerned it may be a compressed fracture. I pushed to get an X-ray, and the radiologist noticed what it was. I had never heard of this condition."

Vertlieb and her husband, Steven Kastner, a teacher, are anxious to create awareness of coronal synostosis, through Vertlieb's blog, (spencersstory2012.blogspot.ca).

In an interview the day before Spencer's surgery, Vertlieb, who has another son, Eidan, 4, said she is documenting her experience because when she searched online after Spencer was diagnosed, she found little useful information.

"There was a lot of scientific information, but few personal stories, and no pictures. My goal is to document our journey, so that when people search the condition online, our name will pop up.

"Not only is it therapeutic for me to write, but it must be making an impact because 60,000 people have read the blog."

She wants to be a support system for other parents going through this, "either now or years from now. I want to inform, discuss causes, treatment and share other patient stories.

"I will also document Spencer's story with pictures taken along this journey, including the months leading up to surgery, the surgery itself, recovery and healing."

Vertlieb is happy to report that Spencer has made a quick recovery. "You'd never know he had such major surgery. We are very thankful for the amazing team at Sick Kids."

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# Toronto rabbis weigh in on assisted suicide

**Jennifer M. MacLeod**
Special to The CJN

A recent B.C. ruling declaring Canada's laws against physician-assisted suicide unconstitutional has stirred debate across the country. Some Toronto rabbis recently shared their views about this with *The CJN*.

**Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner** (Orthodox), rosh beit midrash, Yeshiva University-Torah MiTzion Beit Midrash Zichron Dov in Toronto:

From the perspective of Orthodoxy, we absolutely oppose the idea of taking one's own life. That doesn't mean that we have no mercy for the person who is suffering. In a case like this, [Gloria Taylor], a woman with ALS, it's grotesque to say she's going to have to suffer without mitigation – but there is mitigation to offer.

The main issue is the question of whether one has the right to take a life. The reason behind the ruling in British Columbia was that suicide is not illegal in secular law. Therefore, for people who are not incapacitated, allowing a physician to assist is levelling the playing field, so that they can do what everybody else can do.

The fundamental disagreement I'm going to have is that, from a Jewish perspective, suicide is "illegal," so to speak. We don't punish someone who tries to commit suicide, not because we condone the act, but because you can't punish someone who is crying out for help.

We would want to use every mechanism available medically to remove pain and to mitigate suffering. That's obligatory. But it's not as simple as opening up a textbook and saying, "You are permitted to do this, you are not permitted to do that." Fundamentally, this is a human issue; it's not a legal issue.

A person in this horrific circumstance must be addressed with all of the love and care and support that the community can muster, in the same way that when someone does commit suicide, the approach within the Orthodox community is to understand that this person was acting out of pain. Certainly, you're not going to criminalize them, not going to condemn them. We pray that cures for this and other diseases like this will be found.

**Rabbi Michael Stroh** (Reform), rabbi emeritus, Temple Har Zion, and author, *Martyrdom: Suicide for the Sake of Heaven* (forthcoming):

Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner

Rabbi Michael Stroh

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl

There are two kinds of suicide in Jewish law – passive and active. In one, you're letting nature take its course, like pulling the plug. Under the right circumstances, that's okay in Judaism. Then there's active euthanasia: if you leave nature alone, the person will live; therefore, you have to actively bring about that person's death. For the most part, Judaism is against that.

Not everything that is legal is moral. People don't own their bodies – they can't do anything to their body that they want to. Legalization of physician-assisted suicide opens the door to all kinds of things.

You begin to develop a "death-mindedness." In countries that have approved physician-assisted suicide, there are people who haven't expressed that wish, but a panel determines that if they could speak they would. Elderly people carry a slip of paper: "To a physician, please don't kill me."

The proposal here is that a panel would decide whether you're competent to decide. But on what basis could the law say a person isn't in enough pain? Teenagers who commit suicide are in a lot of pain, but not usually physical pain.

Every person's life has infinite worth. Once you enter into that discussion, where do you draw that line? Someone who is disabled is as much a human being, and entitled to as much medical care.

But there is also a Jewish principle of *l'chatchila* and *b'diavad*: before something is done, it's prohibited, but after it's done, you might look at it differently. The Talmud tells of Rabbi Chanina ben Tradyon, one of 10 famous martyrs to the Romans. As he was being burnt at the stake, they applied damp wool to him so the fire would burn more slowly and he would have more pain.

His executioner asked, "Rabbi, if I raise the flame and take away the wool… will you cause me to enter into the life to come?"

He replied, "Yes."

The executioner did so, leapt into the fire, and both died. A *bat kol* (heavenly voice) announced, "Rabbi Chanina and the executioner have been assigned to the world to come."

What this is is the story of an assisted suicide under extreme circumstances, to stop somebody's unbearable pain, and it's praiseworthy. There's an expression, "Hard cases make bad law." It's not that, in the Jewish tradition, suicide is never acceptable (it usually appears in stories, not in law). But, nonetheless, I would say this should not be generalized into a law.

**Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl** (Conservative), senior rabbi, Beth Tzedec Congregation:

Judaism looks at each individual life as significant and sacred. We are bequeathed our bodies from our parents and from God. We have an obligation to care for them as best as we can throughout our lives.

We don't have authorization to terminate life, and we do have an obligation to try as much as possible to protect and preserve life, and in particular, to protect the most vulnerable.

Many times, people who are facing very serious illnesses are very frail. What they primarily need is care, support and love. Physicians [must not become] in any way suspect about their primary obligation being to preserve and protect and enhance the life of the patient.

The most problematic aspect [of the B.C. decision] is the idea that an individual can request, even under a lot of criteria, assistance in self-destruction. This is very different from what we would call *non-action*: that is, "I don't want to be treated," through a passive act of omission: not eating, not treating. This is an act of *commission* – something that's being done in a very strong, assertive and positive way.

We're not in a position to actually determine what makes a life valuable. And once an individual can decide for him or herself, maybe someone who has court authority over someone can decide for that person. We also open the possibility up for other actions that may negatively affect vulnerable people.

I'd recommend David Novak's book, *The Sanctity of Human Life*. He's probably the leading Canadian Jewish thinker on the subject, and he's also a rabbi. His book is a major statement of Jewish ethics and principles, as is Elliot Dorff's *Matters of Life and Death*. While, in some areas, these two great rabbis may differ, they are clearly against physician-assisted suicide.

It behooves rabbis and educators to teach about how important the sanctity of life is. We say God is the life of the universe; when we toast, we say "l'chaim," to life. We have to continually place an emphasis on choosing life. Now, there are times we say "a time to live and a time to die." But always, I would say our primary emphasis is on choosing life, as long as we have the breath of life in us.

## Reena in the News

Reena

There was great excitement at Reena's Annual General Meeting in June, as **David Zimmer**, MPP for Willowdale, presented a very special award to Sandy Keshen, Reena's President and CEO. He explained the detailed protocol to the large audience which stated that the award was being made " On Command of Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth 11" as he presented Sandy with the Queen Elizabeth 11 Diamond Jubilee Medal for her ongoing and outstanding contribution to the betterment of life for people with a developmental disability.

A roar of approval and excitement came from everyone present as Mr. Zimmer pinned the medal on the left lapel of Sandy's jacket (another protocol) and handed her a small pin to be worn on less formal occasions.

Mr. Zimmer has been a long-time friend and staunch supporter of Reena for many years and he expressed his deep personal admiration and appreciation of Sandy's role in the growth and importance that Reena has achieved since its inception. Also present at the meeting was **Monte Kwinter**, MPP for York Centre, as well as many supporters, families, staff, and individuals with a developmenta disability whom Reena supports.

Mazeltov and congratulations, Sandy. We are all delighted that you have been acknowledged in this meaningful way.

**www.reena.org**

## *Assisted suicide - what does it mean?*

Dr. Larry Librach, director of the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care at Mt. Sinai Hospital, says physician-assisted suicide means both "a request from a patient with advanced progressive illness and intractable suffering who wants the opportunity to end their lives before the disease does," and "a physician or somebody [giving] them medication: they could take the medication and then die because of taking the medication."

Where it's currently legal, Librach says, a patient or volunteer usually administers the medication him or herself. Euthanasia, on the other hand, "is when a physician actively injects a patient with a medication that will basically end their lives within minutes." There's also a misconception that "when you withdraw or withhold treatments, hydration or fluids or food, that that is assisted suicide – it's not."

Palliative care can "look after patients and provide them with quality end-of-life care as best we can. Most people are satisfied… but we cannot relieve all suffering. Despite the best palliative care, there will still be patients who request assisted suicide. The two are not mutually exclusive." He also rejects the "slippery slope." "As Jews we're always worried about… what happened in Nazi Germany, but… I have greater faith in Canadian society. If you look at places like Oregon and Washington, they've managed to introduce legislation that's been very protective." - ***JMM***

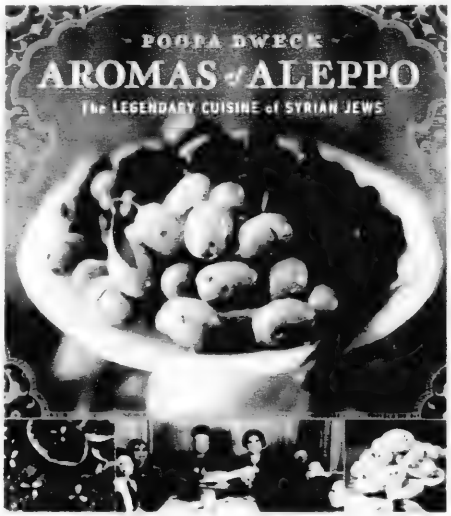
# The best of Syrian Jewish food from Aleppo

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Aleppo, a city in northwest Syria lying astride major Middle East trade routes, was settled by Jews in waves of immigration starting during antiquity. In the 15th century, following the Spanish Inquisition, yet more Jews arrived in Aleppo. By the turn of the 19th century, Aleppo was a thriving Jewish centre.

The Jews of Aleppo, influenced by Mediterranean and Levantine gastronomic traditions, developed a wonderful cuisine based on bountiful local products including grains, legumes, vegetables and herbs.

If you were fortunate enough to have been invited to a Jewish home in Aleppo, you were plied with a succession of delicacies. These dishes might include *mujedrah* (rice with brown lentils and caramelized onions), *keftes* (tamarind-stewed meatballs), *s'fiha* (stuffed baby eggplants with ground meat and rice) and *spanekh b'jib* (spinach cheese frittata).




These days, Aleppian Jewish food is rarely, if ever, found in Syria. After the 1947 United Nations Palestine partition plan, Aleppo was the scene of a pogrom that prompted Jews to leave Syria. Today, for the first time in 2,000 years, not a single known Jew lives in Aleppo.

Despite these developments, Aleppian Jewish culinary traditions are lovingly maintained in a host of countries where Syrian Jews have resettled.

One such place is Deal, N.J., where Poopa Dweck – an expert in Aleppian Jewish cookery and a first-generation Syrian Jewish American – resides with her family.

As a gift to her children and community, Dweck has co-written a first-class book, *Aromas of Aleppo: The Legendary Cuisine of Syrian Jews*, published by HarperCollins. The co-author, Michael Cohen, is an attorney and food writer.

Lavishly illustrated with atmospheric vintage photographs of 19th-century Jewish residents, *Aromas of Aleppo* is chockfull of great recipes that are easy to follow.

Appetizers run the gamut from eggplant sesame puree to lemon-infused allspice cumin potato salad. Mains include baked bulgur ground meat pie and spicy grilled meat kabobs.

Dairy dishes range from parsley and onion fritters to scrambled eggs with rhubarb.

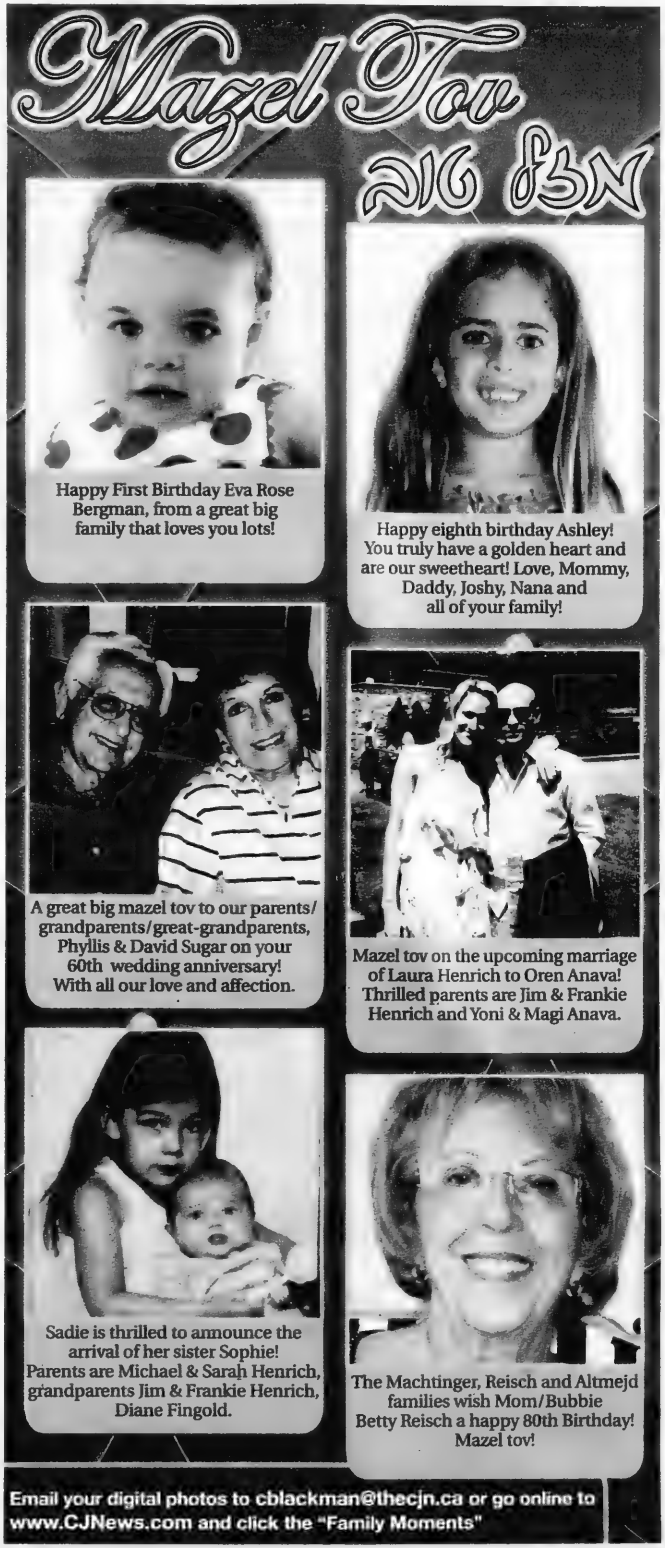
There are recipes galore for rice, grains and pasta: classic Aleppian rice, rice and fava beans with garlic, buttery noodles with cheese ravioli and bulgur with cheese.

Soups have a definite place in this sumptuous volume: noodles and lentil soup, chilled yogurt and cucumber soup and red lentil soup flavoured with garlic and coriander.

The sweets look tantalizing. How about stuffed Syrian pancakes? Pudding with rose water and nuts? Semolina pudding drizzled with butter? Or ricotta-filled shredded wheat pastry?

*Aromas of Aleppo* is a beautifully crafted, well-written book that preserves for posterity the rich legacy of Syrian Jewish cooking and baking.

**Stuffed eggplant with quince**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Happy First Birthday Eva Rose Bergman, from a great big family that loves you lots!
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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

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**Deadline reminder: July 30 is the deadline for the issue of Aug. 9. Aug. 3 is the deadline for the issue of Aug. 16. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or email whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, July 26

**DUFFLEBAG THEATRE**

Dufflebag Theatre presents *Robin Hood* for children at Earl Bales Park. Children's activities begin at 5:30 p.m.; performance starts at 7 p.m. In case of rain, performances take place in Earl Bales Community Centre. Free

## Saturday, July 28

**ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL**

Orillia Country Shul, 151 Creighton St. S., Atherly, near Orillia, resumes its summer services at 10:30 a.m. July 28, **Rabbi Nir Barkin**; Aug. 4, **Rabbi Michael Dolgin**. All are welcome. 705-327-7069.

**SHAAR SHALOM SHABBAT**

Shaar Shalom Synagogue revisits its roots with a service led by its members, 8:45 a.m., 2 Simonston Blvd.

**LIBRARY MEETING**

Vaughan Public Libraries is holding a meeting to discuss multilingual collections and services at Bathurst Clark Resource Library, 900 Clark Ave. W. 2 p.m. 905-653-READ (7323), ext. 4103.

## Sunday, July 29

**TISHA B'AV PROGRAM**

Tisha b'Av programs will be held at Yeshivat Or Chaim, 8:30 a.m. led by **Rabbi Jay Kelman** and **Martin Lockshin**. An afternoon program follows at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, with the film *Making Tisha b'Av Relevant to Us* at 12:30 p.m. and **Arieh King, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, Rabbi Yakov Kerzner, Rabbi Yair Spitz** and **Elliott Malamet** speaking from 3 - 8 p.m. 416-633-5770 or www.torahinmotion.org.

## Monday, July 30

**FAMILY BEIT MIDRASH**

**Bryna Jocheved Levy** discusses "Leadership & Family: Challenges and Concessions." Tonight, "Moshe Rabbenu Between Family and Flocks," and Aug. 6, "Rabbi Akiva and his Children" 7:30 p.m., Or Chaim Yeshiva, 159 Almore Ave. Email info@mekorot.ca or info@torahinmotion.org.

## Tuesday, July 31

**CONCERTS IN THE PARK**

Sweetie Pies and Baby Cakes, a hip-hop dance group, performs tonight at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre, in Earl Bales Park, 7 p.m. Aug. 7, the Toronto Saxophone Quartet performs. In case of rain, the performance moves to the Earl Bales Community Centre.

**JEWISH ICONS**

**Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses Jewish icons of the 20th century. Tonight, Anne Frank; Aug. 7, Natan Sharansky; Aug. 14, Leo Frank. Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 7:30 p.m.

## Thursday, Aug. 2

**YIDDISH VINKL**

**Derek Penslar** discusses "Jews in the Russian Army: Unwilling Conscripts or Loyal Subjects," noon at Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $18, includes buffet lunch. RSVP yiddishvinkl@yahoo.com.

**Continued on page 23**

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOLDIERS OF ISRAEL-CANADA

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**Continued from page 22**

## Other News

**THE CUTTING VEG**

The Cutting Veg, a community-supported agriculture program, delivers organic produce to Toronto-area synagogues throughout the summer and fall. For more information, visit www.thecuttingveg.com/CSA or call 647-388-7444.

**THE SHIRA SINGERS**

The Shira Singers, who sing for seniors in the GTA, are looking for new choir members. Call **Yair**, 905-886-1755.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

One Family Fund golf tournament is Aug. 9 at King Valley Golf Club, 15675 Dufferin St. www.onefamilyfund.ca/events-golf.

**JEWISH WAR VETERANS**

Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Toronto post, meets Aug. 12, breakfast 9:30 a.m.; meeting 10:30 a.m., Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St.

**TEMPLE SINAI SOCIAL CLUB**

The Temple Sinai Social Club is going to see *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Theatre By The Bay, Barrie, Aug. 15. Bus and matinée, $55. Reserve with **Marcie** 416-487-3281.

**KAVANAH GARDEN RETREAT**

An all-day workshop featuring yoga, meditation, drumming, Pilates, movement and drama will be held Aug. 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Shoresh's Kavanah Garden, 18 Lebovic Campus Dr., Vaughan. $100 (financial assistance available). To register: http://tolifetolife.eventbrite.com. For more info, send an email to: drjuliasegal@gmail.com.

**MOSAIC OUTDOOR CLUB**

Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America for Jewish outdoor enthusiasts is holding a Labour Day retreat in Colorado, Aug. 30-Sept. 3. For more info, visit www.mosaicoutdoor.org or call 1-888-MOSAICS (667-2427) to register.

**JUMPSTART HEBREW**

JumpStart Hebrew is a program for children entering JK to Grade 2, Aug. 27-31 at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Children will be introduced to Hebrew through art, music and play. Email **Karen Goodis**, karen@bethsholom.net or www.bethsholom.net.

**CHABAD GARDEN PARTY**

Women of Chabad Markham hold their end-of-summer pool party Aug. 8 with guest speaker, **Joanni Tansky**, author of *Girl Meets God*, 10 a.m. 905-886-0420, ext. 221.

**UJA CAMPAIGN LAUNCH**

Oscar winner **Jon Voight** is the guest speaker at UJA Campaign's 2013 launch, Aug. 21, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 7:30 p.m. $45. 416-631-5705 or www.ujaevents.com/registration/voight.

**MELTON MINI SCHOOL**

Melton Adult Mini School is open for registration for the fall term. "Purposes of Jewish Living" and "Rhythms of Jewish Living" will be offered Wednesday mornings at Beth Emeth Synagogue. Call **Loretta**, 416-789-7400 or visit the website: www.melton-toronto.org.

## JF&CS GROUPS

**BEREAVED PARENTS**

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Falls Prevention Program** will be held at Baycrest, starting July 30. The 8-week session provides exercise and education for older adults living in the community who have experienced one or more falls or have a fear of falling. OHIP covered. Call 416-785-2488.

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park**. (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. The Seniors Club will be closed until July 31 for construction. All activities will take place temporarily in Earl Bales Park Community Centre. Casino Rama, Aug. 15; lunch, Aug. 16, call to register; hairdresser/barber, Aug. 2, 9 a.m. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m. (first class free); Wednesdays, social bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts. Call **Morty**, 416-783-6078; 416-630-6487.

**The Bridge Club** at Forest Hill Library is seeking new members. Call **Lea** (evenings), 416-487-7630.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Active Seniors & Zoomers, Miles Nadal JCC,** 416-924-6211, ext.155. Aug. 9, presentation about Picasso, 1:30 p.m.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526, **Colin Blayney**. Ongoing yoga, dance fitness and aquafitness classes.

**Bernard Betel Centre** 416-225-2112. July 31, lecture on "The Case Against the Alleged Jewish War Criminals in Lithuania," 10 a.m.; Aug. 2, **Iva Mandic** discusses dietary supplements, 1:30 p.m.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

Folk dance drop-in classes, July 25-Aug. 10, 10 a.m.

**Kevin Courrier** teaches a course on "Love and Hisses: Debating the Movies," Aug. 1-29.

**Iain Scott** discusses opera. Aug. 15, Maria Callas; Aug. 22 Joan Sutherland, 1 p.m.

Beginner and intermediate mah-jong classes start July 25, 1-3 p.m., evening classes, July 16-Aug. 27, 7 p.m. Drop-in duplicate bridge, Thursdays 12:30- 3:30 p.m. Current events discussion, Thursdays, 12:45 p.m.

Tickets still available for the Grand River lunch and show cruise, Aug. 8.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

**Keith Friedlander** teaches a course on People of the Comic Book: Jews and the Graphic Novel, 6:30 p.m. July 26, "Will Eisner's *Contract with God*"; Aug. 2, "Art Spiegelman's *Maus I.*"

*Curtains* is presented by No Strings Theatre and Al Green Theatre, July 26-29, ext.0

The adult daytime choir runs all summer, Tuesdays 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

A summer evening choir is being offered, Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. Open to all, no auditions. music@mnjcc.org.

*Kids Who Can*, photos by 13 photographers from Easter Seals summer camps is at the gallery until Sept. 9.

The Gallery is calling for submissions for fall exhibits (flat media only). Deadline is Aug. 1. Guidelines at www.mnjcc.org/in-the-gallery or ext. 250.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

## SCHWARTZ REISMAN CENTRE

9600 Bathurst St., Vaughan. 905-303-1821. www.srcentre.ca.

Free Sunday programs all summer, ext. 3047. Daycare registration is now open. Storytelling program in the daycare Aug. 12, 10 a.m.

Register now for programs. Call **Monique** for family and children's programs, ext. 3047; **Staci** for adults/seniors, ext. 3037; **Tonya** for fitness and health, ext. 3016; **Naama** for daycare and preschool, ext. 3018, **Alex** for JCC Chai Sports, ext. 4465.

The outdoor pool is now open. For swimming lessons, call **Yuri**, ext. 3034.

**TECHNION HONOURS: Technion-Israel Institute of Technology recently presented honorary doctorates to Eli Opper, former chief scientist of Israel and chairman of the board of the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF), and Gary Goldberg, chairman of the Ontario-Israel R & D Management Committee. The awards were presented on the 100th anniversary of the cornerstone laying of the Technion. From left: Paul Hunt, Canada's ambassador to Israel; Opper; Goldberg; Henri Rothschild, president of CIIRDF.**

***SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 12***

# Israeli consul general visits Camp Kadimah

**Joel Jacobson**
Atlantic Correspondent

**BARSS CORNER, N.S.** — The black RCMP-driven SUV rolled into the Camp Kadimah parking lot and out stepped a man relaxed after a busy day and a half meeting politicians and community folk in Prince Edward Island and Halifax.

As he looked around the 68-year-old camp on the shores of Lake William in Barss Corner, Joel Lion, Israel's consul general to Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces, smiled.

He was recalling happy days spent at Camp Akiva in France, where he enjoyed his childhood. At Kadimah, he saw excited campers and staff trooping to the dining hall where they would soon scarf down falafel pitas.

In a brief address to more than 250 listeners, Lion said, "While I'm glad to see you here on Israel Day, every day is Israel Day for me."

Israel Day was a special camp day of festivities, emphasizing more Israeli programming than usual, including a swim where campers were asked to imagine a Tel Aviv beach, and an Israeli carnival with games and goodies.

"You should be proud to be part of the Jewish nation," Lion said. "We are not there to make wars but to achieve peace with our neighbours, with all nations."

He noted that in 1948, when the State of Israel was born, there was one big river (the Jordan) and two lakes, one of which, he said, "was dead, the Dead Sea, and another on life support. We didn't have lots to begin with, but in 65 years, we went from nothing to become one of the 33 most prosperous nations in the world."

He talked briefly about Israel's accomplishments in medicine and technology and stressed that "the best way to tell others about us is to talk of our achievements."

He later met with several campers and staff from Israel who were attending the camp under the auspices of the Atlantic Jewish Council and private donations. He participated in Israel Day before reluctantly drawing away.

**Joel Lion speaks to staff and campers at Camp Kadimah earlier this month.** ***[Joel Jacobson photo]***

The day before, Lion met with Prince Edward Island Premier Robert Ghiz, Charlottetown Mayor Clifford Lee and University of Prince Edward Island president Alaa Abd-El-Aziz. Lion was also "elected" to the P.E.I. Jewish community at a social event.

The morning of his camp visit, he met Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly. "We have strong relations with Nova Scotia," Lion said, recalling a meeting with Premier Darrel Dexter last fall prior to a successful Nova Scotia trade mission to Israel, headed by Dexter.

# Mount Royal reconfiguration

**David Lazarus**
Staff Reporter

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler said he would rally constituents and even consider going to court to prevent historic Mount Royal riding from being "dismembered."

Under proposals revealed July 16 by the independent Federal Elections Boundaries Commission, the 88-year-old riding and Liberal bastion represented for 19 years by Pierre Elliott Trudeau would be renamed John-Peters-Humphrey, in honour of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights author.

But the new riding would lose an important part of the Cote des Neiges district east of Victoria Avenue that includes the Jewish General Hospital and Cotler's own riding office, also the office for 15 years of his predecessor, the late Sheila Finestone.

***For full story, please go to cjnews.com***

# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

### Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ebedes, Miriam | June 27/12 | 4005 Bayview Ave |
| Diamond, Jean | June 27/12 | 8 Covington Rd |
| Zidenberg, Murray C. | June 28/12 | 1255 Bloor St. E |
| Pearlstein, David | June 27/12 | 27 Mandel Cres |
| Koven, Fannie Rose | June 28/12 | 484 Steeles Ave. W |
| Kanibolotsky, Olexandr | June 28/12 | 3174 Bathurst St |
| Brawer, Emanuel | July 1/12 | 500 Glencairn Ave |
| Bredin, Jadzia | July 1/12 | 126 Regina Ave |
| Marsha, Abrams | June 30/12 | Private |
| Shneider, Yehil | July 1/12 | 15 Torresdale Ave |
| Brothman, Susan | July 1/12 | 601 Clark Ave. W |
| Masters, Ruth Rose | July 1/12 | 4383 Bathurst St |
| Rubinowicz, Valentine | July 1/12 | 7300 Yonge St |
| Abrams, Marsha | June 30/12 | Private |
| Gold, Barry Michael | July 3/12 | 3840 Bathurst St |
| Long, Sidney | July 4/12 | 7 Townsgate Dr |
| Aronovici, Juma | July 5/12 | 7420 Bathurst St. |

### BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. Charles Sklar | Jun 29/12 | 65 Spring Garden Ave. II |
| Robert Kirsch | Jun 30/12 | 16 Rosedale Road |
| Albert Morton | Jun 29/12 | 110 Bloor Street West |
| Sidney Greenberg | Jul 1/12 | 88 Promenade Circle |
| Barry Margolis | Jul 2/12 | 80 Antibes Drive |
| Robert Strom | Jul 2/12 | 3600 Yonge Street |
| Dr.D. Geoffrey Shulman | Jul 2/12 | 256 Russell Hill Road |
| Bertie Friedlander | Jul 4/12 | 7601 Bathurst Street |
| Matthew Rosenberg | Jul 2/12 | 4202 Dundas Street W. |
| Janet Sullovey | Jul 3/12 | 27 Ealing Drive |
| Sybil Goldstein | Jul 2/12 | 1313 Queen Street West |
| Edith Arbuck | Jul 5/12 | 65 Skymark Drive |
| Frances Nissenbaum | Jul 5/12 | 2 Burton Road |
| Rose Rotstein | Jul 6/12 | 2 Neptune Drive |

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Jill Goldberg lends a hand with Habitat for Humanity.

# Vancouverite finds meaningful travel in Habitat for Humanity

**Lauren Kramer**
Pacific Correspondent

**VANCOUVER** — For most of us, vacation means taking it easy. But when Vancouverite Jill Goldberg went to Fiji for two weeks in May, she was ready for some hard work – the kind that requires a hammer, calls for early mornings on a construction site and involves building houses.

A 38-year-old English literature professor at Langara College, Goldberg had joined Habitat for Humanity for a two-week excursion to Lautoka, an industrial Fijian city, "with dusty streets, peeling paint, shabby exteriors and no sparkling beach to be found," she said.

Goldberg and her team were tasked with helping to build houses in the community of Koroipita, home to some of Fiji's most destitute citizens.

"The work was hard," she recalled. "We were doing wood framing, but there was no nail gun, so that meant that every last nail was driven in by hand. I went to sleep each night with the sound of hammering ringing in my ears, yet I woke each morning eager to start again."

Goldberg wanted to form a deeper connection with local people than she had during previous trips as a tourist. "When I was in Bali, it was so lovely, but I was so aware of the equality imbalance between me and the people who lived there. I wanted to get past the tourist scenario, and I really wanted to help. I thought, if I can go someplace and contribute something other than sitting around in a hotel, I might feel like I've done something useful," she said of her decision to join the Habitat group.

The prospect of running around a worksite with a hammer was appealing to her, and watching two homes erected over the course of her stay in Fiji was very gratifying, she said. She and her team were on site by 8:15 a.m., unloading trucks of lumber and sweating beneath the Fijian sun until 4 p.m.

Her trip came at a cost of $1,800, which went toward covering her meals and accommodation, as well as toward building materials and salaries for the construction workers.

"I loved that the usual relationship between traveller and local was, even just for moments, reversed," she said. "I also loved that we got to eat food cooked in Koroipita and not in some fancy hotel, that we cleaned our own table at lunchtime, helping out those who made us food and snacks. Over the time there, we learned ways to befriend the Fijian workers that let us on their building site and showed us such endearing hospitality. That type of cultural exchange goes a long way toward breaking down stereotypes."

It was Goldberg's second Habitat for Humanity trip – the first one was in Hawaii two years ago – and its effect has been profound, she said.

"In Fiji, the poverty was much more evident and pervasive. Some of the Fijian people we worked with would show up on the worksite without shoes, for example, and this made me reflect on what it means to have so little that certain basic things, things pertaining to safety and health, are unattainable.

"It reinforced the feeling that participating in a Habitat build let me see not the glossy Fiji of travel brochures, but the difficulties of Fijian life as it is for many of its inhabitants. Of course, this made working on homes for people who don't have a home all the more profound."

Goldberg is planning to become a team leader for future trips, with Africa next on her list.

"This trip reminded me that, no matter my own skepticism about the West's efforts to do good, there are moments, opportunities and places that do enable significant work to be done – whether in the form of hammering nails or in the form of a cultural exchange – that, even just for a moment, reverses or equalizes the usual power dynamics that exist."

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# Hamilton Jewish Federation's CEO retires

**Abigail Cukier**
Special to the CJN

**HAMILTON** — It was an antisemitic slur that helped Gerald Fisher find his path in life.

While studying for his master's degree in social work at Dalhousie University, a friend who didn't realize Fisher was Jewish made an antisemitic statement.

"It flipped me right out," Fisher said.

The next day, he looked in the Yellow Pages under "J," called the local Jewish organization and asked to volunteer.

That was 1974.

At the end of July, Fisher will have devoted 38 years to serving Jewish communities in Canada and the United States. He's now retiring from his post as CEO of the Hamilton Jewish Federation.

Born in Boston, Fisher moved to Nova Scotia at age 22. When he made that first phone call, the man on the other end of the line asked him to pick up a distinguished speaker from the airport and "schlep" the speaker around to his engagements.

Fisher continued to volunteer and, as an intern as part of his master's studies, he helped create the Atlantic Jewish Council.

Gerald Fisher

In 1976, Fisher went to Brandeis University in Massachusetts to get another master's degree, this time in contemporary Jewish studies.

His first job was as a community planning associate with the Toronto Jewish Congress in 1977. After that, he was executive director of the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation of Metropolitan Toronto for four years.

In 1983, he became first national director of community services for the Canada-Israel Committee. Between 1984 and 1999, Fisher worked for the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto as director of administrative services, senior planning associate and director of human resources and community development.

From 1999 to 2001, Fisher served as executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Manchester in New Hampshire, a position that allowed him to act as caregiver for his mother.

In 2001, Fisher moved to Hamilton.

"I had the insight of being part of a smaller Jewish community from my time in Nova Scotia. I would have never left Toronto otherwise," he said. "A smaller community has its own challenges and its own rewards. There is no hiding in the bureaucracy in a small community. You are more engaged.

"In Toronto, I was in the corner office. You don't see what is going on, you don't see the successes."

Fisher is concerned that Hamilton's Jewish population, which numbers about 4,700, is not growing larger, but growing older. He hopes the community will be able to sustain itself financially for necessary services.

"We have had some success attracting young families. We are working with McMaster University and the City of Hamilton," he said.

While Fisher says he loves Hamilton's Jewish community, a health scare prompted his decision to retire.

"I love this job, but I am busy all of the time. It can be very stressful. I have recovered and I am feeling good. I want to enjoy it," he said.

"My wife and I will remain in Hamilton and be a part of the community. We really enjoy it here."

Fisher, 63, said if he waited to retire until his current contract ends, it would be at the same time as the term of the executive committee ends.

"I have enormous respect for this Jewish community. I care about what's going to happen, and from a strategic perspective, the current executive committee is a volunteer group of enormous competence," he said. "I believe it is in the community's interest that this executive committee make the decision about who will replace me."

Larry Szpirglas, president of the Hamilton Jewish Federation, said the search is on to find Fisher's successor.

"Whoever we find will have inherited a stable foundation to work from and staff that is energized and ready to help," Szpirglas said.

Not that he thinks Fisher will be easy to replace.

"Gerry is a consummate professional. He helped us re-energize our work in public advocacy and strengthened our link to the general community," he said.

"He also built up our campaign and has shown us the value of how year-round education and information sharing supports fundraising.

"It's easy to say nice things about Gerry."

As for what's next, Fisher plans to spend some time in Israel with his wife of 15 years, Anna-Rae Fishman. They will also continue to raise Leonberger puppies and possibly enter the show ring.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to have served the Hamilton community," Fisher said. "I believe we are stronger and more coherent. I believe we've accomplished a lot together."

# שישאר בינינו

## גידי קורן וחברים

**ארבע מאות מילה על ברית מילה:**

***גרמניה:***

בית משפט בקלן גרמניה החליט לאחרונה להוציא מן החוק את ברית המילה מסיבות דתיות, בטענה שהיא פוגעת באוטונומיה בזכויות האדם של התינוק. מבלי להיכנס לטיעון הסבל והכאב שכרוך בפרוצדורה הזאת, אי אפשר שלא להרהר בכך שלפני שבעים שנה פעלה גרמניה לחיסול העם היהודי ובמהלך המאמצים האלה חיסלה מעל לשישה מליון יהודים. איסור ברית מילה גם הוא צעד ממלכתי לחיסול העם היהודי, שכן לא יכול גבר להיחשב יהודי אם לא עבר ברית מילה. ואכן, בית החולים היהודי בברלין הפסיק לאלתר לבצע בריתות. זה מה שקוראים יעילות גרמנית, לאלה מיכם שנוסעים במכוניות גרמנית.

***טורונטו:***

בשנת 1997 הוכיחה קבוצת המחקר שלנו בבית החולים לילדים שבנים שעברו מילה מגיבים בעוצמת יתר לכאב של זריקת חיסון בגיל שישה חודשים. זו היתה ההוכחה הראשונה לכך שכאב המילה הוא חזק מספיק כדי שמוח התינוק יגיב אליו מקץ שישה חודשים. העולם המדעי קיבל את החדשות האלה כהוכחה לכך שכאבים עזים נחקקים במוח התינוק לזמן רב. בעולם בתי הכנסת עוררה הידיעה הזאת סערה גדולה וטענה טיפוסית של "העולם כולו נגדנו". רק שהיתה לרבנים המתלהמים בעייה: כל ארבעת הרופאים שהשתתפו במחקר וחתמו עליו היו יהודים.....

**ירושלים:**

לפני מספר שנים גילה לי קולגה רפואי, שהוא גם רב בישראל, שעדיין נהוג בחוגים דתיים קיצוניים מנהג המציצה העתיק, שבו מוצץ המוהל בשפתיו את הדם מאבר המין החתוך של התינוק. מעבר למראה המזוויע של איש עטור זקן מוצץ את אברו של תינוק, יש כאן בעייה רפואית חמורה: אצל הרבה מבוגרים, כולל מוהלים עטורי זקן, מקנן בשפתיים וירוס ההרפס. אצל מבוגרים הוא גורם לשלפוחיות לא נעימות על השפתיים, אבל אצל תינוקות-וירוס ההרפס גורם לדלקת מוח קשה, מוות או פיגור שכלי. לפני כעשר שנים פרסמנו סדרת מקרים שבהם נדבקו תינוקות מוירוס ההרפס של המוהל ונשארו פגועים לכל החיים. למרות התגובות הקשות למנהג הזה, מדווחים לי שיש עדיין יהודים ברברים שעושים זאת מחוץ לחוק.

**פתח תקווה**

אפרופו ברברים- במשפחתנו המורחבת נולד תינוק פג, וברית המילה שלו נדחתה על פני חדשים מסיבות רפואיות. יום אחד, לתדהמת ההורים, שמו אלמוניים שלט ליד ביתם שמגנה אותם על כך שלא מהלו את בנם. לא נקפו ימים רבים ומאות חרדים התחילו להפגין ליד ביתם על זה שאינם מוהלים את התינוק! ההתנהגות הברברית הזאת גרמה להורים כל כך הרבה עוגמת נפש וסלידה, שהם החליטו שאינם רוצים להשתייך לעם הזה, ושאין הם מתכוננים למול את הילד בכלל.

מעבר לסלידה הכללית בישראל מהטפילות של החרדים, אי אפשר לסלוח להם על כך שהם גורמים לקהל גדול לשנוא את דתו. אבל שישאר בינינו.

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# Suicide bomber's accomplices may still be in Bulgaria

JTA

An accomplice of the suicide bomber who killed six on an Israeli tour bus in Burgas, Bulgaria, reportedly is likely to still be in the country, possibly with another bomb.

The accomplice is believed to have been a backup for the suicide bomber, the Novinite.com website reported. Another accomplice was set to shoot the other two if they were captured by or turned themselves in to police, and both reportedly were at the airport during the July 18 attack.

Bulgarian police are continuing their search for the accomplices.

The suicide bomber, who was dressed like an American tourist and carried a fake Michigan driver's licence, has not yet officially been identified, though he is reported to be a Swedish Muslim who spent time at Guantanamo Bay.

Bulgarian media reported that eyewitnesses to the attack described two distinct people when asked to describe the bomber, leading to the theory that the bomber had backup. The second attacker may be an American named David Jefferson, according to reports.

An unknown group calling itself Qaedat al-Jihad has claimed responsibility for the attack, but the Belgian foreign ministry has denied the claim, saying that the Iranian-backed Hezbollah perpetrated the attack – a claim backed up by the United States and Israel.

"Our people are working around the clock with their Bulgarian counterparts, as well as with other leading intelligence services from around the world," Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said Sunday morning. "In the meantime, it is clear that the terror attack was directed by Hezbollah. It is clear that at least one other person was involved, maybe more, whose identity is not Middle Eastern; probably intentionally. All other additional details remain unclear."

He added, "There is no doubt that we are facing a global terror campaign, against Israel in particular, with Hezbollah at its centre, inspired by Iran. Unfortunately, however, there are many other players."

The body of Itzik Kolengi arrives back in Israel. *[Israel Sun photo]*

> *'It is clear that the terror attack was directed by Hezbollah'*

The five Israelis who were killed in the terrorist attack were buried in Israel.

Funerals were held last Friday for Maor Harush, 25; Itzik Kolengi, 28; Amir Menashe, 28; Elior Priess, 26, and Kochava Shriki, 44, who was pregnant with her first child.

Seventeen injured Israelis are still hospitalized across the country after being flown back to Israel by the Israel Defence Forces on Thursday, according to Ynet. Two of the injured remain seriously wounded, according to the news service.

Yair Maman, Kolengi's brother-in-law, said at the funeral, "I cannot believe we are saying goodbye to you. The extent of the horror is indescribable – you went for a vacation and came back in a coffin," Ynet reported.

Menashe's wife, Natalie, also was injured in the attack. She arrived at the funeral in a wheelchair and kept saying, "Come back to me. I can't live without you," according to Ynet.

Shriki's husband, Yitzhak, who was injured in the attack, searched for his wife for hours after being separated from her in the blast.

"Only when I arrived in Israel did I realize she was killed," he told Ynet. "I was told the prime minister wanted to console us, and that's how I realized she didn't survive."

Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA, Canadian Jewish Federations and the Jewish Agency for Israel last week reminded Canadians that anyone wishing to help provide financial assistance to the survivors and families of the victims of the attack could make a donation to the Victims of Terror fund.

The funding tool, operated by the Jewish Agency since 2002, exists to send monetary aid to Jews and Israelis affected by terrorist attacks anywhere in the world.

"Our thoughts are with the victims and their families in their time of need," Marc Gold, chair of Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA board of directors said in a statement. "The support offered through the Victims of Terror Fund will provide assistance and comfort to those whose lives have been devastated because of this terror attack."

For more information, visit www.jewishcanada.org

*With files from Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf*

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# Geisel was outraged by the news from France

Continued from page 1

Over the next two days, more than 13,000 Jews were rounded up in Paris by the Germans, with the active collaboration of the Vichy French government headed by Nazi supporter Pierre Laval. The majority of those arrested were couples with children. They were held for five excruciating days in the Vélodrome d'Hiver, a big arena used for bicycle races, in the summer heat, without food or water. Eyewitnesses described it as "a scene from hell." Then they were deported by train to the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

The brutal details of the roundup process were reported in the American press. The *New York Times* described the "scenes of terror and despair" in the streets of Paris, including suicides, Jewish patients dragged violently from hospital beds and children violently separated from their parents. Unfortunately, the article was relegated to page 16.

Geisel, who drew editorial cartoons for New York's *PM Magazine* under the pen name "Dr. Seuss," was outraged by the news from France and decided to use his cartooning skills to help publicize the plight of the Jews.

The future creator of such beloved classics as *The Cat in the Hat* and *Green Eggs and Ham* used stark and disturbing imagery in his July 20 cartoon. He drew a forest filled with corpses hanging from the trees, with a sign reading "Jew" pinned to each body. Adolf Hitler, with extra rope draped on his arm, and Vichy leader Pierre Laval were shown singing happily.

The first words of the Hitler-Laval song, "Only God can make a tree," were taken from *Trees*, a famous Alfred Joyce Kilmer poem about the unique and eternal beauty of trees. The second line, however, "To furnish sport for you and me," was a lyric concocted by Hitler and Laval to celebrate their "sport" of mass murder.

In one important respect, Dr. Seuss' cartoon was prescient: unlike many of his contemporaries, he correctly perceived that France's Jews were doomed to be killed. At the time of the roundups, the Germans claimed the Jews were being sent for "work in the east," and the deportees' true destination was generally unknown abroad.

One senior U.S. diplomat in France, S. Pinkney Tuck, urged the Roosevelt administration to take in 4,000 Jewish children who had been separated from their parents, on the grounds that they should be regarded as orphans, since the Nazis would not let their parents survive. But State Department officials complained that Tuck was exceeding his authority, and Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles assured American Jewish Congress leader Rabbi Stephen S. Wise that the deportees were just being relocated for "war work."

**On July 20, 1942, Theodor Geisel, known as Dr. Seuss, drew a forest filled with corpses hanging from the trees, with a sign reading "Jew" pinned to each body. Adolf Hitler, with extra rope draped on his arm, and Vichy leader Pierre Laval were shown singing happily.**

*[David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies photo]*

Dr. Seuss drew many anti-Nazi cartoons during his years at *PM*, but for reasons that are unclear, he never returned to the subject of Hitler's Jewish victims.

The dangers of fascism seem to have haunted him for many years to follow, however. Reworking a scene of a tower of turtles from one of his 1942 cartoons, he used the framework of what was ostensibly a child's fable to inveigh against totalitarianism in his 1958 bestseller *Yertle the Turtle and Other Stories*. Yertle is the king of a turtle pond who exploits his fellow turtles in order to increase his power and personal glory. Furious when he realizes the moon is higher than he is, Yertle commands his subjects to form themselves into a tower so that he can stand on them and reach the sky.

Dr. Seuss said later that Yertle was meant to symbolize Hitler, and the story was a warning against fascism.

*Rafael Medoff is founding director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies and co-author, with comics historian Craig Yoe, of the forthcoming book* Cartoonists Against the Holocaust.

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# Warsaw Ghetto liquidation remembered

JTA

**WARSAW** — A ceremony commemorating the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto was held in the city for the first time.

Sunday's ceremony marked the 70th anniversary of the day that the Germans began mass deportations of Jews to Treblinka, on July 22, 1942. More than 250,000 people were deported to the Nazi death camp.

Israel's deputy minister of education, Menachem Eliezer Mozes, at the ceremony quoted excerpts from the diary of Hillel Seidman, who wrote about the underground yeshivas and the involvement of Orthodox Jews in armed resistance in the ghetto.

Pawel Spiewak of the city's Jewish Historical Institute said that children were the greatest victims of the Holocaust.

"Only 500 children survived in Warsaw after the 'Great Action,'" he said

A prayer for the victims of the terrorist attack in Burgas, Bulgaria, was held earlier Sunday in the city's Nozyk synagogue. Later, a march of remembrance passed through the streets of Warsaw. Several hundred people from Poland and Israel walked on the road opposite the one that Janusz Korczak went with the children from his orphanage instead of saving himself from certain death. From Umschlagplatz, the site of the deportation, the marchers continued to the site of Korczak's orphanage.

At the end of the march, Rabbi Michael Schudrich, the chief rabbi of Poland, said that "We are not the same people we were an hour ago. We have this march of remembrance, march for life, and we must remember not the perpetrators but the victims."

# Swiss hospitals suspend circumcisions

**Ofer Aderet**
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

**ZURICH** — Two Swiss hospitals announced last week that they would temporarily stop performing circumcisions.

The announcements followed a recent ruling by a German court that the ritual is illegal, which sparked outrage among the Jewish and Muslim communities living in the country.

Last week, the Zurich children's hospital announced that it was temporarily halting circumcision operations. "We are in the process of evaluating the legal and ethical stance in Switzerland," said hospital spokesperson Marco Stuecheli.

"There can be complicated cases where the mother of a child wants a circumcision but the father is opposed to it," he added. The hospital said it performs only one or two such operations a month.

Meanwhile, another children's hospital, in the city of St. Gallen in northeastern Switzerland, has also decided to reassess its circumcision policy.

A senior hospital administrator told the local media that a decision on the matter would be reached after the summer vacation. The German government plans to submit a bill to parliament that would regulate circumcision and protect doctors who perform them from lawsuits.

Also last week, the German parliament passed a resolution endorsing the right of Muslim and Jewish parents to have their sons circumcised and urging the government to pass legislation on the matter.

# Leading Rabbi dies at 102

JTA

JERUSALEM – Rabbi Yosef Shalom Elyashiv, the leader of the Lithuanian haredi Orthodox community and considered this generation's leading halachic authority, died last week in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Elyashiv, who had been hospitalized and on a respirator due to complications from congestive heart failure, was 102.

Rabbi Elyashiv became leader of the community in the years before the 2001 death of Rabbi Elazar Menachem Man Shach when Rabbi Shach was no longer able to function.

Unlike Rabbi Shach – a fiery speaker and an innovative leader who was instrumental in establishing the daily newspaper *Yated Neeman*, as well as Degel Hatorah, a political party that represents the interests of non-chassidic haredim in the Knesset – Rabbi Elyashiv shunned social contact and communal endeavours.

He spent nearly every waking moment studying rabbinical literature and making rulings in the field of Jewish law. Rabbi Elyashiv's rulings on Jewish law reflect a deeply conservative, stringent approach.

Rabbi Yosef Shalom Elyashiv

Rabbi Elyashiv prohibited haredi institutions from receiving charity from Christians; he ruled that it was forbidden to use elevators on Shabbat, including those preprogrammed to work automatically; and he took a stringent position on the halachic definition of death, making it nearly impossible for Jews to donate organs.

In 2005, Rabbi Elyashiv ruled in favour of joining Ariel Sharon's government, providing it with essential backing ahead of the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the evacuation of 8,500 Jewish settlers living there.

In exchange, Rabbi Elyashiv demanded an immediate halt to all attempts to limit the complete educational autonomy of haredi educational institutions, including those partially funded by the state.

Born in 1910, Rabbi Elyashiv moved to Palestine when he was 14 years old and later became close to the established Jerusalem rabbinate. Following his service on the High Rabbinical Court, he distanced himself from the established Zionist rabbinate and became a leader of the haredi Orthodox establishment.

He and his wife, Sheina Chaya, who died in 1994 and was a daughter of prominent Rabbi Aryeh Levin, had 12 children. Three years ago, one of Rabbi Elyashiv's great-grandchildren became a grandfather.

"In his rulings, Rabbi Elyashiv made a deep impression on the ultra-orthodox world and on the entire Jewish People. In his teachings, he outlined a path for many, who drew their strength from his wisdom and his sharp thinking. Rabbi Elyashiv's way was to love the Torah and humanity, to be self-effacing and to maintain the sanctity of life," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement.

"Today, the Jewish People have lost a sharp and incisive rabbi, a wise man of great stature, an emissary who was faithful to the values of the Torah and who gave to others. We mourn his passing."

### *Peres cancels Olympics participation*

Israeli President Shimon Peres cancelled his participation in the 2012 Olympic Games in London after failing to find a way to attend the opening ceremony without desecrating the Jewish Sabbath. The opening ceremony begins on a Friday, July 27, before Shabbat starts, but will end well after the onset of the holy day. Though Peres is not religiously observant, he does not publicly desecrate Shabbat.

### *Panel: Judea Samaria not occupied*

A report by the commission to examine the status of building in Judea and Samaria – a legal panel headed by retired Israeli Supreme Court Justice Edmund Levy – concluded that according to international law, the classical definition of "occupation" cannot be applied to Israel's presence in the area. The Levy Committee, formed in January, explained that no other legal entity, including Jordan, "has ever had its sovereignty over [Judea and Samaria] cemented under international law." There is also no provision making the Jewish population in the area illegal under international law, and Israelis "have the legal right to settle in Judea and Samaria and the establishment of settlements cannot, in and of itself, be considered to be illegal," the report reads.

### *Moguls plan new Israeli media*

U.S. billionaire Ronald Lauder and French millionaire Patrick Drahi are following in the footsteps of U.S. casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, who is already publishing an English edition of his Israeli daily newspaper *Israel Hayom*, by extending their Israeli media companies to an international audience. Lauder, a co-owner of Israel's *Channel 10*, is buying the Hebrew news website *Nana 10* and intends to transform it into an English-language site that will appeal to readers outside of Israel. Drahi, a shareholder of Israel's HOT cable television company, announced plans to launch an international TV station covering the Middle East from an Israeli perspective.

*– JNS.org and JTA*


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# Downtown café caters to parents with young kids

**Samantha Stroh**
Special to The CJN

When parents are looking for a great place to take their kids, they usually have to choose who is going to have the fun – themselves or the kids.

Tera Goldblatt came up with an idea to satisfy both kids and parents while at the same time, cornering a potentially profitable market.

Along with her partner, Davina Cheung-Brown, Goldblatt opened Playful Grounds, an elegant "café/restaurant that is kid friendly" in Toronto at 605 College St.

It's a carefully chosen location because of its proximity to the College Montrose Children's Place, the drop-in centre where Goldblatt and Cheung-Brown first connected and came up with their brainchild.

Goldblatt is banking on differentiating Playful Grounds from other restaurants or cafés that double as indoor play gyms.

"Playful Grounds isn't for the kids; it's for the parents," she said, adding that she understands how much parents need a place for themselves.

"We're our own market. We know how wonderful it feels to just sit down and have a cup of coffee. And when your kid wakes up from a nap and starts screaming, you won't wish you were anywhere else."

Every new business faces some healthy competition, but Playful Grounds is unique.

"Other independently-owned cafés might have stairs or lack the stroller space, and play gyms aren't restaurants so it depends on how our audience views us. But we see ourselves as a really good restaurant that provides parents with a place to relax [with their kids]," Goldblatt said.

Playful Grounds also sets itself apart from other kid-friendly spots because they don't charge a fee for their play area.

"We don't want people to pay for their kids to play. We want an affordable way for parents to eat, meet people and spend time interacting with their kids in a warm, safe environment," she said.

With seating capacity for 30, the café

includes a large open area for numerous strollers, runaway toddlers and a small but interactive play area. A large train table, books, a play kitchen plus a lot of other toys entertain kids up to age five, so parents can enjoy rare moments of uninterrupted conversation, coffee and good food.

Playful Grounds offers an ever-changing menu that caters to both adults and children.

Being a mom herself, Goldblatt knows parents are always looking for resources to make their lives easier.

"We offer workshops in financial planning for your child's future, child care options, infant massage, baby sign language, getting your body back with baby, Dr. Sears workshops, mental health postpartum, secondary infertility and how to maintain your [marriage] postpartum," she said.

These have proven a hit with parents and all are free of charge.

So, with all of the free perks, does Goldblatt make any money? With loans from the Canadian Youth Business Foundation, Business Development Corporation, Jewish Free Loan Toronto and generous family members, more than $100,000 was raised to open Playful Grounds.

In only four months since opening, "we pay our bills and rent every month, food costs and hundreds [of dollars] in loans. We even managed to pay ourselves once," Goldblatt boasted.

By offering affordable kids' parties, Goldblatt and Cheung-Brown hope the next six months will be more lucrative.

"Parties will be where the profit will come from," Goldblatt said.

In addition to kids' birthday parties, "we also focus on working with corporate events. We can do book and magazine launches, adult parties, like birthdays, weddings and baby showers and corporate catering."

Goldblatt admits there are challenges to opening a new business.

"Cash flow is an issue," she said.

And she expects business to slow down during the summer months.

"Our original business plan accounted for summer being slower because more parents are in the park," she said.

They're trying to address that by offering a "picnic in the park" takeout menu. They've obtained a liquor license for their patio, which seats eight, and Goldblatt hopes that will encourage parents to stop by later in the day.

Currently, Goldblatt and Cheung-Brown single-handedly do it all – the ordering, cooking, organizing, and maintaining their website.

Eventually, they would like to hire staff and delegate the responsibilities, but for now, "we share a brain and naturally do the stuff we're best at. Davina does the financial work, and I do the blogging and marketing."

Goldblatt believes they're onto something big. Parents are desperate for adult conversation and a community of like-minded people. Apparently, their clientele agrees.

"People thank us every day, and we're so happy to make parents' lives easier," she said.

**Tera Goldblatt, left, and Davina Cheung-Brown run kid-friendly Playful Grounds.**

© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

**Woman faces three-trillion-shekel fine**

Rachel Sayag Sofer, a businesswoman facing a three-trillion-shekel claim ($758 billion, all figures US) by a former employee, is finally getting her day in court. National Labour Court Judge Varda Wirth Livne sent the file back to the regional labour court to deal with the merits of the case that goes back to 2001, when an arbitrator ruled that Sayag Sofer pay Jonathan Zabary, who worked for her just seven months, 310,000 shekels ($78,315) in severance.

Sayag Sofer filed an appeal with the Jerusalem Regional Labour Court, claiming the arbitrator wasn't impartial, but the court insisted she post a 150,000-shekel bond ($38,000). The employment contract had included a provision for a 20 per cent monthly late-payment penalty, so as the case dragged on the debt ballooned to more than three trillion shekels. Meanwhile, labour courts repeatedly rebuffed her, based on her not having put up the original bond.

**Israeli startup taps computer hacker**

Computer hacker Kevin Mitnick has been named a director of Israeli startup Zimperium, a computer network security company. Mitnick was convicted in 1999 of four counts of fraud, two counts of computer fraud and one count of wiretapping. He was also alleged to have broken into computer networks of the U.S. federal government and Pacific Bell. He now heads his own computer security consulting firm that advises companies on defending against hacker attacks.

Zimperium has developed an application called ANTI – Android Network Toolkit – which provides information on system penetration from devices accessing nearby Wi-Fi networks.

**Bank of Israel predicts expansion**

The Bank of Israel's S index, which measures the state of the economy, rose a preliminary 0.2 per cent in June, pointing to expanding economic activity even as economic growth stabilized in the second quarter. The index showed growth in commerce and services (0.8 per cent for May), and smaller gains for industrial production (0.1 per cent) and exports of services (0.3 per cent). These increases were offset by a sharp drop in merchandise exports and in imports of consumer goods and industrial inputs. The index has risen about 0.2 per cent in each of the previous three months, but it noted that the pace of the gains was smaller than it was in 2011.

# *New novel sets story in small-town Canada*

If you have time on your hands, or are in the book reviewing business, take a look at the range of responses available online to Richard Ford's remarkable new novel, *Canada* (Harper Collins).

Some focus on it as a story of a family's collapse, others attend to the sparseness and poetry of Ford's language, while still others concern themselves with the author's view of the contemporary American psyche or the qualities of small town life in far-flung Montana.

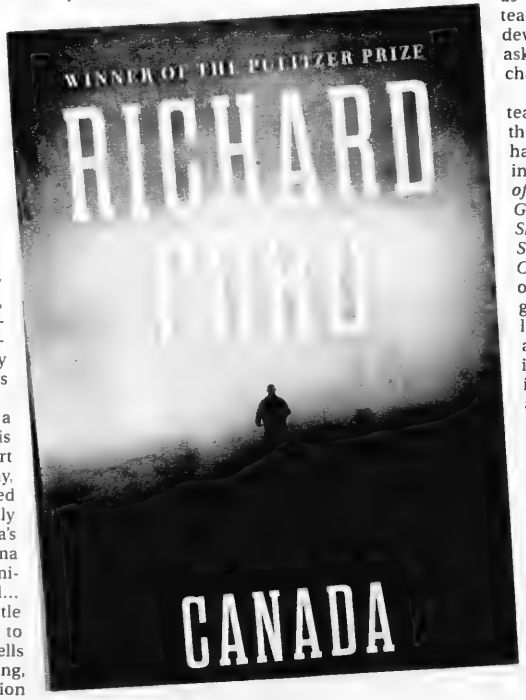
***Reviewed by***

***Norman Ravvin***

Canadian readers will be particularly drawn to the fact that the back half of the book is set in 1960 in southwestern Saskatchewan, on a landscape that, although utterly unknown to most, still provides Ford with a rich backdrop upon which to study time, place and a young man's education on the closeness of "evil... to the normal goings-on that have nothing to do with evil."

This latter, profoundly handled theme, is presented amidst a narrative that tells a largely small-time tale, of small-time actors set on the stage of towns so small they threaten to disappear.

The life of Dell Parsons, a boy of 15 who is an enthusiastic chess player and a loner, ready to begin high school, is upended when his parents make the fatal mistake of robbing a bank not far from their home in Great Falls, Mont. Ford is an expert at conveying Dell's father's southern vanity, his aimlessness, the blanks in his personality, and his way of misreading events, places and other people, all of which contribute to the woozy behaviour that destroys his family.




Dell's mother is a different story. She is "Neeva Kamper (short for Geneva)... a tiny, intense, bespectacled woman with unruly brown hair." Neeva's parents live "in Tacoma and were Jewish immigrants from Poland... Being Jews meant little to them by then, or to our mother," Dell tells us, "just an old, exacting, constricted conception of life they were happy to put behind them."

These aspects of Dell's background are submerged in the overall movement of the novel in a way that forces the reader to consider them with great care. When Dell's parents are quickly arrested, his mother's citizenship status is inexplicably questioned, and her name is misspelled in newspaper reports, as if her difference, however vaguely apparent, is something American authorities cannot ignore.

The strangest part of the novel – and much of *Canada* is satisfyingly strange – takes place once Dell has been driven over the Canadian border by a friend of his mother's, in order to avoid the fate of a state juvenile institution. In Saskatchewan, Dell settles into a rough existence, among men who are faintly mysterious, eking out a living in the hardscrabble prairie economy. Dell is put to work as a guide and all-purpose helper as part of the goose hunting business that attracts Americans to the area.

What transpires in the town of Fort Royal, Sask. and its surroundings cannot be told here without ruining the reader's enjoyment of the novel. These events borrow elements from the elegant noir novels of Raymond Chandler, the best movies of Humphrey Bogart, and are told in prose so simple and direct that the scenes flare up before the reader as if they are in fact being presented on a great old movie palace screen.

Dell's experiences in Saskatchewan provide a second scene of instruction, and send him off to a more placid and normal life in Winnipeg and Windsor, Ont. as a married high school teacher. In this work he develops the tendency to ask his students subtly challenging questions.

The list of books he teaches seems to cue the reader to books that have provided Ford with inspiration: "*The Heart of Darkness, The Great Gatsby, The Sheltering Sky, The Nick Adams Stories, The Mayor of Casterbridge.*" The first of these is among the great studies of the relationship between evil and normality; *Gatsby* is possibly the best investigation, in lyric and sad prose, of the failure of the American dream; while in Hemingway's *Nick Adams Stories* we find a tableau of youth against the backdrop of Midwestern wilderness. Dell adds that "these books aren't taught now to high school students in Canada. Who knows why?"

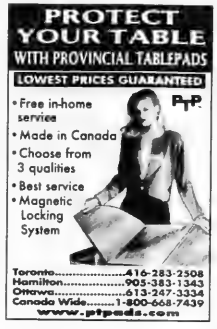
This latter question arrives with great impact, as does another reflection late in the novel on the way certain stories are representative of their time. Dell's story of quiet flight over the U.S.-Canada border could not "happen now, since the towers, and with the border being sealed. It is a long time ago."

*Canada*, for the most part, is about a faraway time and place. But it manages, in ingenious and subtle ways, to illuminate how we live now.

Little has been made in reviews and interviews with Ford of the Jewish sub-theme in his book. The last line of the novel points back to this issue, as it ostentatiously echoes the once well known ending of Saul Bellow's great study of evil and normality, *Mr. Sammler's Planet*.

I was sorry to finish *Canada*, but Ford provides the reader with a list of related masterpieces with which to fill up the remains of the summer.

*Norman Ravvin's recent books are the novel* The Joyful Child *(Gaspereau Press), and* Failure's Opposite: Listening to A.M. Klein, *co-edited with Sherry Simon.*



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# Toronto comic writes for hit TV show

**David Silverberg**
Special to The CJN

While most University of Toronto students plastered their dorm rooms with rock posters or classic painting prints, Rebecca Addelman hung up a collage of Conan O'Brien, Adam Sandler and Mike Myers, three of her comedic heroes.

It was just one of the telltale hints Addelman would be turning to a life of comedy that would take her from her hometown in Ottawa to the comedy clubs in Toronto and on to the hallowed halls of Hollywood.

Addelman, who now lives in Los Angeles, has scored a truly coveted gig: writing for the hit TV show *New Girl* starring Zooey Deschanel.

Landing the gig wasn't as arduous as you might expect, she explains. Her agent submitted her script to one of the *New Girl* show runners, and she got a call practically the next day. "I went to that meeting, then to a second one the day after and was hired the next day," she says.

She began her career by taking improv classes at Toronto's Second City, noting how her first laugh got her hooked to the stage. Her mentors became her fellow comedians. "I was on such a comedy high those first few years. Nothing could disappoint me. Anyone brilliant who could win over a room became a hero in my eyes."

At Grossman's Tavern in downtown Toronto, Addelman ran a series blending music and comedy in an attempt to give fans a taste of something different. She loved taking risks. She recounts one show where she imitated Andy Kaufman and challenged any man in the room to a wrestling match. When she heard her neck snap after one intense bout (she was OK 30 seconds later), she realized stealing Kaufman's bit wasn't her style. "And I also realized I'm very very excessively weak."

She dabbled in TV in Toronto, making a mark as a staff writer on CBC's short-lived *InSecurity* comedy series. She found working at the network frustrating, she says. "We were shuffled to three different executives in the span of six months – each one giving us radically different notes."

After cutting her TV teeth in Canada, Addelman saw herself as more of a sitcom writer for shows that inspired her, such as *30 Rock* or *Seinfeld*. She moved to Los Angeles to find more opportunities, though she didn't completely leave sketch/improv. She is part of a troupe formed from the well-known Upright Citizens Brigade.

And her biggest gig so far, besides *New Girl*? "Performing in the Comedy Network's *Cream of Comedy* special," Addelman says, describing the event as a televised special shot every year with five comics nominated for the Tim Sims Encouragement Award. "Trying to figure out how to do my interactive video bit on such a big scale was an interesting challenge."

The comedian has undoubtedly pushed herself to polish her resumé but what is she hoping to do in the future? How does she want to give back to the community that raised her?

**Rebecca Addelman**

"I want to be able to hire an unknown writer and give them their first real job," she says. "To have someone see something in you and take a gamble on you, creative it's life-changing."

# Actor interprets life of Canadian theatre visionary

**Dorothy Lichtblau**
Special to The CJN

Alon Nashman was 13 years old when the course of his life was changed by a production directed by the theatre visionary John Hirsch.

Smitten by the magic created onstage, he was determined to become an actor. Now, a veteran, award-winning theatre artist, Nashman is at another significant juncture of his career, ironically inspired by Hirsch's work and life. He is making his Stratford Shakespeare Festival debut in the premier production of *Hirsch*, a play writer/director/producer Paul Thompson and he co-created.

Nashman credits Thompson with having "the vision and perception that given that it has been more than 20 years since John Hirsch's passing, the time was ripe to bring to the stage the life of the man who viewed theatre as essential to society."

John Stephen Hirsch died in 1989. Throughout his more than 30 years in Canadian theatre, the fiery and demanding director was lauded for his imaginative, innovative interpretations of classic works. Not without controversy, he created landmark productions and revamped the arts in Canada through his stints as co-founder and artistic director of the Manitoba Theatre Centre, artistic director of the Stratford Festival, head of CBC Television Drama and faculty member at the National Theatre School.

In 1987, 40 years after the 17-year-old Hungarian Jewish war orphan came to Canada as a refugee, he was named to the Order of Canada.

Thompson, a former director general of the National Theatre School, proposed the theatre project to Nashman, whose work he has esteemed since Nashman was a student at the NTS. The deal was that the play would be developed as a collaborative effort in which Nashman would play the title role and that Thompson would direct.

Casually, Nashman offers that Stratford Festival's artistic director Des McAnuff and the festival's general director Antoni Cimolino liked the proposed endeavour enough to provide Thompson and Nashman with rehearsal space to build the play. Ultimately, Stratford's head honchos decided to include Hirsch in their 2012 program.

**Alon Nashman**

Nashman and Thompson initiated work on the project more a year ago by immersing themselves in research.

To discover "who was John Hirsch?" Nashman searched archives, books, journals and letters, viewed videotapes and listened to audio recordings. He also interviewed dozens of Hirsch's colleagues and friends, many of whom are Canadian luminaries the likes of Martha Henry, Douglas Campbell, Rosemary Dunsmore, Colm Feore, Brian Bedford, Martin Knelman, Moses Znaimer and Zoe Caldwell.

Nashman's inquiry garnered rich material about Hirsch's life, but he learned that the man could not be simply defined. Rather, Hirsch was as multi-layered as the tragic heroes he orchestrated on stage.

After completing the groundwork for the project, Nashman took up residence in Stratford to develop the play with Thompson, whom he describes as "a brilliant creator, who does theatre the way no one else in Canada does." Essentially, Thompson engages actors in improvisatory explorations of characters and scenes from the dramatic narrative.

For *Hirsch*, Thompson would offer Nashman situations to play in a particular manner and in turn Nashman brought in songs or quotes or different takes on how he might approach a moment in the play. As they worked, a scribe recorded what emerged. In other words, the play moved from stage to page and then back to the stage.

In this one-man show, Nashman has the daunting task of presenting the wide-ranging lifetime of a complex man in 90 minutes. In response to questions about the challenges he faced, he says, "I embraced him [Hirsch] in his complexities." Then he goes on to explain that "I benefitted from the freedom of expression that theatre allows."

Yet, though Nashman assumes a low key as he conveys the achievement of performing in Stratford a work that he co-created, it's clear that he is justifiably thrilled to be part of a community in which "theatre artists are really respected" and where artists take pride in craftsmanship.

Reflecting on the process of delving into the life of John Hirsch and performing him on stage, Nashman says, "I grew to love him" with full awareness that Hirsch could be monstrous as well as loving.

According to Nashman, the man was known to be nasty and demanding. He sought a high level of achievement and was not kind to those who didn't deliver. A mass of contradictions, Hirsch was highly theatrical, witty, awkward, vulnerable, generous, caring, dictatorial and ingenious.

"His approach might not be acceptable today," says Nashman. Yet, Hirsch's passion for theatre and his dedication to demonstrating how theatre can serve the human spirit continue to inspire him.

*Hirsch* runs at the Stratford Festival until Sept. 14.

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## EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

**SUMMER LITERARY & THEATRICAL COLUMN, PART ONE: *THE FRONT PAGE* AND *HIS GIRL FRIDAY REVISITED***

The phrase "gallows humour" has a particular resonance in regard to **Ben Hecht** and **Charles MacArthur's** famous 1928 play *The Front Page*, which is punctuated by the recurrent testing of a gallows in a courtyard of the Chicago courthouse on which death row prisoner Earl Williams is very soon to be hanged for murdering a policeman.

The Shaw Festival's current adaptation of *His Girl Friday* offers a good excuse to revisit the 1931 movie *The Front Page* as well as the more famous and definitive 1940 movie *His Girl Friday*, in which the lead character, ace reporter Hildy Johnson, is cast as a woman instead of a man. (Director **Billy Wilder** reverted back to a male Hildy in his 1974 version of *The Front Page*, which starred **Jack Lemmon** and **Walter Matthau**, but the result was lacklustre. "I'm against remakes in general," he later remarked, "because if a picture is good, you shouldn't remake it, and if it's lousy, why remake it? ... It was not one of my pictures I was particularly proud of.")

In the 1928 play, the male Hildy Johnson is determined to quit the newspaper racket to get married but his boss, Walter Burns, resorts to underhanded trickery to get him to stay at least long enough to cover the hanging. The action begins as Hildy makes what is supposed to be a quick farewell visit to his buddies in the courthouse press room as his fiancé and her mother wait in a taxi-cab outside.

Suddenly shots are heard and alarm bells ring: Earl Williams has escaped from his jail cell in the courthouse. (The convicted man, asked to re-enact the crime, had been inadvertently handed a loaded gun.) The adrenalin-charged reporters rush out after the story, leaving Hildy alone. A moment later the escaped prisoner clambers into the window, giving Hildy the scoop of his life.

The play's cynical and darkly humourous portrayal of newspapermen and politicians made it a great hit. The 1931 movie, starring **Pat O'Brien** as Hildy and **Adolphe Menjou** as Walter Burns, seemed to define the late-1920s American urban newsroom as a manic place where soulless reporters happily bartered their own mothers, or at least their future mother-in-laws, for a sensational story.

In *His Girl Friday*, director **Howard Hawks** brilliantly transformed the story into a screwball romance featuring a female Hildy (**Rosalind Russell**), newly divorced from newspaper editor Burns (**Cary Grant**) and about to marry a hapless insurance salesman (**Ralph Bellamy**).

The Shaw Festival's *His Girl Friday* is an adaptation by playwright **John Guare** that combines aspects of the original play with the 1931 and 1940 films, and keeps Hildy as a woman. But it doesn't respect the period: the action is set in 1939 and a few superfluous references to Hitler and the war in Europe make the characters more self-absorbed and vainglorious than necessary. More added baggage comes in the form of a shapely woman who crosses the set at key moments, interrupting the action and transforming the newsmen into howling wolves.

The cast, led by **Nicole Underhay** and **Benedict Campbell**, is superb in the delivery of the trademark rapid-fire dialogue. However, the production, directed by **Jim Mezon**, keeps up its frenetic pace for more than two and a half hours with little contrapuntal relief. As in a **Marx Brothers** film, farce and screwball comedy should be counterbalanced with at least one realistic person or situation.

Hecht and MacArthur depicted a world in which politicians and reporters are equally indifferent about social justice. It emerges that Williams was not the crazed political radical that the mayor, seeking re-election on a law-and-order platform, painted him to be. In truth, he shot the policeman by accident and in self-defence.

The reporters write stories filled with sensational lies just to sell newspapers. They urge the justice department to move the hanging from 7 to 5 a.m. so it will make the early editions. And the mayor is just as corrupt and scheming as newspaper editor Walter Burns. Found to be hiding Williams in a roll-top desk, Hildy and Walter are arrested for obstructing justice, but they beat the rap because they know the mayor had tried to stifle the governor's last-minute reprieve of Williams.

In the 1940 movie, Hildy always manages to score hard-to-get interviews and spin them into exquisite front-page stories. Alone among her colleagues, she interviews Williams in his jail cell, then tells his story sympathetically and truthfully to the world, demonstrating a compassion that sets her apart from the wolf-pack. But these essential redeeming features are lost in Guare's adaptation.

Other plays in the Shaw Festival's current season include *Ragtime, Present Laughter, A Man and Some Women, The Millionairess, Hedda Gabler, Trouble in Tahiti, Misalliance, French Without Tears, Come Back, Little Sheba*, and *Helen's Necklace*. For more information please visit shawfest.com

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• "People of the Comic Book: Jews and the Graphic Novel," with **Keith Friedlander**. Thursdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. July 26, "**Will Eisner's** *Contract with God*."Aug. 2, "**Art Spiegelman's** *Maus I*." $12, students $6. Registration, 416-924-6211, ext. 0.

• The Tony-award winning play *Two for the Seesaw*, by **William Gibson**, a rare 1950s-era Broadway hit that features a leading Jewish character. Classic Theatre Festival, Mason Theatre, 13 Victoria St., Perth Ont. (an hour from Ottawa) Until Aug. 5. www.classictheatre.ca, 877-283-1283.

• Active Seniors presents an illustrated talk about the life and work of **Picasso**. Miles Nadal JCC, Thursday Aug. 9, 1:30 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 155.

# Actor on national tour 'living her dreams'

**Cara Edell**
Special to The CJN

Mandy Striph, 24, says being Jewish influenced her career path in musical theatre.

"I didn't start taking voice lessons until the cantor at my synagogue suggested it. He told my parents that I had potential, and the voice lessons started soon thereafter."

The Ohio native, who now lives in New York City, is currently on tour with NETworks Presentations' *Beauty and the Beast*. The Disney musical just finished its run at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto on July 22.

Striph was cast in the ensemble and is also the understudy for Mrs. Potts and the Wardrobe.

"I'm very grateful for the opportunity," she said. "There are so many girls trying to do exactly what I'm doing, and somehow, I'm the lucky one that is living her dreams."

Striph moved to New York in September 2010 and auditioned for *Beauty and the Beast*. She went through a few rounds of callbacks over the next few days and was told she might hear something in a few months.

In January, she auditioned again upon request, but was "really sick and didn't do very well." In March, Striph was called in one more time.

"I got the phone call that afternoon telling me to pack my bags and join the tour. It just happened to be my dad's birthday. Nothing felt better than calling home and saying, 'Happy Birthday, dad. I got the job and we play Toledo [her hometown] next year!'"

Striph said her passion for theatre began at age three or four, when her father took her to see the stage version of *101 Dalmatians*. "He painted my face and put me in my Dalmatians T-shirt. We sat on the aisle and I was chosen from the audience to come on stage and be the watchdog for the bad guys. I had to bark when they showed up on stage to warn the other puppies. I was pretty much a goner after that. I've been doing theatre ever since."

Striph's previous roles include Logainne in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and Anita in *West Side Story*. She has starred in various productions of *Oklahoma!* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

She said she's very proud of her role as Logainne. "It's hard to play a child with a lateral lisp without making them a caricature. It was difficult and there was a lot of trial and error but I'm proud of the finished product."

Striph's training started in elementary school, where she took dance and voice lessons. In her college years, she studied at Ohio State University before deciding to audition for the musical theatre program at

**Mandy Striph**

Indiana University.

Striph completed a bachelor of fine arts in musical theatre at Indiana, and her class was the first to ever graduate with this degree from the university.

Now on her first national theatre tour, Striph said she enjoys being on the road. "I've seen so many places in both the U.S. and Canada. I've experienced such crazy things, including being trapped between avalanches in Alaska, which I would never have dreamed would happen to me."

She said her *Beauty and the Beast* cast members are some of her closest friends. "I can't imagine traipsing around the continent with anybody else."

While Striph is thrilled to be working as an actress, she said the theatre industry can be very intimidating.

"The biggest challenges are always in my head. It's hard to walk into a room where there are 400 girls and 200 of them look exactly like you. It's difficult to convince yourself that you are special and you have something that none of the other girls have. It's very much mind over matter."

She said her biggest goal is to continue to get hired. "I'd love to be on Broadway some day, singing and dancing my heart out. I'd love to try film and TV acting. The coolest thing I want to do is be a voice actor for a Pixar or Disney movie."

Asked about advice she has for aspiring actors, Striph said, "Don't give up. If this is what makes you happy, then don't give up. Also, know your type. Know realistically what parts you would play and go to auditions that are appropriate for that. It will make your life easier and it will make it easier for casting directors to cast you as well."

Striph said her friends and family have always been supportive of her career choices. "When *Beauty and the Beast* played in my hometown, all of my friends that are still there were so excited to see that I was actually doing this as a career and that I was making it in a competitive field."

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# CFL commish sees opportunities in Toronto

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

If you turn on your TV and tune in to one of the CFL games this weekend, you'll have plenty of company. On average, 800,000 Canadians watch a typical game of three-down football.

Turn it on during the Grey Cup and you'll be one of five or six million Canadians enjoying the fall classic.

Mark Cohon is all smiles as he relates that information, and he's even more excited about the season that just kicked off.

As commissioner of the CFL, you'd expect him to be, but unlike predecessors who were constantly putting out fires, saving franchises or, if you go back far enough, watching U.S. franchises dissolve, he's got pretty good reason to smile.

The CFL is now into its 100th season, and the league's head office has planned a number of events to celebrate the milestone, culminating with the Grey Cup in Toronto on Nov. 25.

The Grey Cup game, Cohon proudly points out, is already sold out. In advance of the contest, a train will ferry the actual trophy – named after the same governor-general who gave his name to the famous tea – to 100 communities across the country, beginning in early September.

There are other celebratory events on tap, Cohon continued: Canada Post is issuing a commemorative stamp in honour of the game; the league will publish a book recounting the game's history, and TSN, which owns the broadcast rights to the game, will present eight films that relate the league to important social events in Canadian history, such as Chuck Ealey's arrival as the first black quarterback in the CFL.

"The films will reflect what was going on in the country," Cohon said in an interview in the league's downtown Toronto office.

In a sort of "state of the league" review, Cohon said the CFL is on firm financial footing. Western franchises are pretty healthy: Saskatchewan registered a $6 million profit last year, while Winnipeg earned in the neighbourhood of $2.5 million.

Mark Cohon

Instead of past concerns over the viability of franchises, the league is looking to grow: Ottawa is slated to get a franchise in 2014, and legal efforts to derail renovation of the city's Lansdowne Park facility have failed.

Testifying to the league's strength are new stadiums going up in Winnipeg and Hamilton, while ownership is stable across the league, even if you consider that one owner, David Braley, owns two franchises, the B.C. Lions and the Toronto Argonauts, he said.

"Braley has been a champion of the league for 20 years," Cohon said. "He's invested in the league through tough times… His heart is in the right place."

And, there is precedent for dual ownership of franchises. As commissioner, he continued, his job is to ensure that "the integrity of the game is in place."

So when proponents of a "conspiracy theory" argue that the league was behind a seemingly one-side trade that sent Edmonton Eskimos all-star Ricky Ray to the Toronto Argonauts for journeyman QB Steven Jyles, kicker Grant Shaw and Toronto's first pick, in the 2012 Canadian college draft, Cohon stresses that he only approves trades, he doesn't make them.

And if there was a conspiracy behind the trade – supposedly to strengthen Toronto and get them into the Grey Cup game at home – it didn't pan out in the first week of play. In a head-to-head match up in Edmonton, the Eskimos defeated the Argos, despite the disparity at quarterback, by a 19-15 margin.

But certainly there is something to the view that Toronto remains the league's weak link. News of the Argos is usually relegated to somewhere in the middle or back of the newspaper sports section, and the Rogers Centre is usually half-filled at best – attendance averaged 20,000 fans in 2011, with capacity being 45,000.

There seems to be no buzz about the team, as Torontonians gaze enviously south hoping to land an NFL team. And as Winnipeg head coach Paul LaPolice remarked last season, playing football in Rogers Centre is like playing in a mall.

(Former Bombers lineman Doug Brown put it this way, last year, citing LaPolice: "He said it was like playing in a mall, where you can hear the elevator music and people are screaming for their kids and you hear the shoppers milling around and stuff like that.")

Ever the optimist, Cohon does not like to use the term "challenge" when discussing the Argos. He's more positive in his evaluation: "The biggest opportunity is here in Toronto," he said instead.

Steps have been taken to address the issue of fan support.

The team held its pre-season game in the middle of the afternoon, to attract school kids. Some 30,000 showed up. The club has also undertaken an anti-bullying campaign, and there's an effort under way to reach out to new Canadians, Cohon said.

The team is attempting to improve its on-field product by bringing in Ray, and it's increasing its media footprint by focusing on player personalities such as receiver Chad Owens, running back Cory Boyd, Ray and others, he added.

Now if all that can translate into higher ratings and greater attendance, Cohon might no longer have to sidestep questions about challenges, as the opportunities will really have materialized.

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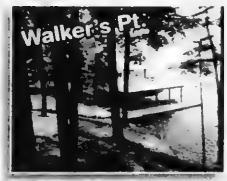


**100' Lake Muskoka**

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# French youth unaware of WWII Jewish roundup

JTA

**PARIS** – Most young Frenchmen never heard of the World War II roundup of Paris Jews, a survey shows.

The recent survey showed most young French adults were unaware of the deportation of Parisian Jews during the Holocaust.

Sixty per cent of respondents aged 18 to 24 said they never heard of the Vel d'Hiv Roundup of July 16-17, 1942, when French police rounded up some 13,000 Jews in and around Paris. They were held near the Eiffel Tower before being shipped for extermination to Auschwitz.

The Union of French Jewish Students commissioned the leading polling company CSA to perform the survey, which includes answers from 1,056 respondents. The union published the results on the 70th anniversary of the deportation.

The survey showed young adults know less about the roundup than the average French adult. Among the general population, 42 per cent of respondents had never heard of the roundup.

In 1995, then-President Jacques Chirac apologized for the French police's role in the murder of the Jews arrested in the Vel d'Hiv Roundup. Popularly known in French as La Rafle (The Raid), the roundup has been the subject of books, poems and movies.

Dr. Richard Prasquier

The survey revealed 32 per cent of young French adults knew that French police had been responsible for arresting the Jews of Paris. That figure was 46 per cent among the general population.

Eighty-five per cent of all respondents said teaching about the Holocaust was "important."

Dr. Richard Prasquier, president of the CRIF umbrella group of French Jewish communities, said the poll shows "there is a lot that needs to be done, but there are also positive points."

Meanwhile, an exhibit of police archives from the French deportation, including photos, signatures and records of personal possessions from many of the victims, went on display last week in Paris.

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HEEBONICS

# MBA student mixes business with science

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

When David Kideckel began his doctorate in neuroimaging, the study of images of the brain, he realized that there were more ways to approach science than he once thought.

Kideckel wanted to learn about the business side of science. Now, with his PhD in hand, he's carving a path in an exciting, emerging field by combining his science expertise with his business know-how.

The 32-year-old scientist won a prestigious Science to Business Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), which has sent him back to school for a master of business administration in health-care management and consulting at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.

He is completing the program part-time while maintaining a full-time job at Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and caring for his 3-1/2-year-old daughter, Ora, with his wife, Sari.

"It's certainly an exercise in time management," Kideckel said with a laugh. But, despite his busy schedule, he finds time to run marathons as a hobby and to spend quality time with his family.

Making the time to combine his passions for science and business has been an important part of Kideckel's life since he began his doctorate.

Kideckel, who is originally from Winnipeg, quickly realized that there were many opportunities for people willing to acquire knowledge and skills in science and business, but that students weren't eager to crossover academic disciplines.

"It's just that, traditionally, in academia, so many different departments are in their own silos," he said, explaining that the traditional university setting can make it difficult for students to explore interests in different subjects simultaneously.

Kideckel admitted that when he first became interested in pursuing business he was met with some resistance from other people in his field. "To push the more business side of things in science was a challenge," he said.

**David Kideckel rests after finishing the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon. When he's not busy working or going to school for his MBA, Kideckel enjoys running and spending time with his family.**

Not only, he explained, did many people in the sciences prefer to stick to their own discipline, but most of those who did have other interests didn't want to go through the struggle of finding a way to study something completely new.

"A lot of students are just too comfortable with the status quo," Kideckel said.

But the status quo didn't cut it for him.

Where many students might have stuck to one field in order to simplify their studies, Kideckel was adamant about adding business skills to his life-science expertise, and he began to chase every possibility that would let him do so.

"I guess I've always had an entrepreneurial spirit," he said.

To build his leadership and business abilities, Kideckel served on the Institute of Medical Science Students' Association (IMSSA) council for three years and was elected its president during the last year of his doctoral studies at U of T.

He co-founded and served as vice-president of U of T's Graduate Management Consulting Association, and he also interned on the business development end for two biotech start-ups, one of which was run out of Canadian innovation hothouse MaRS.

Kideckel's keen interest and hard work also led him to be selected as one of three Canadians to take part in a Novartis International Biotechnology Leadership event in Cambridge, Mass., in 2009. Novartis, based in Switzerland, is one of the biggest multinational pharmaceutical companies in the world.

With his experience in the business end of the scientific world, Kideckel decided to apply for the CIHR Science to Business scholarship, designed for people who have their doctorate in the sciences, and he's now in the first year of his MBA.

"It's been really great," Kideckel said of his experience so far in the program. He attends classes two mornings per week from 7 to 9 a.m. before heading to work.

The additional business skills he is acquiring at school, he said, help him to be even more effective in his work environment, and to make the most of his science background. "I'm able to understand and apply the science in ways that people without the science background wouldn't necessarily be able to," he said.

Kideckel is urging other people who have studied science to follow in his footsteps, both for the potential to make major contributions to people's lives and health through science and for the chance to help develop an emerging field.

"It's an untapped area with tons of potential," he said, explaining that people are still catching on to this new field with its many career opportunities.

The combined skill set allows people to work in areas like intellectual property, patent law, research, innovation and the commercialization of scientific breakthroughs.

"There's a huge demand for this," Kideckel said, adding that these careers continue to be vital and the opportunities for them are available, even in a tough economic climate.

Kideckel is determined to make it easier for students to prepare for this career path. During his time as president of the IMMSA, he began working toward his goal of creating a joint PhD-MBA program. His hard work and campaigning has paid off, as U of T is planning to implement the unique joint program in the coming years.

For young people thinking about going the science-to-business route, Kideckel has some important words of advice.

"Network as much as you can to really hear first hand from people what their experiences were," he said, adding that it is also important to get involved in campus organizations and committees related to your interests.

For Kideckel, nothing beats the hands-on experience of getting involved and pursuing your goals.

"I believe in doing something and not just reading about it."

*More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca*

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# But will it be kosher?

How often have you been at a community fundraiser or life-cycle event such as a wedding or a bar or bat-mitzvah and been asked the question, "Do you want the beef or the chicken?"

You probably don't think about the environmental impact of putting meat on a plate, and you probably aren't thinking about the kashrut of emerging meat production methods.

A 2006 report put out by the United Nations, Food and Agricultural Organization claimed that meat production was one of the major contributors to global environmental degradation.

*Sustainable Jew*

*Fred Winegust*

The report said that livestock raised for meat uses 30 per cent of global ice-free terrestrial land and eight per cent of global freshwater, while producing 18 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, which is more than the entire global transportation sector.

One of the speakers at this year's annual Ideacity conference, held in mid-June in Toronto, touched on research she is involved with that could have a positive impact on these numbers.

Daisy van der Schaft is an assistant professor in the department of biomedical engineering at Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands. Her presentation focused on reducing the negative environmental impact of meat production by growing animal muscle tissue in vitro instead of growing whole animals.

This technology is called cultured meat (or in vitro meat) production, and it's currently in the research stage at a number of laboratories around the world that are producing small quantities of cultured meat. Large-scale production requires further research and development.

In addition to environmental impacts, cultured meat has other potential benefits compared to conventionally produced meat.

Cultured meat can prevent the spread of animal-borne diseases and has the potential to reduce diseases that result from human-animal contact. As well, because it's being developed in a controlled environment, the manipulation of nutritional, textural and taste profiles is possible. For example, by controlling the quantity and quality of fat, nutrition-related illnesses such as cardiovascular diseases can be reduced.

As science fiction moves toward science fact, the question that kept coming to mind was whether this type of meat would be considered kosher.

I reached out to Rabbi Mordecai Torczyner, head of the Yeshiva University Torah-MiTzion Beit Midrash in Toronto and posed a few questions.

- Would the meat be considered kosher if the cells were taken from a kosher animal?
- Would this "grown meat" be considered pareve or fleishig?
- Where in the process would kosher supervision need to be applied?

Rabbi Torczyner indicated that until this type of "meat plant" is approved for human consumption by groups charged with food safety and health, such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, it's unlikely that any kashrut certification body will provide any definitive guidance.

"Hypothetically," he added, "the kosher certification authority would need to review the processes involved and determine the original source of the meat and its derivation from actual animal cells, or synthetic materials replicating the DNA structure."

Cheaper and environmentally sustainable kosher meat may still be a few years away. But we can dream, can't we?

*winegust@gmail.com*

GARLIC FRIES

8 garlic cloves, minced
6 tbsp olive oil
3 russet potatoes, each cut into 12 wedges
3 tbsp cornstarch
1 1/2 tsp coarse sea salt
1 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
½ tsp garlic powder
1/4 tsp cayenne pepper

Preheat oven to 440° F. Combine garlic and oil in large bowl. warm in microwave until garlic is fragrant, about 1 min. Transfer 5 tbsp oil (leaving garlic in bowl) to baking sheet covered with parchment paper, coating it well. Add potatoes to the bowl with garlic mixture; toss to coat. Cover bowl in plastic wrap and microwave on high 3-6 min. until potatoes are translucent, shaking bowl to redistribute the potatoes halfway through cooking.

Combine cornstarch, salt, pepper, garlic powder, cayenne in small bowl. Sprinkle over hot potatoes; toss well to coat. Arrange potatoes in single layer on prepared baking sheet. Bake, turning once, until deep golden brown and crisp, 30-40 min.

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## On cjnews.com

*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

Daniel Ben Simon, a Labor party member of Knesset, says the most serious issue in Israel now is social inequality.

Martin Gray

Holocaust survivor and author Martin Gray, who grew up in Warsaw, talks about why he feels he still has to keep fighting racism and antisemitism.

***Exclusive to cjnews.com***

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa writes about how the summer is the sweetest time for families to reunite.

*The CJN*'s intern Michelle Bitran reports on an Israeli wine-tasting fundraiser held by the Jewish Urban Meeting Place (JUMP).

German Chancellor Angela Merkel vows to defend the rights of Jews and Muslims to practise circumcision in her country.

# A nail in the coffin for Yiddish

**Hindy Nosek-Abelson**

Guest Voice

I was shocked to read in *The CJN* that UJA Federation of Greater Toronto chose to drive a nail into the coffin of Yiddish by withdrawing all support ("Federation cuts Yiddish funding," July 12).

It appears, however, that to placate lobbyists, federation decided to fund the Committee for Yiddish by far less than the $36,000 they gave before, claiming that Holocaust survivors, Jewish education and Israel are a bigger priority. This doesn't makes sense.

Let's start with Holocaust survivors. Yiddish is the mother tongue of the majority of survivors of the Shoah. Has federation asked the dwindling number of survivors how they feel about the fact that the language they argued, laughed, cried, made love in, and breathed on a daily basis could now die with them, simply because Yiddish isn't a federation priority?

Is that because our community leaders are leaving the near-sighted to lead the blind? Or do they not care? Either way, thanks to them, the language of Holocaust survivors will likely accompany them to the grave.

Federation's other stated priority is Jewish education. Yiddish is more than 1,000 years old. It's embedded in every Jewish struggle and accomplishment of the last millennium. It's the voice with which our ancestors speak to us.

To hear what life was like at the turn of the 20th century, to hear what a pogrom felt like, to understand how the Bolshevik Revolution affected Jewish society, to teach about the vast number of political movements that sprang up between the wars requires access to thousands of Yiddish books and films.

The joy of learning songs their ancestors sang or seeing films they watched will bring children as close to their heritage as expensive trips or outreach programs. With Yiddish, they'll see how Jewish secular life then compared to secular Jewish existence today and be inspired to make changes. Women's rights, the Enlightenment, tradition, sexual revolutions, gangsters, philosophers, scholars, musicians, playwrights, drunks, saints and sinners – it's all relevant, rich, unsanitized and real. And it's right there for us in Yiddish.

Yiddish reflected and shaped our Jewish character. Without Yiddish, Jewish education becomes woefully inadequate, capable only of transmitting all there is to know about Jewish persecution but next to nothing about Jewish joy, life and culture. Is that the Jewish education federation wants?

Finally, federation's other priority, Israel. Thankfully, we've reached the point where we need Israel as much as it needs us. They're right. We do have to expose youth to Israel. However, it's not an either/or situation, as federation seems to imply by the decision to offer less support to the Yiddish committee. There is more than one path to Jewish hearts and minds. We also need to learn about Jewish history in the Galut (Diaspora).

If federation really cared about Holocaust survivors, education and Jewish identity, they wouldn't cut Yiddish funding. They'd increase it and make Yiddish one of the tools in a "complete Jewish education" kit.

My parents taught me never to give Adolf Hitler a posthumous victory. Hitler did his best to kill Yiddish and almost succeeded. Shamefully, federation now appears quite willing to allow it to die.

*Hindy Nosek-Abelson is a Yiddish speaker who lives in Toronto.*

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Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf
Staff Reporter

When the space shuttle Endeavour finally lifts off on NASA's penultimate shuttle flight later this month, for many Israelis, it will symbolize the continuing journey of astronaut Ilan Ramon.

The Endeavour is tentatively scheduled to launch no earlier than May 16, with ... space shuttle ... when the ... exploded on re-entry from orbit on Feb. 1, 2003.

On a visit to Toronto last week, Asaf Agmon, CEO of Israel's Fisher Brothers Institute for Air & Space Strategic Studies – a non-profit organization that ... receives funding from the Israeli Ministry of science and works with NASA to bring Israeli experiments into space – said the Endeavour mission will carry two Israeli bio-medical experiments into space, one of which is a "legacy project" from Ramon's Columbia mission.

"There were more than 400 experiments on the Columbia. Only nine ...

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## This Week

National

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**Blind Israeli** golfer wins world championship. *Page 19*

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**Indie filmmaker** values art over profit. *Page 32*

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**Novels inspire** student's anti-hunger campaign. *Page 38*

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US. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney took some time from his visit with Israeli and Palestinian leaders earlier this week to place a note in the Kotel. [*Flash90 photo*]

# Romney calls Jerusalem Israel's capital

**Barak Ravid**
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

**JERUSALEM** — Former Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said that Mitt Romney's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital was "unacceptable."

Erekat said that Romney's statement during a policy speech on Sunday, in which the U.S. Republican presidential candidate said that Jerusalem is "the capital of Israel," goes against years of U.S. policy. The status of Jerusalem is one of the most sensitive issues in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, as both sides claim it as a capital.

"At the end of the day, the U.S. has interests in this region. It has embassies in 57 Arab and Muslim countries," Erekat told the *Associated Press*. "I don't think they will sacrifice everything for such statements, mere disturbing statements that will strengthen extremists in the region."

Erekat helped negotiate the Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestinians in 1993 and resigned as Palestinian chief negotiator in 2011. He remains an aide to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

On Sunday and Monday, as part of a trip to Israel, Romney met with several Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Shimon Peres. He also met with Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. He did not meet with Abbas, nor did he mention the Palestinians once during Sunday's policy speech.

During his speech on Sunday, Mitt Romney slammed his Democratic rival, contrary to his promise not to criticize the U.S. president on foreign soil, saying public expressions of diplomatic distance is damaging to Israel.

"Diplomatic distance that is public and critical emboldens Israel's adversaries," said Romney, alluding to the Obama administration's stance on Israel.

Romney's speech followed a day spent meeting Israel's leaders on his official visit to the country.

Romney opened his speech by saying it was a "moving experience to be in Jerusalem," which he described as, "Israel's capital."

**Continued on page 28**

**Va'etchanan**
**Candlelighting: 8:20**
**Havdalah: 9:21**
*Greater Toronto Area*

*Still searching for a pan-European Jewish identity – please see page 29*

## Canada

### Morgan Sworn In

**TORONTO** — Former Canadian Jewish Congress president Ed Morgan was sworn in last week as a judge of the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto. Morgan had been a professor at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law since 1986. He practised with Davies Ward & Beck from 1989 to 1997, focusing on commercial litigation, constitutional litigation, private international law and human rights law. He was president of Congress from 2004 to 2007. The American-born Morgan holds a BA from Northwestern University, a bachelor of laws from U of T and a master of laws from Harvard University.

### CTV Defends Music

**TORONTO** — CTV defended a decision by its Ottawa CTV Two station to let a local band play an anti-Israel song on its morning show. The all-female acoustic trio Three Little Birds sang a song titled *Apartheid* during its June 18 appearance, the pro-Israel media watchdog HonestReporting Canada said. The group was on *Morning Live* to promote a new album and a show at the Ottawa Jazz Festival. The band said it wrote the song "in response to the banning of a poster at Carleton University that depicted the bombardment of Gaza in 2008-2009." CTV regional vice-president Richard Gray said it's not uncommon for bands to make political statements "and also not something we are overly concerned about… creating controversy is what musicians often do."

## World

### Heavy Metal Hack

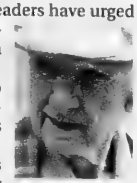
**OSLO** — An Iranian nuclear scientist told a Finnish cybersecurity expert via email that a virus caused the AC/DC song *Thunderstruck* to play from computers at two Iranian nuclear plants. Computers at the Nantaz and Fordo facilities reportedly blasted the heavy metal song at full volume in the middle of the night last month. The virus also shut down part of the network. Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer at the Finnish security firm F-Secure, who got the emails, couldn't confirm the reports.

### Demography Dispute

**NEW YORK** — A leading Jewish demographer is disputing findings of a widely cited recent survey on New York Jewry. Len Saxe, of Brandeis University, told the *New York Jewish Week* that the survey overestimated the number of Orthodox Jews in the city. He agreed with the finding that the city's overall Jewish population has grown. The survey found about 1.5 million Jews live in New York City and two surrounding counties, and that one-third are Orthodox. The survey was done for UJA-Federation of New York and released in June. Saxe said that data on the Orthodox clashed with data reported by the Avi Chai Foundation in 2009 on the number of Orthodox children in day schools. Steven M. Cohen, one of the study's authors told the *Jewish Week* that "the main contours of our findings" were correct.

### Alleged War Criminal's Extradition Sought

**BRATISLAVA** — Slovakian Jewish leaders have urged Hungary to extradite an alleged Holocaust war criminal who was once a Canadian citizen.



Laszlo Csizsik-Csatary

Laszlo Csizsik-Csatary, 97, came to Canada in 1949 and obtained citizenship in 1955. He left in 1997, 10 years after his past came to light.

He's accused of sending 15,700 Jews to their deaths in 1944, as an officer at the time in the Hungarian Royal Police. His town, Kosice, then part of Hungary, is now part of Slovakia.

The extradition call came from the Slovakian Federation of Jewish Communities. Last month, after being tipped off to his location by reporters from a British tabloid, Hungarian authorities placed Csizsik-Csatary under house arrest and charged him with "unlawful torture of human beings." He faces life in prison.

In 1948, Czechoslovakia sentenced him in absentia to death. Slovakia's justice minister is reviewing the case.

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# Yemen Blues, Socalled headline Ashkenaz

**Susan Minuk**
Special to The CJN

Israeli world-music superstars Yemen Blues and Shye Ben Tzur, and Canadian Jewish-roots music innovators Socalled and Finjan are among the headliners at the ninth biennial Ashkenaz Festival, which kicks off Aug. 28 and runs through the Labour Day weekend.

Late-night, east European blowouts with Russia's Opa and Toronto's Lemon Bucket Orkestra, plus a tour de force production of *The Corpse Bride* by Toronto's Theatre Panik, are also among the highlights.

"We want to be a giant tent that anyone – Jewish and non-Jewish – can sit under and enjoy and be entertained," said Eric Stein, Ashkenaz Foundation's artistic director.

"Originally a stage for Yiddish and klezmer revival artists to share their talents with other performers and the Jewish community at large, we've now broadened our mix of programming to include a vast range of pan-Jewish and cross-cultural art and performers. The festival reflects as much of our own city's multicultural flavour, as it does the diversity and vibrancy in Jewish artistic creation worldwide."

The Ashkenaz Festival is the largest Jewish cultural event in Canada where local and international artists come together to celebrate Toronto's diverse cultural communities.

The festival offers a world-class program of music, film, theatre, dance, literature, craft and visual arts, with nearly all the programming provided free. Ashkenaz draws an attendance of some 60,000 people from as far away as Europe, Israel and the United States.

**Continued on page 15**

**Theatre Panik is staging a production of *The Corpse Bride*. *[Paul Lambert photo]***

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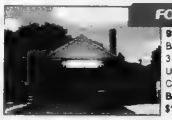
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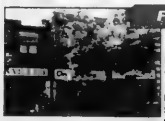
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# *London, but no Olympic spirit*

*From the editor's desk...*

The 2012 Summer Olympics opened last week in a festival of pomp and pageantry for which the British are so notably and justifiably famous. London was a fairy-tale postcard of spectacle, grandeur, light, sound, music and fireworks.

For athletes, promoters, organizers, the British government, television networks, sponsors and billions of viewers around the world, all seemed well and right on the storied, historic streets of London.

But barely three weeks earlier, a different pageant ran its course on the cold cobblestone network of old London.

The General Synod of the United Church of England voted by large majorities among its bishops, clergy and lay leaders to endorse the work of the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI).

Despite its lofty title, the EAPPI inculcates the most brazen of anti-Israel and even anti-Jewish behaviour in the "graduates" of its program and in the countless individuals whom they influence. The very first words of the EAPPI's website set off alarm bells in the mind of the experienced reader of anti-Israel propaganda: "The EAPPI brings internationals to the West Bank to experience life under occupation." And so on.

The ubiquitous reference to "peace" in the numerous entries on the website cannot mask, indeed care little to mask, the anti-Israel orientation of the organization.

The editorialist of the London *Jewish Chronicle* referred to the group as being "grotesquely partisan." The president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Vivian Wineman, called EAPPI "an inflammatory and partisan program" that "lacks any kind of balance. Its graduates return with simplistic and radical perspectives" who have harassed and abused Jews.

But disappointment in the church's wholehearted embrace of EAPPI was only part of the bitter fare swallowed by the Jewish community in England. Indeed, given the charged anti-Israel climate covering much of the terrain of the academic and intellectual world of Britain, the outcome was probably no surprise.

Rather, it was the manner of the rejection of the community's pleas to the Synod – brusque, crude and entirely offensive – that may have been lethal poison to inter-faith relations. As reported in the *Jewish Chronicle*, Wineman accused the Synod of "riding roughshod" over the Jewish community.

"The Jewish community does not need lessons from the Anglican Church in justice and peace," Wineman added in equal measures of anger and pain. A week before the Synod meeting, Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks warned that uncritical endorsement of EAPPI would do "serious damage to Jewish-Christian relations."

Jonathan Arkush, senior vice-president of the Board of Deputies, told the *Chronicle* that he was as troubled by the language used in the debate as in its outcome. The language, Arkush said, evoked "nothing but simple antisemitic themes from history."

The propounder of the motion that launched the debate, Rev. John Dinnen, set the revealingly disheartening tone by touching upon all of the familiar, vulgar tropes.

The *Chronicle* explained the significance of the vote: "No one should be in any doubt about what is going on here. A debate about Israel in which speakers refer to 'powerful lobbies,' the money supposedly spent by Jews on lobbying, 'Jewish-sounding names' and the actions of Jews 'bringing shame on the memory of victims of the Holocaust' is not a debate about Israel. It is a debate about Jews."

And that is precisely the point that has been made for many years now by many scholars and observers, including Irwin Cotler and Irving Abella, about the obsessive, single-minded, fanatical, near pathological focus upon Israel. In many cases it is propelled by an unsubtle antisemitism. For such critics of the Jewish state, Israel is "the Jew" among nations that – just as individual Jews were throughout most of European history - must be isolated, punished, excoriated and despised.

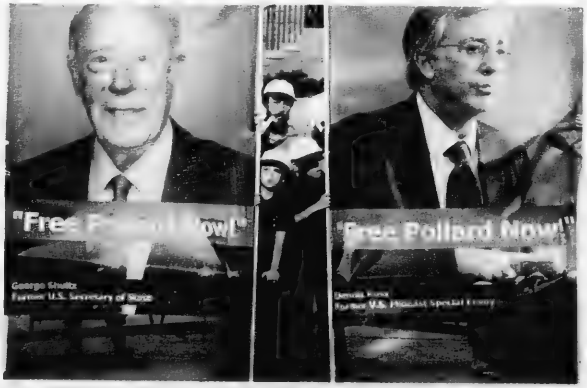
Finally, as noted by the *Chronicle*, "perhaps the most extraordinary comment came from the retiring Archbishop of Canterbury in his explicit comparison between the Holocaust and the deprivations of Palestinians crossing at checkpoints."

In the same edition of the *Chronicle*, there was a small news item that pro-Palestinian activists and organizers were planning to disrupt performances by Israel's famed Batsheva Dance Company at the upcoming Edinburgh International Festival.

London and the proud people of England greeted the visiting Olympic athletes last week in an effusively humanitarian spirit. It is a shame they are not extending that spirit to the Batsheva dancers later this summer and that they have never extended it to the Jewish state itself, which the dancers happen to represent.

*– MBD*

SeeJN




## URGING POLLARD'S FREEDOM

**Hoping to influence U.S. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, protesters held large posters of prominent U.S. officials who have requested the release of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard outside the Jerusalem hotel where Romney was staying. Pollard, an American civilian intelligence analyst, was sentenced to life in prison by the United States in 1987 for spying for Israel.**

*[Uri Lenz/Flash90 photo]*

# Federation staff commemorates Munich athletes

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

The State of Israel has learned two lessons from the murder of 11 Israeli coaches and athletes by Palestinian terrorists 40 years ago at the Olympics in Munich, says Yossi Tanuri, Jerusalem-based director general of UIA Federations Canada.

They are that there's no place to hold the Olympics that is safe for Israelis, and that Israelis do not depend on anyone else for their safety, Tanuri told 100 UJA Federation of Greater Toronto staff members at a commemoration July 27.

Speaking at a brief ceremony at the Lipa Green Centre on the opening day of the London Games, he said that every Israeli child knows about Munich.

He tells his own children that they are part of a larger community. "The Olympic Games were supposed to symbolize that. This is where all nations, colours and religions get together to play, and to challenge each other," he said.

"In that particular spot of harmony and togetherness happened one of the worst times in the history of the State of Israel, the Jewish people, and also of world sports."

Tanuri said he learned recently that Munich was the impetus for former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin to launch the raid on Entebbe in 1976. Entebbe, in turn, was one of Tanuri's own motivations to join the IDF unit that took part in the rescue there.

Yossi Tanuri *[Frances Kraft photo]*

Jeff Springer, the federation's senior vice-president of corporate affairs, read a prayer in memory of the athletes. He noted that the International Olympic Committee, "despite heavy pressure, refused to hold a moment of silence during the games' opening ceremonies." A moment of silence was observed as part of the federation commemoration.

***Every Israeli child knows about Munich***

The ceremony concluded with the singing of *Hatikvah* as pictures of 2004 Olympic windsurfing gold medalist Gal Friedman were shown on a large screen – a reminder, according to Taali Lester Tollman, the federation's vice-president of marketing, that "Israel's Olympic history has also reached great heights."

# Academic consortium will build Mediterranean research centre

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Amos Gaver

Aaron Ben-Ze'ev

Spurred on by the recent discovery of a vast offshore natural gas reserve that's expected to serve Israel's domestic needs for the next century, a consortium of Israeli academic institutions headed by the University of Haifa has won a tender to build a world-class maritime research institute.

The National Center for Mediterranean Sea Research, which reportedly will be the only one of its kind in the Middle East, will be housed at Haifa U's Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences until it receives its own quarters.

Apart from Haifa U, the consortium consists of the Technion, Hebrew University, Bar-Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the Weizmann Institute, the Geological Survey of Israel and the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Center.

Tel Aviv University is expected to join the consortium at some point in the future, Amos Gaver, Haifa U's vice-president of external relations, said in an interview last month.

Hailing the consortium as a breakthrough in the annals of Israeli academia, Gaver said it marks the first time universities in Israel have joined forces in one grand project.

"Sea research is very expensive, and no single university alone can afford it," he explained. "So it made sense to form a consortium."

The initiative for establishing the National Centre for Mediterranean Sea Research – which will focus on such areas as gas extraction, marine infrastructure and desalination – was conceived by the Israel Academy of Sciences.

In a report, the academy called for upgrading marine research in Israel. Its recommendations were adopted by the planning and budgeting committee of Israel's Council for Higher Education.

Gaver said that recently discovered natural gas fields in the Mediterranean off the coast of Haifa and Hadera underscore the need for a new cadre of Israeli marine researchers and scientists.

By all accounts, these fields contain an estimated 16 trillion cubic feet of gas, enough to meet Israel's requirements for about 100 years. Production will start in about five years.

But in order to extract this resource cost-effectively in an environmentally responsible way, Israeli companies must master the challenge of drilling in deep waters and building pipelines to transport the gas to land facilities.

Describing the Mediterranean as "a strategic asset," Haifa U president Aaron Ben-Ze'ev has said that Israel can achieve economic independence by developing its resources.

As he put it, "The resources hidden beneath its surface can significantly strengthen Israel's energy economy, can contribute to closing social gaps and can ultimately increase Israel's political strength at home and abroad."

Until a few years ago, Gaver noted, maritime research in Israel focused mainly on the Red Sea.

But with immense fields of natural gas having been found off Israel's coastline, the Mediterranean has assumed far greater importance, he said.

"Everyone understands that the Mediterranean needs to be further explored. And maybe, this new institute can be a pathway to peace with our Arab neighbours."

Until now, Gaver said, basic scientific research in Israel has concentrated on agriculture and security-related high-tech disciplines, such as electronics.

"This was the bread and butter of Israeli research," he said.

The National Center for Mediterranean Sea Research will shift some of the focus to maritime studies, which have suffered from neglect, and train a new generation of Israelis in maritime sciences.

It will be headed by Zvi Ben-Avraham, founding director of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, the sole such institution in Israel.

Gaver, a former Jewish Agency emissary in the United States, said that $15 million will be needed to run the centre for the first three years. But additional funds will be needed to construct a separate building to house it.

Michael Meyer, director of fund-raising for Canadian Friends of Haifa University, expressed confidence that the centre will grow and prosper. "Israel has an ability to come from behind and move forward quickly."

Gaver suggested the centre may establish links with Halifax's Dalhousie University, which is currently in the process of forging academic relations with Haifa U.

Dalhousie has an internationally recognized Marine and Environmental Law Institute in its Schulich School of Law.

Last year, the Halifax Marine Research Institute was opened in the city's Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

# *CIJA accepts mayor's photo apology*

JTA

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs said last week it's satisfied with the explanation by Toronto Mayor Rob Ford that he doesn't know a white supremacist who had his photo taken with the city leader.

A picture of Jon Latvis with Ford was posted on the blog of Liberal party strategist Warren Kinsella, who titled the entry "The Toronto Mayor's Far-Right Friend."

Kinsella said Jon Latvis is a member of the neo-Nazi rock band RaHoWa, an acronym for "racial holy war."

The photo, which Kinsella found on Latvis' Facebook page and was still up last week, shows Latvis wearing a brown military uniform with the caption: "Me meeting with Toronto's Mayor, Rob Ford to get an endorsement for the Latvian Homeguard."

The picture was taken at a 2012 New Year's Levee at Toronto City Hall, Ford's office said in a July 26 statement, noting that he poses for many pictures at such events.

While the photo was being taken, Latvis requested a meeting with the mayor and the two men talked briefly this past March, but discussion was about public transportation, the mayor's office said.

The statement said that during both the levee and the meeting, Latvis identified himself by a different name.

"At no time was the mayor aware of allegations that this individual had made racist, hateful or otherwise offensive comments, nor were any such comments made during his meeting with the mayor," the statement said. "Mayor Ford is a strong supporter of Toronto's Jewish community and strongly deplores antisemitism in any form.

Commenting on his blog, Kinsella said that "the job of [the mayor's] staff is to ensure these types of incidents don't happen. Someone should lose their job over this."

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# The precious words they still cannot speak

Had the Palestinian Authority (PA) quietly and plainly said, "We support the plea of the families of the Israeli victims of the Munich Massacre for a moment of silence at the opening of the Olympic Games," how the world might now be changed.

Can one imagine how far the gesture would have gone to changing the mostly suspicious mood between the two peoples, to establishing a new footing for constructive Israeli-Palestinian relations, to changing the Palestinian paradigm of hero from terrorist to peacemaker and to pressuring the Israeli government into an act of obviously equal, demonstrably goodwill? But, alas, there was no such watershed gesture from the PA.

Rather, quite the opposite happened.

The Palestinian leadership thanked the International Olympic Committee for refusing to hold the brief commemorative ceremony. As reported by the PA's official news agency, Wafa, Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian Football Federation, sent a letter to IOC chairman Jacques Rogge thanking him for not succumbing to the Israeli pleading.

"Sports is a bridge for love, connection and relaying peace between peoples. It should not be a factor for separation and spreading racism between peoples," Rajoub, a former PA security commander, wrote in his letter.

To ensure that the sporting world clearly understood the many lovely nuanced references to reconciliation in Rajoub's inclusivist, tolerant message to Rogge, a senior PA official in Ramallah added somewhat more bluntly, more typically true to the PA way, that the Palestinians were opposed to "Israel's attempts to exploit the Olympic Games for propaganda purposes."

In his effort to sound so positively pacifist in his outlook about the nature of sports, Rajoub somehow missed the rich irony that the cold-blooded murder of the 11 Israeli coaches and athletes at the Olympic Village in Munich 40 years ago by those Palestinian champions of sports and fair play was a bit contrary to the notion of sports as "a bridge for love, connection and relaying peace between peoples."

Not surprisingly, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon condemned the PA for its characterization of the request for a moment of silence. "No, the murder of Israelis, because they are Israelis, is racist, not the request to dignify and honour them," Ayalon wrote on Facebook.

Palestinian leaders, such as Rajoub, are stuck in the stultifying muck of their own hatred. They cannot lift their feet from that black quagmire to take even the most tentative steps on a new path toward peace with the Israelis. To do that they must first speak the few but precious words: "The Israelis, too, belong in this part of the world, in their own state. We want to live side by side with them in our own state. Let's find a way to get there."

But they cannot. Until they do, their own people will continue to suffer.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

A consular delegation from the Soviet Union met with Israeli Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem, the first visit in 20 years by an official Soviet group. The Soviets said the visit was technical and of no political significance.

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## CIJA's meeting with the PA

I almost choked on my coffee reading the headline "CIJA meets with the PA in Ramallah" (July 12). Since 2008, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (formerly the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy) has failed to react to anti-Israel activities in Yellowknife, which are supported by the local United Church and city councillors. In November 2010, I alerted CIJA that British MP and Palestinian supporter George Galloway would be speaking in Yellowknife. CIJA's response was that such events usually attract only those already on side, and unless people make them an issue, they pass under the radar. CIJA added that there isn't much that can be done except to present balanced programming in a community when there are interested parties willing to do so. An unprecedented, large crowd of 300 northerners went to hear Galloway spewing lies.

In June 2012, I alerted CIJA to help counter Yellowknife's fourth annual Focus on Palestine event. CIJA's response was that they have no control or impact over activities that people do, in any community, that do not contravene the law. CIJA said that much as CIJA doesn't approve of this group's programming, it is within the group's rights to hold the event. Where CIJA could intervene, they would.

Until CIJA reacts with authority to anti-Israel activities in Canada, it is incapable of acting as the "Canadian interlocutor between Israel and the Palestinian Authority to help restart the peace plan."

**Elisabeth Gelb**
**Duncan, B.C.**

* * *

## Community leadership

British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks writes eloquently in the Perspectives piece "Seven principles of Jewish leadership" (June 21). Columnist Lawrence Hart in "Applying principles of Jewish leadership" (July 5) elaborates further on these concepts. He writes that "sadly, though there are... exceptions, we see very little of this vibrant brand of leadership... that claim to represent the 'mainstream' of the Canadian Jewish community." I see it differently. As a volunteer who gives a great deal of time to our Jewish community, I see individuals rising above politics and focusing on the challenges at hand. I have worked with both lay leaders and professional staff whose actions and behaviour reflect the vibrant leadership style that Rabbi Sacks espouses. With education and transformative attitudes, I feel confident we have the ability to grow such positive leadership even further in our Canadian Jewish community.

**Susan Steinberg**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Refugees' health care

I am writing to clarify my position on the article "Rabbis urge PM not to cut refugees' health care" (July 5). At the time the letter was written by the Toronto Board of Rabbis (TBR) on the subject of Bill C-31, I was serving as president of the board. Given the overwhelming consensus of my colleagues on this issue, I affirmatively signed the TBR letter as a leader and representative of my group. The position of the Toronto Board of Rabbis was formulated from Jewish views on social justice and religious values. The Toronto Board of Rabbis comprises rabbis who represent the fullness of the religious denominational spectrum, including Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative and Orthodox rabbis.

**Rabbi Howard Morrison**
**Past president, Toronto Board of Rabbis**

* * *

## Day school education

In response to Maja Buium's letter, "Raising kids without day school," (July 5), kol hakavod for having raised committed young Jewish adults even though they attended public school. But statistics show that intermarriage for Jewish students attending public school is much higher than for those attending Jewish day schools. The content of Jewish day-school education reaches higher levels of education than camps, synagogues, part-time Hebrew school and trips to Israel can offer. Quality Jewish education should instil in our children pride in who they are, voiding any notion of assimilation. Education increases knowledge, intelligence and power. The knowledge should empower them to address intelligently and confidently those who want to convert them and antisemites on university campuses and elsewhere.

**Rose Yunger**
**Toronto**

* * *

*For more letters, visit cjnews.com.*

### *LET THEM GO...*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

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# Ze'ev Jabotinsky's little-known anti-racist legacy

## Seventy years since his death on Aug. 4, 1940

**Rafael Medoff**
JNS.org

The popular image of the Jews who took part in battles for black civil rights is of liberal activists and idealistic college students. Yet several important early civil rights efforts in the United States and South Africa were undertaken by – of all people – officers of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, the Jewish underground militia in British Mandatory Palestine.

This week's 70th anniversary of the passing of Ze'ev Jabotinsky – founder of the Irgun and Revisionist Zionism, the nationalist right-wing challenger to the more dominant Labour Zionism – is an occasion to reflect on Jabotinsky's little-known legacy of anti-racism.

**Ze'ev Jabotinsky** *[Photo courtesy of Rafael Medoff]*

Jabotinsky – who passed away on Aug. 4, 1940 (commemorated last week on the Hebrew calendar) – was arguably the most controversial Zionist leader of his era. He was dismissed as an alarmist when he predicted that European Jews would be engulfed by antisemitism. Socialist Zionists bristled at his preference for free market economics over Marxism. Because he promoted weapons training, he was denounced as a militarist. And because he believed the Arabs would never accept a Jewish state, he was branded a racist.

Those who read Jabotinsky's writings knew those labels did not do him justice.

He envisioned a Jewish state that would have a large Arab minority alongside its Jewish majority. Arabs would have full civil, political and cultural rights, including representation in parliament, and both Arabic and Hebrew would be official languages. Moreover, he argued that if there was a Jewish prime minister, there should be a deputy Arab prime minister (and vice versa).

Jabotinsky also had more than a passing interest in the question of race relations in the United States. Following a wave of race riots that erupted in the U.S. after black boxer Jack Johnson defeated his white opponent, Jack Jeffries, in 1910, Jabotinsky wrote in the Russian periodical *Odesskie Novosti*: "In the United States, the most free republic on earth, there are ten million citizens suffering a shocking lack of rights simply because of the colour of their skin… Theatres are closed to the black man, as are hotels, railway cars and schools. He is assigned special railway cars and narrow, separate compartments on trains. Schools for black children are cheaply constructed, inadequate and dirty. The political rights of the 'free and equal' black citizen are non-existent."

Ten years later, on a visit to the United States, Jabotinsky witnessed a Ku Klux Klan march in Texas. It reinforced his disgust at racism in America. In a letter to a friend at the time, he wrote that both Jews and blacks in the U.S. would soon find it necessary to physically defend themselves against their enemies.

So perhaps it should be not be surprising that officers of the Irgun stood up for black civil rights. In early 1940, Jabotinsky sent a number of young Irgun officers from Europe and Palestine to the United States to mobilize American support for the rescue of Jewish refugees and the creation of a Jewish state. Led by Hillel Kook, using the pseudonym Peter Bergson, they organized rallies, sponsored newspaper ads, lobbied in Washington and, in 1946, staged a Broadway play to rouse support for Zionism. The play, called *A Flag is Born*, played a surprising role in the fight against racial segregation.

Starring a young Marlon Brando, *Flag* had a successful 10-week run at Manhattan's Alvin Theater (today the Neil Simon Theater) and then hit the road. A planned performance at the National Theater in Washington, D.C., in early 1947 was relocated to Baltimore's Maryland Theater because the play's author, Ben Hecht, would not permit his works to be staged at theatres that, like the National, barred blacks.

When Hecht discovered that the Maryland Theater restricted blacks to the balcony, Bergson's group and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) teamed up to protest: the NAACP threatened to picket, and a Bergson official announced he would bring two black friends to sit with him at the play. The management gave in, allowing black patrons to sit wherever they chose. NAACP leaders hailed the "tradition-shattering victory" and used it facilitate the desegregation of other Baltimore theatres.

**Jabotinsky wearing the uniforms of the Jewish Legion of the British army, with his two sisters, Bela left, and Nina.** *[Wikipedia photo]*

"I am proud," Hecht declared in a statement afterward, "that my play has been the instrument to break down one of the most un-American and undemocratic practices that has disgraced our country."

Meanwhile, Jabotinsky's followers took an interest in the fight against racism in South Africa, as well. Former Irgun commander Menachem Begin, leader of the opposition Herut party, paid his first visit to South Africa in the autumn of 1953. Hertzel Katz, an Israeli attorney who was a leader of the local branch of the Revisionist youth movement Betar, was on hand when Begin arrived in Durban. He recalls that Begin's hosts arranged for a rickshaw, the customary form of local transportation, to take him to a speaking engagement.

> ***On a visit to the United States, Jabotinsky witnessed a Ku Klux Klan march in Texas. It reinforced his disgust at racism in America***

"Begin was appalled at the thought of a black man undertaking such a degrading task," Katz told JNS.org. "He refused to ride in the rickshaw."

Harry Hurwitz, who organized Begin's visit to South Africa and later became an aide to Begin as prime minister, once recounted another memorable incident from that visit. Shortly before one of his speeches in Johannesburg, Begin learned that, according to the law, blacks would not be permitted to sit in the same meeting hall as whites. Begin refused to take the stage unless blacks were admitted, Hurwitz said. After frantic, last-minute discussions with Jewish leaders, the local authorities relented and allowed blacks to attend Begin's lecture.

As for Katz, he divided his time between Betar and the struggle against apartheid. He and fellow Betar leader Kenny Gross were active in Helen Suzman's anti-apartheid Progressive party in the 1960s and ran for Parliament as Progressive candidates in 1965. Katz also assisted in the defence of a member of the Pan-Africanist Congress accused of fighting the apartheid regime. Katz said that Jabotinsky's essay *Every Man a King*, about the inherent dignity of every human being, inspired him to see a natural connection between the Jewish fight for independence and the blacks' struggle against apartheid.

From Baltimore to Johannesburg, Jabotinsky's followers recognized that, as Ben Hecht put it, "to fight injustice to one group of human beings affords protection to every other group."

*Rafael Medoff is director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, and co-author, with Prof. Sonja Schoepf Wentling, of the new book,* Herbert Hoover and the Jews: The Origins of the "Jewish Vote" and Bipartisan Support for Israel."

# Bulgaria's sobering lessons

There we go again. It's amazing how easy the nightmare returns. We can all relate to the Israeli travellers who arrived at the beachside resort in Bulgaria, and were focused on loading their luggage onto the bus. They were there to have a good time. They weren't representing Israel or the Jewish people. But to too many people worldwide, their mere existence, let alone their good time, represented a threat – and presented an easy target.

*Gil Troy*

*in Montreal*

The suicide bomber in Burgas, Bulgaria, last month brought so many of us back to the nightmarish days of the Palestinian war against Oslo and the peace process. That dastardly ability to turn the most innocent – and universal – of activities into a particularly Israeli or Jewish bloodbath is particularly unnerving. It sends the message that no one is safe, that nothing can be normal – even though these incidents are statistically insignificant and the chances of being caught in one at any given moment are infinitesimal. But that's the terrorist's perverse but brilliant logic – take the normal and make it feel threatening, while taking the rare and making it feel common.

Equally familiar, and depressing, was the world's reaction. The United Nations spokespeople condemned the "bombing" but couldn't use the "t" word, terrorism, because that would impute a moral judgment and would ruin their track record of cowardice and moral sloppiness. The Bulgaria massacre occurred the same week that even the United States was collaborating in the latest UN farce, a counter-terrorism conference that excluded Israel.

Underlying this dance is the decades-old blame game. Israel is deemed guilty of "occupation," therefore acts against Israel are not considered terrorism. But not labelling attacks on Israelis as terrorism enables it, even implicitly justifying violence against the most innocent of people doing the most innocuous of activities. No citizen of any country, no matter what the country does or does not do, should be subjected to the horrors the Israeli vacationers in Bulgaria endured. Such collective "punishment," which is actually mass targeting, is evil.

The terrorists and their enablers disprove the truism that terrorism doesn't work – it certainly worked for the Palestinians. For decades, the Palestinians bombed and kidnapped their way onto the world stage. Each terrorist attack prompted American tut-tuts about terrorism not working while raising the Palestinian profile. And yet, Palestinians must realize they've reached the point of diminishing returns.

The so-called "peace camp" or Zionist and non-Zionist "left" – both problematic labels – need a new mantra: being pro-terrorism is anti-peace. Terrorism undermines mutual trust, diminishes any kind of peace process, making compromise all the more difficult. Compromise cannot come amid moral outrage or evil acts. If all Israelis and Jews feel targeted, we'll go into a defensive crouch, rather than an expansive embrace.

By contrast, consider the sequence of the 1990s. In 1991, as Communism fell, the UN repealed its heinous "Zionism is racism" resolution. All of a sudden, the tone in the Middle East shifted. The road to Oslo began in New York, meaning the road to the boldest, most substantive attempt at Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation began with a shift in tone. This shift had to do with the war of words – delegitimization. Terrorism feeds off the delegitimization of Israel and dehumanization of Israelis. The war of words must end along with the Palestinians' total war against Israeli and Jewish civilians.

We hear a lot about Israel's "occupation" and "the settlements." More and more, even in Jewish circles, Israel is being blamed for the impasse with the Palestinians. But it's worth contemplating the last few years from the perspective of Burgas. Quiet is good, and not to be taken for granted. Maybe rather than constantly lamenting the Israeli-Palestinian stalemate, we can appreciate the stability that has emerged as a necessary precondition to more dramatic progress.

Too many Israelis, Palestinians and other onlookers want the quick win, the peace agreement achieved standing on one foot. But real progress will come incrementally. Trust must be built, not decreed. Stability is our friend, violence our foe. I for one was sorry not to hear Palestinian voices or even many voices on the left condemning the Burgas bombing. This was an easy opportunity to take a moral position and build trust. Their difficulty in even making this gesture demonstrates just how far the Palestinians – and their fellow travellers – still have to go.

# *Filling our jars*

Stephen Covey in *The Seven Habits* book series tells the following story: An expert was speaking to a group of business students. He stood in front of the high-powered over-achievers and said, "Okay, time for a quiz." Then he pulled out a one-gallon, wide-mouthed mason jar and set it on a table in front of him. He produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar.

When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar full?"

Everyone in the class said, "Yes."

Then he said, "Really?" He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel into the jar and shook it, causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks.

Then he smiled and asked the group once more, "Is the jar full?"

By this time the class was onto him. "Probably not," one of them answered.

"Good!" he replied. And he brought out a bucket of sand. He started pouring in the sand and it went into all the spaces between the rocks and the gravel.

Once more he asked, "Is this jar full?"

"No!" the class shouted.

"Good!" he said again.

He grabbed a pitcher of water and poured it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked up at the class and asked, "What's the point of this illustration?"

One student raised his hand and said, "No matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things into it!"

"No," the speaker replied, "in fact, that's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is that if you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all. Remember – big rocks in first."

Once you have a jar full of big rocks, you can pour the pebbles over them, and the pebbles will fill in the spaces that the big rocks have left. What a life lesson for us: if we fill the jars of our lives with the pebbles, we will always struggle to find room for the big rocks. But if we fill the jars of our lives with the big rocks first, the pebbles will fill in the gaps.

I've been thinking a lot about this scenario lately. Summer seems like a time when we all are less anxious, less stressed. We seem to be more able let go of the many minor annoyances that have turned, in our mind, into major catastrophes. All year long, everything in our lives seems to be such a big deal. After awhile, we start to believe it really *is* a big deal. We run around trying to solve problems that have no solution, wanting to fix things that may not be able to be fixed. So much worry, so little time.

*Rabbi Elyse Goldstein*

*in Toronto*

This spiritual angst clutters up the mind and soul, and leaves little energy or room for the true drama of being alive. But in the summer, we often breathe more easily, giving ourselves the freedom to enjoy more, and to get to all the little projects we haven't had time for in the winter months.

They come beckoning with the lazy, long days of July and August. One of our projects that always seems to be on the back burner is the thoughtful process of being more aware of our lives, our limited time on this earth and our life priorities. The jar usually stands on the shelf, waiting to be the centre of our attention while we worry about car pools, groceries and which movie star is divorced again from which model. Filling our jars with tiny pebbles helps us ignore the calling of the bigger stuff – a handy excuse, an easy way out.

It feels as if we are forever rearranging the rocks but putting the small ones in first, time and again, and then wondering why there's no more room. We need to refocus our energy, and summer can be the right time to start. No school, vacation from work, the holidays not here yet. If the big rocks are the important things in our lives, let the summer freedom ask us what will fill up our jars next year.

# A Jewish businessman in a Muslim land

Throughout the Middle East, Turkish firms are busy building roads, railway lines, bridges, dams, oil and gas pipelines, airports, hospitals, hotels, schools, petrochemical and power plants and waste water treatment facilities.

The Alarko group of 22 companies has been in the forefront of establishing commercial bridgeheads for Turkey in the region and has thereby played an integral role in bolstering Turkey's growing importance and influence in the Mideast.

With 6,400 employees and revenues of a little more than $1 billion last year, Alarko Holding is one of Turkey's biggest conglomerates, being active in 25 countries.

The man behind it, Ishak Alaton, a Turkish Jew from an old Istanbul family, is one of Turkey's most prominent businessmen.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Istanbul*

Now a spry 85, Alaton is honorary chairman of the board. "I've left the running of the company to professionals and the second generation," he said, referring to technocrats and family members such as his 49-year-old son, Vedat, the chair of the board, and his 51-year-old daughter, Leyla, who handles public relations.

Chuckling, he added self-deprecatingly, "I became obsolete and unnecessary. No one in the company really needs me anymore."

A high school graduate, Alaton co-founded Alarko in 1954 with his friend and partner, Uzeyir Garih, who was stabbed to death in a random crime on Aug. 25, 2001. "It was like a tile falling from a roof," he mused. "He was murdered by a common criminal, who stole his wallet and cell phone. He was in the wrong place at the wrong time."

"We were the two founders," he recalled in an interview in his office on the shores of the Bosphorus, the strait that separates Europe from Asia. "We started from scratch."

He and Garih, also a Jew, worked out of a single room after founding Alarko nearly 60 years ago, and methodically turned it into one of Turkey's leading enterprises. A public company, Alarko is listed on the Istanbul Stock Exchange, but 70 per cent of its shares are owned by the Alaton and Garih families.

"We began as a heating contractor," said Alaton, an open, friendly man who's fond of ushering visitors to his balcony to show off a stunning view of the high bridge that connects Europe to Asia's land mass. "We diversified into manufacturing fans, heating batteries and air conditioners. It was a slow, steady development. We are highly conservative and averse to risk. We're very cautious in our approach."

Alarko achieved its breakthrough as a general contractor when it built Turkey's embassy and a shopping mall in Moscow in the old Soviet Union.

These days, the countries of Central Asia comprise Alarko's largest market. Yet Alarko has also left its stamp in Arab countries such as Jordan (a gas storage plant), Algeria (a water treatment facility) and Morocco (a highway) and in Turkey itself (Istanbul's subway).

Alarko has conducted business in Iran, having built Iran's embassy in Moscow and a liquified natural gas storage plant in Bandar Abbas. The Iranian projects were finished in the early 1990s, when, he claims, Iran was not as rabidly anti-Israel as it is today. "We haven't done any work for Iran since then," he noted. "I wonder whether Iran would give us a contract today."

Prior to the eruption of the Iran-Iraq War in 1980, Alarko constructed bomb shelters for Iraq. With a smile, Alaton said that the then-Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein, knew he had awarded a contract to a Jewish-owned company.

Twenty five years ago, Alaton tried to enter the Israeli market, but the attempt fizzled. "We wanted to get involved, but it didn't work out."

Alaton's success as an entrepreneur can probably be traced back to his youth, when he promised himself he would be rich and famous.

In 1942, when Alaton was 15 years old, his father, Chaim, a prosperous importer of British yarn, lost his assets when the then xenophobic Turkish government levied a wealth tax on the richest citizens. The tax, imposed on fixed assets, affected Jews, Greeks and Armenians disproportionately.

"For Turkey's non-Muslim minorities, who were the principal targets of its arbitrary and discriminatory implementation, this law remains an indelible tragedy in their minds," writes Turkish historian Rifat Bali in *The Varlik Vergesi Affair*.

To Alaton, the tax was a crude and clumsy effort by the government to transfer wealth to the Sunni Muslim majority. "Thousands of Armenians, Greeks and Jews were bankrupted," he said. "The tax was totally anti-minority and anti-Jewish."

Since his father was unable to pay the exorbitant amount demanded, he was sent to Askaleh, a forced labour camp in eastern Turkey where about 2,000 non-Muslims were eventually housed.

"He was there for two winters," said Alaton. "We were impoverished by this tax. Our relatives in Ankara had to help us out."

When the tax was revoked in 1944, Alaton's father returned to Istanbul and opened a ladies' garment import company, but his spirit was broken.

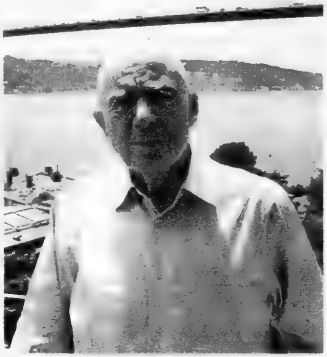
"He was like a fish out of water, never the same man again. He was depressed and embittered over his mistreatment."

Alaton, however, did not hold a grudge, vowing to turn adversity into prosperity. After finishing school and completing military service, he went to Sweden to work as a welder, draftsman and industrial designer in a locomotive factory. While there, he met Olof Palme, a future Swedish prime minister whose Social Democratic ideas had a profound and lasting impact on him.

Alaton – a secular Jew whose autobiography was recently published in Turkey – is co-chair of the Turkish branch of the Open Society Foundations, which was created by financier George Soros to promote human rights, legal and social reform and democratic governance.

It comes as no surprise, then, that Alaton is unusually outspoken on topical issues.

He claimed that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a harsh critic of Israeli policy, is neither antisemitic nor anti-Israel. But Alaton is critical of the verbal onslaught that Erdogan unloosed on Israeli President Shimon Peres at the World Economic Forum in Davos two years ago. Alaton, however, thinks that Israel should not have used force in the subsequent Mavi Marmara incident, during which Israeli commandos killed nine Turks aboard this vessel trying to break Israel's naval blockade of the Gaza Strip in May 2010.



**Ishak Alaton**
*[Sheldon Kirshner photo]*

Turning to another sensitive issue, he urged Turkey to issue a formal apology to atone for the massacre of Armenians in World War I.

He believes that Turkey should be admitted to the European Union, a process that seems stalled. "The EU," he said, "should not be a Christian club."

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# Job Katif makes pitch for those uprooted in Gaza withdrawal

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

Tzuri Genish was a lieutenant colonel in the Israel Defence Forces when then-prime minister Ariel Sharon ordered the evacuation of all Jewish settlements in Gaza.

He was also a resident of Eli Sinai, a community in Gush Katif, the group of settlements in the southwest corner of Gaza that was subject to the disengagement order.

Like a good solider, he packed up and left, but when he saw the pain and dislocation experienced by his friends and neighbours, he decided he could no longer serve. Instead, he left the army, switched careers and devoted himself to helping them cope with the new circumstances of their lives.

Genish is a volunteer with Job Katif, an organization devoted to assisting former residents of Gush Katif and northern Shomron get back on their feet after the forced departures.

Genish was in Toronto last week along with his daughter, Moran, and Yitzchak Friedman, director of development for Job Katif. They met with about 50 potential supporters who had been brought together to hear about their post-relocation experiences.

It's been seven years since the Israeli army evacuated the unwilling residents of Gush Katif – an event Friedman described as this generation's Tisha b'Av (a reference to the destruction of the Jewish Temples in ancient times.)

Close to 9,000 people were forcibly removed from their homes and businesses and resettled across Israel. Although they received compensation, about 1,000 evacuees remain in difficult circumstances, Friedman said. "We were able to help over seven years the eager young ones, those willing to bend," he said. "We're left with the harder cases."

The remaining evacuees who are finding it difficult to cope were generally older, said Genish. Speaking through an interpreter, he said, "At 50, it's hard for them to change their careers."

The settlers were compensated with land, acknowledged Genish and Friedman, but it was barren and unserviced, permits to build were not granted and the government to this day has yet to make the land ready for habitation.

Genish works with the "harder cases," visiting them in their homes and trying to help them turn their lives around.

He brings credibility to the task that others cannot. "For three years, I did not work at all," said Genish, who served in the IDF as a paratrooper and engineer.

He gave up his military career – "I thought, how can I be in the army if the army is kicking us out" – and found it tough going afterward, relying on his military pension and living in tents, hotels, mobile homes and guesthouses.

Nevertheless, he was pursued by various businesses that offered him managerial positions, but instead he chose to volunteer with Job Katif.

"If I can help people like me, that's what I want to do," he said.

The evacuees – those who experienced what they call the "gerush" – are plagued with depression, lethargy and domestic difficulties. Husbands and wives fight, the divorce rate is high and the kids end up in trouble, often requiring therapy.

Genish said he goes "house to house and I sit with people in their dark houses, in depression, and I tell them, 'I was just like you and there is a way out of it. Hold my hand and we can do it.'"

"They trust him, that he feels their pain," Friedman said. "They meet and they cry together."

**Tzuri Genish, right, his daughter Moran and Yitzchak Friedman were in Toronto to solicit aid for Job Katif.**

Job Katif assists evacuees adjust to life outside Gaza. It provides counsellors, runs job programs, retrains them and provides loans to help people start businesses.

For every dollar Job Katif raises, the government of Israel contributes three more. That matching program runs out within a year, so the effort is on now to do as much as possible while government funds are still available, Friedman said.

But lots of people lose their jobs or are forced to move. Why is it so difficult for Gaza evacuees?

The nature of the disruption was greater for them, Friedman explained. "When people live together, work together, they feel like a family – a close-knit community. They were very successful people. They were successful exporters of flowers, vegetables, had homes and land. They were wealthy and healthy.

"But when people are over 50 and told to leave their homes, their jobs… they lost their community, their house, their jobs all in one huge loss. That is devastating," Friedman said.

Genish and his family left a home in Eli Sinai. Ironically, the three settlements in Eli Sinai were home to Israelis previously evacuated from Yamit, a town in the Sinai returned to Egypt as a term of the peace treaty. Adding to the irony was that it was Sharon who evacuated them to Eli Sinai, and then as prime minister he ordered them to leave their homes yet again, Genish said.

The rockets from Gush Katif into Israel started during the evacuation itself, Moran recalled. During a TV report about the rocket attacks, she recognized her neighbourhood as the source of the missiles.

That reality – that the withdrawal did not lead to peace or even a ceasefire, but to rocket attacks – has changed the minds of a lot of Israelis about the wisdom of the withdrawal, Moran said. "Before the disengagement, lots of people said what are you doing there?"

"Now, you don't hear that. People see that Gush Katif was important for the defence of Israel… People thought something good might come out of [the withdrawal]. Now people understand there's no peace, no security, no benefit came from it," she said.

For more information, visit www.jobkatif.org.il.

# Israeli wants Jews to take more ownership of Holy Land

Arieh King

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Arieh King started the Israel Land Fund (ILF) in 2007 to help Jews purchase real estate in Israel as a way to keep the Jewish state Jewish.

The idea for the fund was born when King realized "a need to disrupt the purchase of Jewish owned land in Israel by hostile, non-Jewish and enemy sources," the fund's website states.

"More and more Arabs and non-Jews are living and owning land all over Israel, from west Jerusalem to Tel Aviv and beyond," the ILF claims.

King, 38, was in Toronto last week to speak to the Jewish community and spread his message that it is essential for Jews in the Diaspora to begin owning land in Israel.

> ***'Many people who purchase land, whether in the Galil or east Jerusalem, end up feeling a sense of ownership of Israel'***

His grandparents made aliyah from Toronto and he was born on Kibbutz Alumim in the northwestern Negev just outside the Gaza Strip.

In a recent interview from Israel, just prior to his arrival, King said he wanted to make people understand that there is an ongoing concerted effort by Arab nations to purchase land in Israel via their agents – westernized Arabs holding U.S., British, and other passports – to erode the Jewishness of Israel on what he calls the "silent front" of land encroachment.

"It's about education. Many people who purchase land, whether in the Galil or east Jerusalem, end up feeling a sense of ownership of Israel and they come visit… and are proud they have the property," he said.

He noted that much of the purchasing being done now is by haredim and "Orthodox Zionists."

Rather than approach the haredim in Zionist terms, King said, the fund uses halachic arguments.

"You can be the biggest rabbi, but if you don't own actual ground, a field, an olive grove… you cannot keep shmittah [the commandment to leave the land fallow every seven years]," he said. Once this point was made, King said, there was a lot more interest in what he was doing.

While the haredim who buy land may not be motivated by Zionism, the purchase is still in line with the fund's overall mission to keep Israel Jewish, he said.

But there's a catch. Not just any Jew can buy property through the Israel Land Fund.

Any prospective purchaser is vetted by King to ensure that the new landowner will actively manage the parcel of land so that it cannot be claimed by Arab squatters over time, something that has happened before.

"We would connect the buyer with either a Jewish farmer or a property manager to help maintain and work the property. Nobody can buy and then just leave it" untended, King said.

He said in the last five years, the ILF has helped broker land purchases for increasing numbers of Diaspora Jews, but he would not disclose the amounts.

King said he's visited Toronto about five times and realizes that there are "big Zionist" communities in Canada that could help his cause.

"I believe if they were exposed to the needs of Israel [through the ILF] they would become more involved," he said. "Canadian Jews may be more quiet than Americans, but they're no less committed to the future of Judea and Samaria."

For more information, go to www.israellandfund.com

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to show Canadians, both Jews and gentiles, that Jews fought in three wars that Canada was involved in – World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

This monument will serve as a tool to inform and educate future generations of Jewish involvement in Canada.

In 1939, there were 169,000 Jews, including men, women and children, living in Canada. When the World War II started, 17,000 volunteers enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces.

In relation to the Canadian population at the time, the percentage of Jewish servicemen and women in the Armed Forces was the highest of any ethnic group. Jews distinguished themselves in World War II, making heroic contributions to the outcome of the war, and some of them paid with their lives so that we can enjoy our freedom today.

We have worked toward the creation of this monument for many years. It's important for all of us – now and in the future – as it shows Jewish involvement in Canada's military.

Located on the grounds of the Canadian Jewish Federation Place (Lipa Green Building) at 4600 Bathurst St. in Toronto, the monument stands with a flag on each side – one Canadian and one Israeli.

The front of the monument is inscribed with the names of the 570 veterans who died in all three wars, and on the back of the monument, the names of 460 who served in any Allied armed forces, including partisans, are inscribed.

The monument has space for more names. Any veteran's relative can apply to have the names of fathers, mothers, uncles, brothers or any another war-veteran relative inscribed. We invite applications from across Canada.

**There is a one-time cost of $75 with each application. For more information, please call 416- 636-1880, ext. 5181.**

**AMEK ADLER, Vice-Chair**
*Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Toronto Post*

# Photo exhibit portrays early Jewish immigrants to Toronto

**Bill Gladstone**
Special to The CJN

*Picturing Immigrants in the Ward*, a recently installed exhibit at the City of Toronto Archives, offers many tantalizing glimpses of Jewish, Italian and other recently arrived immigrants in the congested Ward neighbourhood of downtown Toronto as it existed from about 1905 to 1930. It focuses mainly on the era before the World War I.

The Ward was a mixed-use area of modest frame cottages, row houses, restaurants, factories, shacks, stables, junkyards and two- and three-storey commercial buildings with family apartments or businesses upstairs. It stretched to the west and north of Old City Hall as a landing area for the thousands of mostly European immigrants who arrived in the city each year.

Toronto's "foreign quarter," as long-established Torontonians sometimes called it, was bounded by University Avenue and College, Queen and Yonge streets. Its congested main streets and often muddy laneways and alleys were considered unhealthy, especially for the children who played in them from morning until evening, and who were often dirty, barefooted and ragged.

The Ward was a loosely zoned neighbourhood where almost anything seemed permissible, as evidenced in the array of photographs from newspapers, city reports, social agencies and other sources assembled at the exhibit.

Juvenile delinquency, the lack of suitable green space and the presence of contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis and diphtheria, were serious concerns of the day. Social service agencies, Jewish organizations and the *Toronto Star* sought to send children on summer vacations to the country – the *Star's* Fresh Air Fund was established to do just that – or at least on picnics to Toronto Island.

**Tenement building beside Old City Hall, with outhouse at right, circa 1911**

A 1910 photo-spread in the *Toronto World* showed a house surrounded by crates of bottles piled high all around its outer walls, partly obscuring the windows. The caption read, "Chestnut Street home where sunlight is not considered a boon compared to the profits of traffic in empties."

Toronto's works department took some 3,000 photographs in the Ward around 1911, hoping to document the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. The city's chief health officer used the photos to document hundreds of health-code violations.

One photo showed a three-storey tenement building that was inhabited by six families who shared a single outdoor privy with the factory hands who worked on the top floor, 40 people in all. The building's only source of water was an outdoor tap that sometimes froze in winter.

**City of Toronto Archives exhibit *Picturing Immigrants in the Ward***

A photograph of a grocery store and Hebrew bookstore with their names in Yiddish in the windows are among several pictures that capture the flavour of the growing Yiddish-speaking district.

Although the streets of the Ward were dotted with synagogues and storefront shtiblach, none appear in the exhibit. But it includes two early 20th-century wedding portraits from the Goldenberg and Bochner families respectively, loaned from the Ontario Jewish Archives. Even working class people with hardly a nickel to spare, it seemed, always had a good set of clothes at the ready in case of a family marriage.

Wrapped along the walls of the lobby of the City of Toronto Archives on Spadina Avenue below Davenport Road, the exhibit consists mostly of photographs but also features maps, pages from official reports, sections of newspaper stories and a separate display about the growth of Chinatown on Elizabeth Street.

It also includes four large-scale photographs by Susan Dobson, which depict the area in recent times. The gritty and blighted cityscape of 70 to 100 years ago has vanished, and the neighbourhood's human scale has also disappeared, obliterated by today's towering megalithic superstructures, such as hotels, hospitals and City Hall. Thanks to decades of unrelenting urban renewal, the former character of the Ward has been erased almost completely.

The curators' insistence that the exhibit is really about "how photography shaped ideas about central and eastern European immigrants in early 20th-century Toronto" seems misguided. This show is really about a city neighbourhood of tremendous importance to our collective history that has been shockingly allowed to disappear, almost without a trace.

*Picturing Immigrants in the Ward* continues until May 2013, and admission is free. See www.toronto.ca/archives for more details.

*Bill Gladstone writes and speaks often on "The Jews of Old Toronto." His website is www.billgladstone.ca.*

# Festival offers family-friendly entertainment

**Continued from page 3**

The festival, co-produced with Toronto's Harbourfront Centre, celebrates the diversity of Jewish music, art and artists from places around the world. This year's lineup includes more than 200 artists, some of them from Uganda, India, Central Asia, Argentina, Italy, Mexico and Australia.

Ashkenaz offers family-friendly entertainment, including storytelling, crafts and interactive workshops and performances.

This year's festival features two of North America's pre-eminent family entertainers, Sharon Hampson and Bram Morrison, best known as two-thirds of the iconic trio Sharon, Lois and Bram.

"Sharon and I are excited to be performing our usual family sing-along with a lot of familiar songs from our repertoire from previous years," Morrison said. "We're going to be adding a certain number of songs that represent our Jewish background, such as the well-known and eternally beloved *I'm a Little Latka, Der Rebbe Elimelech, Oy Vey, Oy Vey* and more. We will be having our small but powerful band with us through the entire concert, and we also have plans to add some of the klezmer musicians who are playing with other bands to our show for a nice full freilich finale with real klezmer style."

**Abayudaya features Rabbi Gershom Sizomu, left and JJ Keki from Uganda.**

The word "klezmer" is derived from the Hebrew words *klay* (instrument) and *zemer* (music) and means "instrument of song." The music has its roots centuries ago, in the shtetlach of eastern Europe, where it was originally meant to intimate the voice or music of the cantor in the synagogue.

The non-traditional klezmer music of present day is influenced not only by its eastern European roots, Gypsy melodies and Balkan music but also by Israeli horahs, jazz and the folk music of other lands.

The lead-up to the festival begins on Aug. 26 at the 918 Bathurst Centre for Culture, Arts, Media & Education, at 918 Bathurst St., with a community-wide workshop day with Shadowland Theatre. Led by Ashkenaz staff and Shadowland interns, participants will create a craft and celebrate their handiwork by joining the festival's parade.

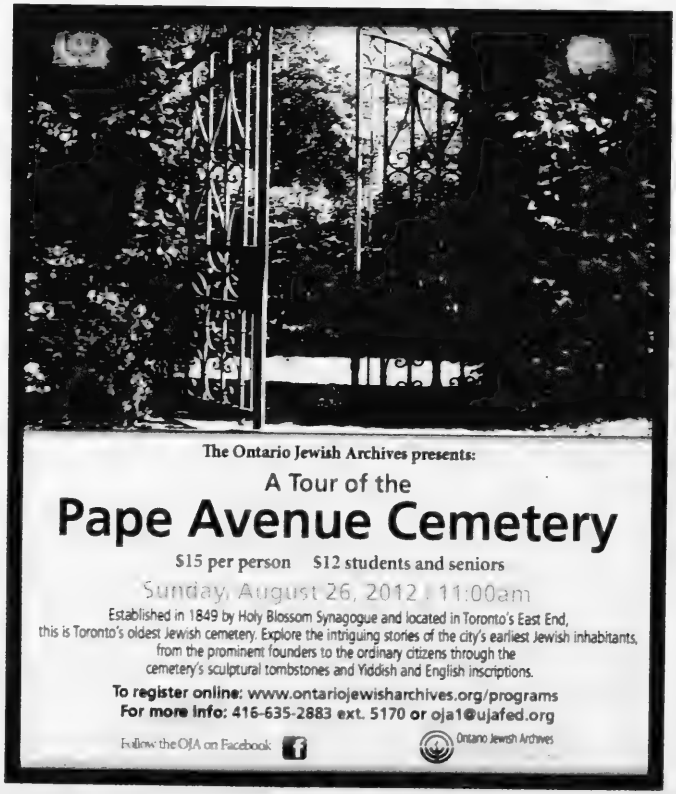
Programming goes dark on the afternoon of Friday, Aug. 31, for Shabbat, and will recommence early evening Saturday with performances at a dozen different stages going on simultaneously.

Rabbi Gershom Sizomu and his brother, JJ Keki, featured performers at the festival, are from Uganda. Their tribal name, the Abayudaya, means "people of Judah." The Abayudaya live in rural villages in eastern Uganda and trace their Jewish origins to the turn of the 20th century.

"Music has long been a motivating force for religion in Africa. The rhythm of drums, used to call people to prayer and an integral part of religious worship, is the heart of African music. I see our opportunity to reach people through our music at the Ashkenaz Festival and leading of the havdalah ceremony as a continuation of our tikkun olam efforts," Rabbi Sizomu said.

The signature Ashkenaz Festival Parade, on Labour Day, is inspired by folkloric characters, superstitions and stories from Jewish and Yiddish culture. It features musicians, artists and stilt walkers. "The parade's community band is open to anyone who can play an instrument and wants to participate and be inclusive of the musical delights led by a core of the festival's musicians," Stein said.

For a full list of programming, visit www.ashkenazfestival.com.


The Ontario Jewish Archives presents:
A Tour of the
Pape Avenue Cemetery
$15 per person $12 students and seniors
Sunday, August 26, 2012 | 11:00am
Established in 1849 by Holy Blossom Synagogue and located in Toronto's East End, this is Toronto's oldest Jewish cemetery. Explore the intriguing stories of the city's earliest Jewish inhabitants, from the prominent founders to the ordinary citizens through the cemetery's sculptural tombstones and Yiddish and English inscriptions.
To register online: www.ontariojewisharchives.org/programs
For more info: 416-635-2883 ext. 5170 or oja1@ujafed.org
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Ontario Jewish Archives

# דער יידיש ווינקל

## דזשערי קעין

**רחל קאַרן**

**אן איינמאָליקע געשעעניש, וואָס מען דאַרף טייַער האַלטן און אָפּהיטן.**

*פון ש. סיכאָוויטש*

די וועלט דערמאָנט רחל וויי אַ דיכטערין פון אויסנעמלעכער סענסיוויטעט. ספּעציפיש דערמאָנען מיר איר סענסיוויטעט צו דער שפּורן פון ליבע און צו דער ארומיקער נאַטור וואָס האָט שטאַרק געווירקט, גוט און שלעכט, פּינעטער און ליכטיק, אַרף דעם לעבן אין די גרויע, אַרעמע פּרילישע און אוקראַינישע שטעטלעך וווּ יידין האָבן געלעבט זייַט בייַ זייַט מיט די קריסטלעכע באַפעלקערינג.

רחל קאַרן איז געבוירן געוואָרן אין 1898אין אַ דאַרף נעבן מאַשצייסק, גאַליציע. אין די יאָרן 1919—1939 האָט זי געווינט אין פּשעמישל און נאָכן דייַטשישן איבערפאַל אויפן ראַטן-פאַרבאַנד האָט זי דיך עוואַקויירט אין מיטל אַזיע – טאַשקענט. נאָך דער מלחמה האָט זי דיך אומגעקערט קיין פּרילן, און פון פּרילן געפאָרן קיין שוועדן, און אין 1948 איז זי אַנגעקומען קיין מאָנטרעאַל וווּ זי האָט געווינט ביז איר אַוועקגיין פון דער וועלט.

רחל קאַרן האָט דיך אַנטפּלעקט וויי אַ פּויל- בלוטיקע דיכטערין נאָך פאַר דער צווייטער וועלט מלחמה. אירע צוויי לידער-ביכער," דאַרף" (ווילנע,1928), און "רויטער מאָן" (וואַרשע, 1936), האָבן איר גלייַך אַוועגעשטעלט ביים מיזרח-וואַנט פון דער יידישער ליטעראַטור אין פּרילן.

אין דעם גראָען שטעטל-פּייזאַזש, וואָס האָט דאָמינירט אין דער יידישער ליטעראַטור, האָט זי אַרייַנגעבראַכט די דאַרפישע לאַנדשאַפֿט און דאָס לעבן פון די האָרעפאָשנע דאָרפסיידן און זייערע פּרילישע און אוקראַינישע שכנים. אירע שילדורנגען פון לעבן פון די דאָרפסמענטשן זיינען באַהאַרכט מיט אַ ראַמאַנטישער לירישקייט; און אין דער זעלבער צייט איז רחל קאַרן ביז גאָר רעאַליסטיש אין אירע באַשרייבונגען פון די ליידן און נרשן פון דאָרפסמענטשן, וואָס זייער וויסטער מזל אָדער די רשעות פון די מישמענטשן האָט זיי צעבראָכן און דערשלאָגן. אַזאַ איז דאָס נאַראָטיוו ליד וועגן ליידע דעם משוגענעם, וואָס טראָגט זייַן האַרץ "וווי אַ קאַץ אַן איינגעבראָגענע אין אַ זאַק/ און וויל עס ערגעץ איבערלאָזן/ עס זאָל נישט טרעפֿן מער דעם וועג צו מיר". ענלעך איז דער גורל פון דער דאָרפּס-מוּרד, וואָס קומט אַהיים צו איר ביימ פאַטער, נאָר אַ יאָר דינען אין דער פּרעמד, מיט אַ טראָגנדיקן ברוך.

דעם דייַטשישער איבערפאַל אויף איר היים ערד האָט איר געבראָכט צום טרויעריקן פֿאַרשטאַנד אַז אויף איר היימערד איז זי שוין אַ פרעמדע, און זי רופט אויס: "אַ ערד, כ'האָב קיין מאַל ניט געווּסט / אַז כ'בין בייַ דיר אַ פרעמדע / געקומען בלויז צו גאַסט / אויף פוניק-צוואַנציק דורות".

אָבער דער וויטיק איז אויך אַ טיף פערזענלעכע. אין אירע ליבע דערמאָנונגען צו איר אומגעקומענעם מאַן הערש קאַרן, שרייבט זי: "כ'בין דורכגעוויטיקט מיט דיר ווי ערד מיט פרילינדיקן רעגן / און ס'העננט מיַן בלאָנדסטער טאָג / ביים קלאַפּנדקן דופֿק פון דיַן שטילסטן וואָרט / ווי די בין ביים צוניג פון בליענדיקע ליפּעס".

*אויב איר האָט נעראָנקען וועגן אונדזער וויקלי לאָזט חיסן, דונך פאַקס אָדער בליין-פאָסט: info@cjnews.com*

# *Hard work lies ahead*

In a few short weeks, we'll begin the month of Elul. It's the month before Rosh Hashanah, and generally we're aware that it's the month of repentance. But what does that mean, and what is the process?

Repentance in Judaism is the culmination of a number of steps. Elul marks the first of those steps. Over the course of the year, we go about our business and sometimes we do something we regret. We might take a minute to evaluate what we can do to fix it or how we can quickly move on from there. If we feel guilty about it, we can console ourselves with the thought that we, like everyone else, are simply human. Being human seems to be the catch-all approach to much of our poor judgment.

The month of Elul sections off an entire month for us to ask ourselves why we keep repeating patterns that are of no benefit to us or anyone else. Why do we respond the way we do whenever we're in a particular environment? Repentance is the outcome of asking these fundamental questions. Being only human is our starting point, not our final conclusion.

To engage in Jewish repentance we must employ Jewish vocabulary: repentant and sinner. These are useful subcategories within being human – we just don't like those words.

In today's society, being called a sinner is a loaded term that speaks of religious fundamentalism. Yet in Hebrew, the terminology speaks volumes to clarify the intended word. The Hebrew word "chet" was an archery term that meant you missed the bull's-eye. It doesn't make you evil or an infidel. It simply means you must improve your aim next time.

***Midrashic Moments***

***Rachael Turkienicz***

Elul is the month where we can acknowledge that we often express ourselves in ways that miss the target. That makes us all sinners. Before we recognize that fact and accept that part of ourselves, we'll be unable to engage in repentance of any kind. While we excuse our behaviour as just being human, we block ourselves from understanding that we must always continue to hone our skills and do better with our expressions and acts of loving kindness.

Engaging Jewishly in the month of Elul is hard work. We must identify what target we were intending to hit and how close we came. We must figure out how to readjust our aim and find the resources to give it another go. It's not simply giving out blanket apologies to anyone we meet, but recognizing that we're doing this because we sinned and we're growing and improving.

In the Talmud, Rabbi Abahu states that "the place where people who repent stand can never be reached by those who have never sinned." Of course, it's impossible to live and never sin, but it's certainly possible to live in ignorance of that fact. There's no potential in simply being human, but there's infinite potential in acknowledging that we have sinned.

*Rachael Turkienicz is director of Rachaelscentre.org.*

# Striking pay dirt at Tel Huqoq

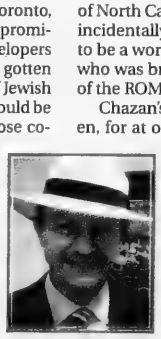
My role as president of the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies at St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto has given me the opportunity to act as a catalyst for some worthwhile endeavours.

Among these was the Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit recently held at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Another event was the Olive Oil Project involving the consuls of some of the major countries around the Mediterranean, which was capped off by a gala evening at the ROM and an academic conference at St. Michael's College.

Out of the Olive Oil Conference grew another project that has been of particular interest to me involving Jewish-Italian friendship. This project has had the strong support of the outgoing consuls-general of Italy and Israel.

As a young boy growing up in Toronto's second Little Italy running along St. Clair Avenue West, many of my closest friends were Italian immigrants with whom I formed a natural bond. When I got married, it was to a girl who was born in Trastevere, the Jewish district in the heart of Rome. As a result, I developed an affinity for most things Italian.

When speaking to Gianni Bardini, the Italian consul general in Toronto, he told me of how a number of prominent Italian builders and developers had told him how they had gotten their start thanks to the help of Jewish associates. We thought that it would be a great idea to highlight the close cooperation of the two communities in their adopted home-



***Past Forward***

***Alex Gropper***

land. Thus began the Jewish-Italian Friendship Project.

Throughout various meetings with representatives of our two communities, we were thinking of a worthwhile project that we could take on that would celebrate the partnership and achievements of our two communities. It was while contemplating this task that I received a call from Prof. Michael Chazan, director of U of T's Archaeology Centre, asking for my help in getting U of T involved in a new excavation to be headed by Prof. Jodi Magness of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. (Coincidentally, Magness also happens to be a world authority on the Scrolls who was brought to the ROM as part of the ROM's blockbuster exhibit.)

Chazan's call was a gift from heaven, for at one stroke I had found the ideal project that we could adopt to celebrate Jewish-Italian friendship.

We had a Roman period site in Israel in the heart of the Galilee where Jesus had spent his early ministry. It was a fitting symbiosis of our two cultures. Now, a year and a half later, the dig has provided us with a wealth of riches, including the just-announced discovery of a synagogue with a spectacular mosaic on its floor.

We look forward to having Magness come to Toronto in the early fall to tell us all about her exciting finds in a public lecture to be held at the ROM.

# Beginning before the beginning

**Rabbi Micah Streiffer**

"Let's start at the very beginning," goes the famous Broadway line. And it seems logical. But in Judaism, the beginning isn't "a very good place to start." You have to start long before that.

Everyone knows that transitioning from one activity to another can be hard. Anyone who has ever tried to get a three-year-old to leave the playground knows that you can't just announce "Time to go," and expect a clean break! You have to leave time for questions ("Why do we have to go?") and negotiations ("Just five more minutes!") and rituals ("As soon as I go down the slide…").

It's not only kids who need time to transition. We adults are the same way. You can't just step onto the hockey rink and start to play; you need a warm-up to get your body ready. You can't just show up in shul and start to pray; you need the opening songs to get your soul ready. And you can't just jump into a festival; you need a period of preparation and transition to prepare your soul.

For just that reason, Judaism has a series of mechanisms to help us mark the transitions from one liturgical moment to another. The key is to "begin before the beginning." That's why, for example, it's traditional to start building a sukkah right after Yom Kippur, in order to make the transition from the solemn Day of Atonement to the joy of Sukkot. Similarly, the obscure tradition of placing a jar of oil in the sukkah bridges the gap from the harvest festival to the wintertime festival of lights.

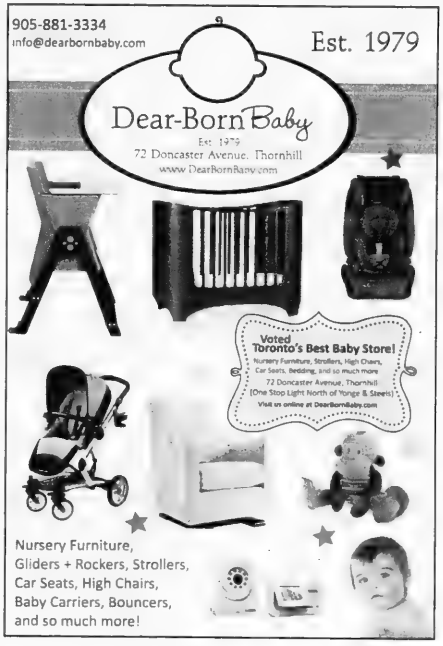
Of all the Jewish holy days, Yom Kippur requires the most spiritual preparation. For that reason, the Day of Atonement comes along with an extensive period of transition that begins – believe it or not – right now. This Shabbat, seven weeks before Rosh Hashanah, marks the beginning of a time of reflection that will lead us to the month of Elul and ultimately to the High Holy Days.

***Rabbinic Reflections***

It is referred to as Shabbat Nachamu, the Sabbath of Comfort, because on this Shabbat we read the first of seven Haftarot of consolation. These seven messages from the prophet Isaiah are intended on the one hand to console us following Tisha b'Av, the date on which we commemorate the destruction of the ancient Temple. They're also intended to help us get into the frame of mind necessary to the hard work of Yom Kippur – of examining our lives and vowing to do better. After all, just like our children, we can't make the transition without questions ("How can I do better next year?") and negotiations ("Just give me the will power.") and rituals (*"Kol nidrei v'esarei…"*).

Even in the midst of summer – at our cottages, summer camps and barbecues – may we remember to "begin before the beginning." May this season of preparation bring comfort and renewal, and give us the strength and honesty we will need when we stand together seven weeks from now.

*Rabbi Micah Streiffer is spiritual leader of Kol Ami, a Reform congregation in Thornhill, Ont. He can be reached at rabbistreiffer@templekolami.ca.*




# Talmud: starting all over again

The cycle has begun again. The cycle is known as daf yomi, in which a double-sided page of the Talmud is studied daily until this classic work is completed in 7-1/2 years. Whether you are a beginner and want to learn more about the Talmud or an advanced student looking for online resources, read on.

Orienting yourself to a page of Talmud can be daunting. To get a taste of the dynamics of a page, I recommend Eliezer Segal's lovely work. Segal has reproduced a typical page of the Talmud, this one from the tractate of Megillah. When you click on the text, you can get an excellent insight into the structure of the page and the annotation that is indispensable to its understanding. **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi21]**

Part of the Talmud-learning experience is grasping the large volume in your hands while following along with your teacher. Two monumental publishing initiatives that have made the Talmud more accessible are translations and elucidations by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi22]** and by Artscroll Publishers. Artscroll celebrated the completion of its 73-volume translation with a presentation of a set to the Library of Congress. **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi30]**

You can also read the entire contents of the Talmud on your computer screen along with audio commentary, thanks to sites such as e-daf.com as well as DafYomi.org, Daf Notes **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi23]** and YUTorah Online. **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi24]** And to help you remember what you've learned, DafYomiReview.com lets you program in a cycle of automatic Talmud review.

I began this column by recommending Eliezer Segal's Talmud site. Prof. Segal has also completed studying all 2,711 pages of the Talmud. Since his studies took several years and followed him around the world, Segal now associates particular sections of the Talmud with the milestones of his own life: "One tractate conjures up associations with the Shiite village in Lebanon where I studied it during my Israeli army reserve duty; another page I plodded through while waiting in a queue at Disneyland; still another I read just before my first job interview at the University of Calgary. I imagine that these personal associations will be forever attached to their respective *sugyas* (topics)." **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi25]**

***Jewish & Digital***

***Mark Mietkiewicz***

The next time you're standing in line at Disneyland and have forgotten your Talmud, no problem. Just take out your iPhone, run the Daf Yomi app and you'll never go wrong. (This is an excellent, free app. The interface is in Hebrew only, but it links to classes in English, Hebrew and Yiddish.) **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi26]** Both Steinsaltz **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi27]** and Artscroll have announced digital versions of their translations of the Talmud. **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi28]**

By the time you read this, the 12th cycle of daily study of the Talmud will be underway. In a spirited essay, "The Day After! Making a Commitment to Daf HaYomi!" Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss says it's not too late to join in. He addresses the usual excuses (I don't have the time. I'll forget everything. I'm too young. I'm too old.)

Rabbi Weiss concludes, "I can guarantee you it will change your life for the better in countless ways… In the merit of our Torah study, may HaShem bless us all with long life, good health, happiness, and everything wonderful!" **[http://bit.ly/dafyomi29]**

*Highway@rogers.com*

# Tzohar tries to curb circumcision negativity

Viva Sarah Press
CJN Israel Bureau

TEL AVIV – In response to the rising number of non-observant Israeli couples foregoing ritual circumcision, the Tzohar Rabbinical Organization has introduced a secular-friendly brit milah program.

"Beyond the physical aspects of the brit milah which parents naturally find stressful, we know that secular couples in particular can find the rituals associated with this process to be confusing and even alienating," Tzohar chairman and co-founder Rabbi David Stav said in a statement about its new program.

*Feature*

"The goal is therefore to provide parents with an informed and compassionate partner in this process so they can appreciate the importance of this historical Jewish custom."

Every year, more and more secular couples opt out of circumcising their sons. Aware of the cracks in consensus on circumcision in Israel, Rabbi Stav said there are two key reasons for this trend.

"One, there were rumors about damages caused to the baby during circumcision and that's why many parents were afraid," he told *The CJN*.

"And two, many secular Israelis question themselves as to why, after throwing away all the other mitzvot, the only custom they've kept is something that looks like a pagan ceremony. Therefore we wanted to open our gates, to expose them to the perspectives on the brit milah."

Rabbi Stav said Tzohar decided to act before it was too late.

"This is a tradition which has defined our people for thousands of years and any threat to its continuation, particularly here in the modern Jewish State, should be confronted before the numbers of Jewish boys being denied a brit milah grows to even more troubling proportions," he says.

The new program certifies mohels (ritual circumcisers) in collaboration with the Israeli Health Ministry and the Israeli rabbinate. The mohels also undergo additional training through Tzohar that focus on making sure that the parents feel best informed about the experience that their newborn sons will undergo.

Tzohar executive director Rabbi Dr. Moshe Be'eri, centre left, and chairman and co-founder Rabbi David Stav, are flanked by the first members of the Tzohar mohel program in Jerusalem *[Photo courtesy of Tzohar]*

"Tzohar has defined itself by our devotion to preserving the Jewish character of the State of Israel and our willingness to serve as real partners in the most exciting times in people's lives. We aim to show that Jewish tradition and Halachah are ideals which can be practiced with compassion and love – whether it's Jewish marriage or entering our sons into the covenant of Abraham," Tzohar executive vice-president Nachman Rosenberg said.

Another trend among secular Israelis who do decide to circumcise their sons is choosing a doctor instead of a mohel. Not feeling a need for religious meaning, many new parents prefer a sterilized doctor's office instead.

"We know about this phenomenon and we have doctors among our mohelim as well," Rabbi Stav said.

"All our mohelim are trained to do circumcision. They are even more trained than doctors because they're not doing surgeries or treating sick people as well. They are experts in this specific field. But we understand this comment and we have mohelim that are licensed to act as a doctor and mohel."

Tzohar is best known for its program that has facilitated more than 35,000 Jewish marriages free-of-charge for Israeli secular couples. Tzohar was founded 15 years ago by Zionist rabbis who wanted to bridge the gap between religious and secular societies by creating inclusive and user-friendly interfaces to issues of Jewish law that secular Israelis are legally required to confront in their daily lives.

Although Tzohar rabbis will officiate weddings for free, the brit milah program costs NIS 1,000.

"It's not like weddings, where the service was free because rabbis who were on the state's payroll were also charging couples. People that do circumcisions, it's their job, and we cannot expect them to do it for free," he explained.

"But we can expect them to charge reasonable rates and visit the baby before and after the circumcision."

According to the new program, Tzohar mohels will dress in special white robes, will provide receipts for the service and will be available during the baby's recovery period.

"Undergoing a brit is a chance for every Jew to experience the deep connection between himself and the Jewish people and the Creator," the rabbi said.

"Tzohar feels privileged and obligated to work with parents on this important occasion that ushers a newborn into Judaism, and to do so in a way that leaves the best impression in years to come."

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*Interested candidates should forward their resume and a cover letter in strictest confidence by August 13, 2012 to:* ***cemeteryposition@gmail.com.*** *While we appreciate all expressions of interest, we regret that we are only able to respond to those invited for an interview.*

# Shelter for homeless youth honours Temple Sinai

Frances Kraft
Staff Reporter

Temple Sinai Congregation has received an Eva's Platinum Heart Award for its involvement with Eva's Place, a shelter for homeless young people that provides services to help them reconnect with their families and live independently.

Jeff Yolleck, co-chair with Marilyn Cukier of Temple Sinai's social action committee, said that through projects related to the shelter, congregants have become "better aware of what's really going on in the world, and how in simple ways we can make a huge difference."

In addition to providing personal care items such as toothpaste and shampoo, Temple Sinai donates fresh, local, organic produce from its Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, which runs from May to October.

"There were times we filled the car to the roof with produce [including] lettuce that was cut that morning," Yolleck said. "For the young people there, it really is so nice to get food that's that great. It's different than what they can do with their budget."

Helen McGarry, centre, of Eva's Place and Eva's Satellite, presents an Eva's Platinum Heart Award to Lori Swartz and Jeff Yolleck of Temple Sinai.

Some of the produce is donated by the Cutting Veg, which provides the produce for the CSA. As well, if members miss their weekly pickup, it is donated to Eva's place.

Also, Yolleck said, probably four out of five CSA members direct their share to Eva's Place when they go on vacation.

He added that the congregation was "deeply honoured" to get the award.

Earlier this year, Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg, one of the rabbis at Temple Sinai, worked with social-action committee members to host a chocolate seder at Eva's Place.

Yolleck said he didn't know of any Jewish youth at the shelter, but that regardless of their backgrounds, "young people attending could find that our story of seeking freedom may parallel their own personal journeys."

On Aug. 22, from 2:30 to 6:30, photographers from Eva's Place will have their framed artwork for sale at the temple's CSA.

# Blind Israeli golfer wins fourth world championship

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

Shimshon Levi likes to joke that he's known Zohar Sharon since he was eight days old and Sharon attended his bris back in Israel.

That was 51 years ago, and today the two remain the closest of friends. Sharon jokes they're practically married, although the 16 hours a day they spend together is probably more than most married couples.

Their friendship is cemented by a mutual devotion to the game of golf.

Sharon is the golfer, but Levi wears multiple hats: he's Sharon's caddy, course manager, swing coach and, most importantly, his eyes. Together, they have elevated Sharon's game to the elite level. Sharon recently captured the 2012 World Blind Golf Championship at the Truro Golf Club in Nova Scotia. The win marked the fourth time he's been the world's number 1 blind golfer.

Last week, the two were in Toronto to take part in the 15th fundraising golf tournament sponsored by Beit Halochem Canada. Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel. The organization raises money on behalf of 51,000 disabled Israel Defence Forces veterans, which includes Sharon, who was blinded while serving in the IDF.

He credits his success in golf to the support he's received from Beit Halochem. Not only was it instrumental in his rehabilitation, it helped him discover his passion, golf, and gave him the resources to train. Even today, it flies him out to tournaments well in advance so he and Levi can familiarize themselves with the courses, he said.

Sharon, 59, captured the World Blind Golf Championship with rounds of 118 and 98, for a total score of 216, six strokes better than the second-place finisher from Italy. The week before, he won the Canadian Blind Open at the Mountain Golf and Country Club in Truro.

Sharon was under the weather for the first round of the world championship, but felt better on the second day. A 17 handicapper, Sharon shaved 10 strokes off his score on Day 2.

Playing for Israel and acting as a de facto goodwill ambassador is a weighty responsibility, Sharon said through an interpreter. "If I didn't have to carry Israel on my back, I would have a lot less pressure."

"He feels he'd do better if he was just Zohar Sharon," the interpreter explained.

"I'm not afraid to not win," Sharon continued, "but I don't want to disappoint

**Shimshon Levi, left, lines up Zohar Sharon's shot** *[Lyndsay Goldman photo]*

Beit Halochem. They put so much effort into what I do. Without Beit Halochem, I would not be a champion."

Sharon said he's generally well accepted at international tournaments, but "you always feel the negativity from somewhere."

He recounted the story of a tournament player who told him "he doesn't understand why he doesn't like Israelis. He said he must have gotten it in his mother's milk.

"But he [now] finds Israelis are fine people, and then he bought [me] a beer," Sharon said.

He remains a proud Jew at tournaments, and if he's asked to remove his hat, he's got a kippah handy to keep his head covered.

His practice regime is gruelling – he plays every day, except Shabbat.

When he's asked what parts of his game he'd like to improve, he smiles and mentions putting.

"There are two people and one ball," he said. "It's up to Shimshon to direct me."

Sharon's reliance on Levi is pretty much total. On every shot, Levi lines up Sharon's club behind the ball, describes the hole, the yardage, the obstacles. On putts, which require touch and the ability to read greens, Levi's input is crucial.

"The more we learn to work together, the more there's improvement," Sharon said.

As Levi puts it, "You feel him every day. Every day I see what he does. You feel what he thinks. We play a lot. I know him."

Remarkably, Levi never took golf lessons and Sharon does not have a pro instructing him. But Levi's been in the game so long that he recognizes when Sharon is off his game. "In the warm-up, I see what he's doing, right or wrong," he said.

Becoming an elite golfer took a lot of hard work, but Sharon was determined right from the start, Levi said. "He wanted to be a champion" and he worked at it from morning to night.

"He said, 'Maybe it will take five years, but I'll be a champion,'" Levi recalled.

In fact, he won his first tournament, in Scotland, about a year and a half after he took up the sport.

"When he started, it was very hard. But if it's easy, it's not so sweet," Levi said.

Not only has Sharon excelled on the world stage, he's also served as an inspiration to a new generation of disabled golfers in Israel. Around 20 veterans have taken up the sport at Beit Halochem. Some have missing limbs, some play seated and some require special carts.

**Zohar Sharon, left, and Shimshon Levi**

But they're all following the lead staked out by Sharon many years ago.

# *Event raises $80,000 for Beit Halochem*

Last week's charity event at the Copper Creek Golf Club is expected to raise around $80,000 for Beit Halochem Canada, said Lisa Levy, the organization's executive-director. The money will go to Beit Halochem centres in Israel, which will fund rehabilitation and sports programs for disabled veterans and those wounded severely in terrorist attacks.

Although it's a major event on the Beit Halochem calendar, the golf tournament comes second in raising money to the organization's annual cycling trip in Israel.

This year's five-day event is scheduled for October and will see Beit Halochem supporters cycling from the Golan to Jerusalem in the company of disabled veterans.

So far, about 50 riders have signed up for the tour, most of them Canadian. Last year's event raised more than $350,000. Cyclists are asked to raise at least $2,500 each, with 35 corporate sponsors kicking in anywhere from $2,500 to $18,000.

The event allows riders to cycle through Israel, help a great cause and meet the veterans they are assisting, Levy said.

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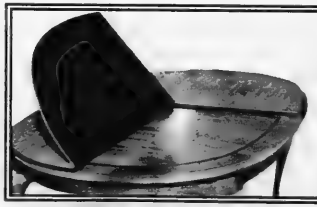

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# Canada, Israel call for R&D proposals

Compiled by CJN Staff

**OTTAWA** — Representatives of the Canadian and Israeli governments declared last week that both their countries are open to collaborative business ventures in science and technology.

They vowed to "deliver on their commitments made during the Canada- Israel Technology Innovation Summits held in 2010 and 2011. Canadian and Israeli companies as well as their collaborators may now submit their proposals for research and development projects in areas of mutual priorities which include water, renewable energy, and brain-related research," the National Resource Council of Canada (NRC) said last week.

Avi Hasson, chief scientist at Israel's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor, and NRC president John McDougall, met July 24 in Ottawa.

"We look forward to working together on more collaborative projects that will benefit our economy and will strengthen our industry," McDougall said. "Canada and Israel share common strength in industry and technology fields, and we are confident that this call for proposals will result in tangible benefits for both countries."

John McDougall, left, and Avi Hasson. *[NRC photo]*

Hasson said the agreement will help both countries address "pressing challenges" in today's world.

"We are confident that this new cooperation is an important addition to the existing support mechanisms and will intensify and deepen the methods of technology collaboration between Canada and Israel and create new opportunities for our industries," he said.

The collaboration between the countries is being implemented jointly through the NRC and MATIMOP – the Israeli Industry Centre for R&D.

Proposals are being considered through EUREKA, which the NRC describes as a "European-based network raising productivity and competitiveness of business through technology."

Eligible projects will be funded by both Canada and Israel.

# Campers raise awareness for Sudbury food bank

**Rita Poliakov**
Special to The CJN

**SUDBURY** — For Emma Csillag, summer camp isn't just about swimming and kayaking. It's about giving back.

That's why she joined more than 100 Camp Solelim campers and staff on July 15 as they marched through the streets of Sudbury, Ont., to raise awareness for the city's food bank.

"Tikkun olam is a Jewish value. It means healing the world," Csillag said at the Sudbury Food Bank Walkathon. "These are core values of our religion. It's nice to see we can reach out to people."

Camp Solelim teens show their enthusiasm as they trek through Sudbury. *[Shir Keren photo].*

While the camp has raised awareness about issues around the world, Csillag, a head staff member, wanted campers to make a difference locally.

"They can see the change they're making," she said.

Located about a four-hour-drive from Toronto within the boundaries of Greater Sudbury, Camp Solelim is a six-week leadership camp for 14- and 15 year-olds. It was founded in the 1960s and has stayed in the community ever since.

"Our camp is here. It's been here since [the 1960s]. It'd be really nice to work locally," Csillag said.

The head staffer has wanted to work with the food bank for years now, especially since the summer months are often the hardest for food banks. While residents are used to holiday can and packaged food drives, they often get distracted in the summer.

For Sophie Vaisman, a 14-year-old camper, the cause is an important one.

"It's good to raise awareness," she said. "[There are] so many people who are hungry."

While the campers didn't raise funds and had little food to bring from camp, they carried signs with startling statistics, such as the fact that 15 per cent of food banks run out of food during the year.

"A lot of people will see us. Hopefully there's a lot more done [about this]," Vaisman said.

Jenna Goldberg, a second-year Solelim staffer, said she likes the idea of helping a local charity.

"We like to encourage tikkun olam, the idea of giving back to the community. In the past, we've done bigger things, like a walk for Darfur, but we felt like doing something [local]."

She added that staff thought "it would benefit the kids. For them to be a part of this, it encourages them to do the same back home."

Rather than helping an organization on the other side of the world, campers can see the community they're supporting, Goldberg said. "We're giving money to huge organizations, but we don't see where the money goes."

Dan Xilon, the food bank's administrator, was impressed by the campers.

"Apparently, the camp wants to raise awareness about hunger issues. They know the food bank is often empty in the summer," he said.

"I think it's special. [The walkathon] was totally generated by them. They came along and decided [to help]. I think it bodes well for the young people."

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# Feds, province rescue human rights museum

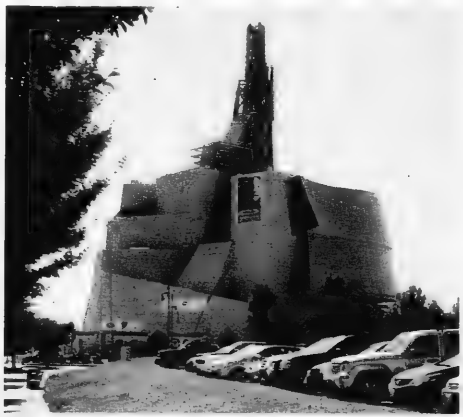
**Myron Love**
Prairies Correspondent

**WINNIPEG** — Supporters of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) – whose outer shell is nearly complete – are breathing a sigh of relief now that the federal and provincial governments have come forward with long-term loans and loan guarantees.

While its physical structure will be finished next year as planned, the museum faced the distinct possibility that its doors would not open as planned in 2014 –already a year behind the museum's original building schedule – due to a cash shortfall of about $35 million.

It had looked quite likely that the opening could have been delayed indefinitely.

When the late media mogul Israel Asper first proposed the project in 2003, the plan called for a $200-million structure to be completed in three to four years. The most recent projection put the final construction bill at $351 million.



**The Canadian Museum for Human Rights is currently under construction in Winnipeg.** *[Myron Love photo]*

So far, the federal government has contributed $100 million toward building the first national museum outside Ottawa, and it has pledged to provide $21.7 million a year in operating costs. Last November, the government rejected a request from the museum's board for more funding.

The province has provided $40 million for construction costs, while the city of Winnipeg has kicked in $20 million.

"We are very excited about the governments' proposed solutions to our budget shortfall," said Kathi Neal, director of communications and marketing for the Friends of CMHR. "That will allow us to open as scheduled in 2014 and gives us cost certainty."

Under the terms of the agreement, Ottawa is providing the museum with an interest-free loan that will be repaid through savings in the museum's operating budget and from revenues after the museum is opened. The province is kicking in with a loan guarantee for the Friends of the CMHR.

The Friends group – led by Asper's daughter, Gail Asper – has generated $130 million in private donations and is working toward raising another $20 million.

The total amount of the loans and loan guarantees could be as high as $70 million, sources told the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

The second vexing question for the CMHR, after financial concerns, has been an ongoing campaign by certain elements in the Canadian Ukrainian community – led by Lubomyr Luciuk and his Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association – for the Holodomor to be given equal space with the Holocaust in the museum.

The Holodomor was the death by starvation in 1932-33 of an unknown number of Ukrainians – estimates run from 1.8 to 12 million – who resisted Soviet leader Josef Stalin's farm collectivization program.

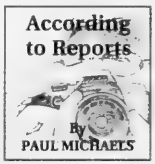
The original plan called for a separate gallery for the Holocaust, based on the role it played in the postwar development of international human rights bodies and legislation. The Holodomor was to be included as part of a gallery that would cover several other examples of mass murder.

The museum hopes that a memorandum of understanding signed in early July between Stuart Murray, president and CEO of the CMHR, and Victor Didenko, CEO of the Memorial in Commemoration of Famines' Victims in Ukraine, will put an end to that controversy.

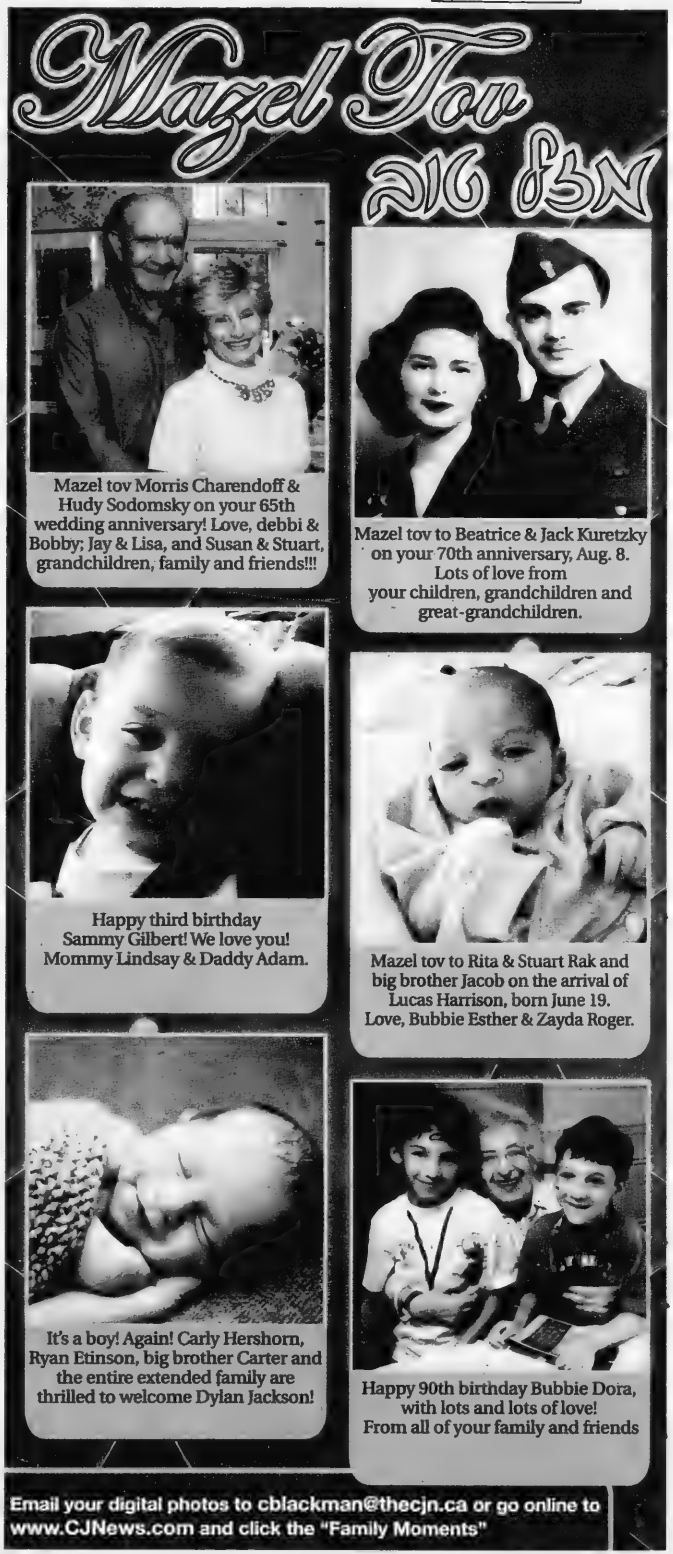
"The agreement pledges that our organizations will collaborate to promote human rights though education and example," said Angela Cassie, the museum's director of communications and external relations.

"By raising awareness of the Holodomor, the genocide-famine created by the Soviet Union in Ukraine in 1932-33, we hope to remind people the importance of breaking the silence on human rights issues," Murray said in a statement.

"This partnership will help bring the story of the Holodomor to a wider audience, to the benefit of generations to come."




*WILL RETURN*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מזל טוב
Mazel tov Morris Charendoff & Hudy Sodomsky on your 65th wedding anniversary! Love, debbi & Bobby; Jay & Lisa, and Susan & Stuart, grandchildren, family and friends!!!
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Mazel tov to Rita & Stuart Rak and big brother Jacob on the arrival of Lucas Harrison, born June 19. Love, Bubbie Esther & Zayda Roger.
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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

Social Networking @
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**Deadline reminder: Because of the civic holiday, Aug. 3 is the deadline for the issue of Aug. 16. Aug. 13 is the deadline for the issue of Aug. 23. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or email whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, Aug. 2

**YIDDISH VINKL**

**Derek Penslar** discusses "Jews in the Russian Army: Unwilling Conscripts or Loyal Subjects," noon at Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $18, includes buffet lunch. RSVP yiddishvinkl@yahoo.com.

## Saturday, Aug. 4

**ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL**

Orillia Country Shul, 151 Creighton St. S., Atherly, near Orillia, resumes its summer services at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 4, **Rabbi Michael Dolgin.** Aug. 11 **Rabbi Cory Weiss.** All are welcome. 705-327-7069.

## Monday, Aug. 6

**FAMILY BEIT MIDRASH**

**Bryna Jocheved Levy** discusses "Rabbi Akiva and his Children," 7:30 p.m., Or Chaim Yeshiva, 159 Almore Ave. Email info@mekorot.ca or info@torahinmotion.org.

## Tuesday, Aug. 7

**CONCERTS IN THE PARK**

The Toronto Saxophone Quartet performs tonight at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre, in Earl Bales Park, 7 p.m. Aug. 14, the Royal Canadian Legion Concert Band performs. In case of rain, the performance moves to the Earl Bales Community Centre.

**JEWISH ICONS**

**Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses Jewish icons of the 20th century. Tonight, **Natan Sharansky**; Aug. 14, **Leo Frank**. Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 7:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, Aug. 8

**CHABAD GARDEN PARTY**

Women of Chabad Markham hold their end-of-summer pool party with guest speaker **Joanni Tansky**, author of *Girl Meets God*, 10 a.m. 905-886-0420, ext. 221.

## Thursday, Aug. 9

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

One Family Fund holds its golf tournament at King Valley Golf Club, 1 p.m., 15675 Dufferin St. www.onefamilyfund.ca/events-golf.

**OJIBWAY DANCERS**

**Gonrah Desgohwah White Pine Dancers** perform at the family fun night at the Barry Zukerman Auditorium, Earl Bales Park. Free activities begin at 5:30 p.m., performance starts at 7 p.m.

## Other News

**THE CUTTING VEG**

The Cutting Veg, a community-supported agriculture program, delivers organic produce to Toronto-area synagogues throughout the summer and fall. For more information, visit www.thecuttingveg.com/CSA or call 647-388-7444.

**THE SHIRA SINGERS**

The Shira Singers, who perform for seniors in the GTA, are looking for new choir members. Call **Yair**, 905-886-1755.

**Continued on page 23**

# Shul's singles committee serves the community

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

For many single adults, it can be difficult to meet new people. The Shaar Shalom singles committee, now in its 13th year, is dedicated to making social life as a single person easy, lively and comfortable.

"Very often singles look at synagogues and think it's family-oriented. We want to make singles feel welcome at shul," said Linda Friedman, the committee's founder. When she became single, there was no programming offered through her synagogue for singles in the 45-plus age group – so she decided to change that.

"I wanted to serve the whole community," she said. Friedman believes that singles programming should not be limited to members of a particular synagogue.

Although the committee is based out of Shaar Shalom Synagogue, it caters to members and non-members alike. Having started with only four people, it has expanded to a committee of 16 people who organize events for hundreds of Toronto's Jewish singles.

"Over the years, we have more and more people come to the events," said Bryan Applebaum, one of the committee's co-chairs.

The group was initially created for the 45-plus crowd, but it now primarily serves people aged 55-plus. People who are divorced, widowed, or were never married are encouraged to come to events.

**This is the 16-member Shaar Shalom singles committee. The founder of the committee, Linda Friedman, is on the far left; committee co-chair Bryan Applebaum is on the far right, and seated furthest right is committee co-chair Sheldon Glass.**

For each dance, concert, speaker, or holiday party, the committee invites about 700 Jewish singles. The group is currently preparing to host a concert on Aug. 12 featuring Italian tenor Andrea Garofalo.

The singles group's events are usually scheduled for every second month, and they are designed to foster a sense of community. "We're not a matchmaking society," said committee co-chair Sheldon Glass with a smile. Rather, he added, the events are about meeting new people and developing a richer social life.

Glass explained that as a newly single person with mostly married friends, "many times you get left out." Meeting other single people helps to broaden one's circle of friends.

"We really make an effort to create a warm, friendly atmosphere," Applebaum said.

Friedman added that a welcoming environment is especially important for people who are just starting to go out again after becoming single.

For her, as well as for the other committee members, the group has been integral in building a strong social life. Friedman now counts many of those she met through the singles group among her closest friends. "It builds a sense of chevra," she said.

Each of the 16 committee members takes an active role in planning the group's events. "I think part of our success with our own committee members [is that] we give them ownership of something," Glass said. The members do everything from booking entertainment to planning for refreshments, ticket sales and advertising.

"It really is a strong team effort," Friedman said. She, Applebaum and Glass insist that the group's success would be impossible without the work of the entire committee.

The Shaar Shalom singles committee is hoping to expand its reach to include as many of Toronto's Jewish adult singles as possible, and they encourage other singles groups to work with them to achieve that goal. "It's not a competitive thing, it's a cooperative thing," Friedman said.

For her and the rest of the committee members, bringing together the Jewish singles community is an important and rewarding task. "You don't do volunteer work unless you find it satisfying – it is very satisfying."

For more information on the Shaar Shalom singles committee's concert on Aug. 12, call Shaar Shalom Synagogue at 905-889-4975.

**Continued from page 22**

**JEWISH WAR VETERANS**

Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Toronto post, meets **Aug. 12**, breakfast 9:30 a.m.; meeting 10:30 a.m., Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St.

**THEATRE TOURS**

The Temple Sinai Social Club is going to see *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Theatre By The Bay, Barrie, **Aug. 15**. Bus and matinée, $55. Reserve with **Marcie**, 416-487-3261.

Beth Emeth Theatre Tours is going to Stratford **Sept. 12** to see *42nd Street*. Bus and matinée, $100. Call **Tema Wasserman**, 905-770-0355.

**KAVANAH GARDEN RETREAT**

An all-day workshop featuring yoga, meditation, drumming, Pilates, movement and drama will be held **Aug. 26**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Shoresh's Kavanah Garden, 18 Lebovic Campus Dr., Vaughan. $100 (financial assistance available). To register: http://tolifetolife.eventbrite.co. For more info, send an email to: drjuliasegal@gmail.com.

**MOSAIC OUTDOOR CLUB**

Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America for Jewish outdoor enthusiasts is holding a Labour Day retreat in Colorado, **Aug. 30-Sept. 3**. For more info, visit www.mosaicoutdoor.org or call 1-888-MOSAICS (667-2427) to register.

**JUMPSTART HEBREW**

JumpStart Hebrew is a program for children entering JK to Grade 2, **Aug. 27-31** at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Children will be introduced to Hebrew through art, music and play. Email **Karen Goodis**, karen@bethsholom.net or www.bethsholom.net.

**UJA CAMPAIGN LAUNCH**

Oscar winner **Jon Voight** is the guest speaker at UJA Campaign's 2013 launch, **Aug. 21,** Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 7:30 p.m. $45. 416-631-5705 or www.ujaevents.com/registration/voight.

**MELTON MINI SCHOOL**

Melton Adult Mini School is open for registration for the fall term. "Purposes of Jewish Living" and "Rhythms of Jewish Living" will be offered Wednesday mornings at Beth Emeth Synagogue. Call **Loretta**, 416-789-7400 or visit the website: www.meltontoronto.org.

**HIGH HOLIDAY TICKETS**

High Holiday tickets for services at Shaar Shalom Synagogue are now available to the public. Call 905-889-4975.

## JF&CS GROUPS

**BEREAVED PARENTS**

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. Casino Rama, Aug. 15; lunch, Aug. 16, call to register; hairdresser/barber, Aug. 2, 9 a.m. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m. (first class free); Wednesdays, social bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts. Call **Morty**, 416-783-6078; 416-630-6487.

**The Bridge Club** at Forest Hill Library is seeking new members. Call **Lea** (evenings), 416-487-7630.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Active Seniors & Zoomers, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. Aug. 9, illustrated presentation about Picasso, 1:30 p.m.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526, **Colin Blayney.** Ongoing yoga, dance fitness and aquafitness classes.

**Bernard Betel Centre** 416-225-2112. Aug. 7, **Rouhama Danto** discusses "Genesis in a Different Light," 10 a.m.; Aug. 8, Israeli festival with food and dancing 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Aug. 9, **Jane Teasdale** discusses "Successful Aging, Social Interaction and the Community," 1:30 p.m.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

Folk dance drop-in classes, July 25-Aug. 10, 10 a.m.

**Kevin Courrier** teaches a course on "Love and Hisses: Debating the Movies," Aug. 1-29.

**Iain Scott** discusses opera. Aug. 15, **Maria Callas**; Aug. 22 **Joan Sutherland**, 1 p.m.

Beginner and intermediate mah-jong classes start July 25, 1-3 p.m., evening classes, July 16-Aug. 27, 7 p.m. Drop-in duplicate bridge, Thursdays 12:30- 3:30 p.m. Current events discussion, Thursdays, 12:45 p.m.

Tickets still available for the Grand River lunch and show cruise, Aug. 8.

Save the date: Sept. 6, the best of Hebrew University's thinkers speak at the JCC. Call **Gustavo,** ext. 4102.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

**Keith Friedlander** teaches a course on People of the Comic Book: Jews and the Graphic Novel, 6:30 p.m. Aug. 2, "Art Spiegelman's *Maus I.*" Aug. 9. "Joann Sfar's *The Rabbi's Cat.*"

The adult daytime choir runs all summer, Tuesdays 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

A summer evening choir is being offered, Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. Open to all, no auditions. music@mnjcc.org.

*Kids Who Can*, photos by 13 photographers from Easter Seals summer camps is at the gallery until Sept. 9.

The Gallery is calling for submissions for fall exhibits (flat media only). Deadline is Aug. 1. Guidelines at www.mnjcc.org/in-the-gallery or ext. 250.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

## SCHWARTZ REISMAN CENTRE

9600 Bathurst St., Vaughan. 905-303-1821. www.srcentre.ca.

Free Sunday programs all summer, ext. 3047. Daycare registration is now open. Storytelling program in the daycare Aug. 12, 10 a.m.

Register now for programs. Call **Monique** for family and children's programs, ext. 3047; **Staci** for adults/seniors, ext. 3037; **Tonya** for fitness and health, ext. 3016; **Naama** for daycare and preschool, ext. 3018; **Alex** for JCC Chai Sports, ext. 4465.

The outdoor pool is now open 12-7 p.m. For swimming lessons, call **Yuri,** ext. 3034.

Save the date: Sept. 9, the best of Hebrew University's thinkers speak at the centre. Call **Gustavo,** ext. 3038.

**ON THEIR WAY: The Deverett family, from left, Larry, Leora and Miriam, of Thornhill, Ont., joined 229 other new immigrants and made aliyah to Israel with Nefesh B'Nefesh last month. The family intends to live in Beit Shemesh. Nefesh B'Nefesh is celebrating its 10th anniversary this summer, since its inaugural charter aliyah flight in 2002.**

***SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20***

# Mount Sinai comes full circle with new baby unit

Carolyn Blackman
Staff Reporter

In 1923, the Hebrew Maternity and Convalescent Hospital, later renamed Mount Sinai Hospital, opened its doors on Yorkville Avenue with 33 beds.

Coming full circle, the hospital, now a 472-bed academic health science centre on University Avenue, recently opened the new David and Stacey Cynamon Mother and Baby Unit, an expansion of the Frances Bloomberg Centre for Women's and Infants' Health. The expansion is part of the six newly built floors on the Murray Street side of the hospital.

Within two years, as part of the development project, the program will be expanded to include an enhanced neonatal intensive care unit, five new operating rooms, and labour and delivery rooms that are bigger and better equipped to deliver babies of high-risk mothers.

Joseph Mapa, president and CEO of Mount Sinai, said in a telephone interview that he "can't help but note the irony that the hospital began as a maternity hospital, and is now starting to rebuild with a women's health centre."

The design of the new unit includes decentralized care stations, which allow clinicians to be closer to their patients at all times; medicine cabinets in each room, which make it easier for nurses to tend to patients in a more timely manner; more private rooms, which help to reduce cross-contamination, and comfortable chairs for breastfeeding, which also double as recliners for overnight support partners.

"For Mount Sinai [this expansion] is monumental. [The hospital] is entering a historic new era," Mapa said.

"We are re-imaging the footprint of the entire hospital to further strengthen our commitment to delivering excellence in patient and family-centred care and clinical outcomes."

Joseph Mapa (left) and Lawrence Bloomberg

# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

**BENJAMIN'S** PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Helen Goodman | Jul 6/12 | 22 Sycamore Drive |
| Ettie Pelchovitz | Jul 8/12 | 34 Elm Ridge Drive |
| Sophie Pearlstone | Jul 6/12 | 10948 Setchell Road |
| David Zamir | Jul 7/12 | 1775 Eglinton Ave. West |
| Irene Rife | Jul 8/12 | 541 Finch Avenue, West |
| Albert Strauss | Jul 10/12 | 111 Avenue Road |
| Morris Osak | Jul 9/12 | 102 Overbrook Place |
| Brian Agensky | Jul 10/12 | 1 Fairgate Close |
| Sarah Fleisher | Jul 11/12 | 15 Tangreen Circle |
| Molly Swartz | Jul 11/12 | 88 Promenade Circle |
| William Star | Jul 11/12 | 645 Castlefield Avenue |
| Frida Nadler | Jul 14/12 | 74 Franklin Avenue |
| Basia Lerman | Jul 13/12 | 866 Sheppard Ave. W. |
| Kathleen Gold | Jul 13/12 | 54 Ellerbeck Street |
| Esther Steinberg | Jul 13/12 | 3560 Bathurst Street |
| Meir Sugar | Jul 15/12 | 19 Knotty Pine Trail |
| Robby Steinberg | Jul 16/12 | 645 Castlefield Avenue |
| Genia Minz | Jul 16/12 | 4 Madoc Drive |
| Cesia Rosenberg | Jul 16/12 | 20 Seaview Avenue |
| Ida Paulin | Jul 19/12 | 7300 Yonge Street |
| Rose Wasserman | Jul 14/12 | 9525 North Fort Washington Rd |

Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wells, Livian | July 5/12 | 668 Roselawn Ave |
| Bergerbaum, Samuel | July 8/12 | 66 Mandel Cres |
| Slabodnik, Michael | July 8/12 | 4300 Bathurst St |
| Litman, Rose | July 8/12 | Private |
| Katz, Sydelle G | July 10/12 | 3000 Bathurst St |
| Jarnicki, Nelly Fortune | July 10/12 | |
| Starr, Morton | July 9/12 | 70 Ruddington Dr |
| Cohen, Sarah | July 10/12 | Private |
| Moshinsky, Dan | July 10/12 | 54 Chabad Gate |
| Horakova, Anna | July 11/12 | Private |
| Segal, Morris | July 11/12 | Private |
| Goldwasser, Martin M. | July 14/12 | 50 Disera Dr |
| Pelc, Shelley | July 14/12 | 51 Glendale Rd |
| Parker, Minnie | July 15/12 | 3560 Bathurst St |
| Bond, Denice | July 16/12 | 45 Viamede Cr |
| Douroskin, Alexander | July 13/12 | Private |
| Kinrys, Sam | July 17/12 | 226 Honiton St |
| Falikovich, Shifra | July 18/12 | Private |
| Kenigsberg, Max | July 18/12 | 6200 Bathurst St |

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Esther Denver | Jul 7/12 | 6101 Bathurst Street |
| Avron Shore | Jul 13/12 | 707 Eglinton Ave. West |

### Rubinowicz, Valentine ז"ל

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our cherished Baba on July 1, 2012 (11 Tammuz 5772) at the age of 83. Peacefully and on her own terms, she left to join her beloved "Elec", Eliasz Rubinowicz ז"ל, our cherished Zaida.

Baba was a pillar of strength and a true Eshet Chayil. Her dedication and devotion to her family was exemplary. A proud mother, grandmother and great grandmother, and she let everyone know it. With her sparkling blue eyes and radiating warmth, Baba touched the lives of many and put smiles on the mouths of all that knew her. A profound loss for the Noon, Anbar and Ellis families. We have been blessed by her unwavering Strength, Courage, Compassion and Love. And this is how she will continue to be honored, remembered and treasured. Forever in our hearts.

Thank you to all our friends and family for your love and support during this difficult time.

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### CARD OF THANKS

Our heartfelt thanks to all our friends and relatives for the overwhelming outpouring of love, kindness and generosity to us, during our week of shiva for

**Jack Winston ז"ל**

Our husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather
*Betty, Cathy, Randi, Pinchas, Howard & Families*

# Proper shoes help prevent injuries

Good posture starts at your feet. Inappropriate footwear is one of the most common causes of lower-body muscle, ligament and tendon injuries. Which shoes to choose is one of the most important decisions you can make before any activity.

*Fitness Corner*
*Felyce Zomparelli*

Price is not always a determinant of quality. Expensive shoes that squash your toes or compress your foot can lead to muscle strain and compensation resulting in bad posture and lower-back pain. Feet are designed with naturally occurring muscle adjustments to maintain balance. An over-padded shoe can result in loss of balance.

Choosing the right running shoes can affect the safety and efficiency of your workout. Selecting which shoes will provide the best support for you depends on the type of activity you are participating in, the arch height of the foot and wear patterns.

Long-distance runners need a shoe that allows more natural flexibility than people who weight-train, who require more foot stability.

The foot's arch ranges from flat to high. The best way to see your arch height is to make a bare footprint and inspect the shape left behind. If you can see a flat shape of your foot, the arch is flat. If the shape looks like it has been cut in half part way through, then the foot has a high arch.

Looking at the bottom of the shoes you use most for walking will show which parts of your foot hit the ground hardest when you step.

If you keep these factors in mind when you're choosing shoes, you will find shoes that support your feet, allowing proper support for your lower body. Since the lower body is responsible for power and balance in most activity, it is important to have a stable foundation.

Proper footwear during physical activity is also a key to avoiding injuries. Shoes that support your feet and ankles will provide proper alignment for your natural stance and decrease injuries from chronic improper use of muscles, joints and ligaments.

*Want to learn more? Visit me at www.felycesfitness.ca.*

# Jewish studies at Waterloo receives unexpected gift

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

The Jewish studies program at the University of Waterloo recently accepted a bequest from an unlikely source that will help fund an online Jewish studies course.

The late Bette Hagey, "a real stalwart of the United Church who died in 2009, left part of her estate to Waterloo's Jewish studies program, said Waterloo professor emeritus Paul Socken.

Socken, who founded the Jewish studies program and continues to serve as chair of the dean's advisory committee for the program, explained Hagey's connection to him and the program.

In 1993, Socken was approached by Brian Hendley, who was the university's dean of arts, with an offer to start a Jewish studies program at the university.

"The reason the dean came to me was... there was a rally at the [Trinity United] church against neo-Nazis who were coming to Kitchener to raise money... It's very possible [Hagey] was there or knew of it," Socken said.

He added that the dean had also seen *Schindler's List*, and that, coupled with the rally, inspired him to establish a Jewish studies program at Waterloo.

**Paul Socken**

Socken began his fundraising efforts, but didn't have enough funds to hire a professor for the program until 2002.

"When I had some money and started collecting interest, but didn't yet have enough for hiring, I started a public lecture series and that set the groundwork for people to expect things of a Jewish nature on campus," Socken said.

"Bette was always there in the audience along with my dear friend Ann [Dubé] and her husband, who were close friends with Bette. I met her subsequently in my friends' home and we were quite friendly," he said.

"When she passed away is when I found out that she had never married and she was an executive secretary at an insurance company. She had left her estate to her nieces and nephews, and... she left a portion of it to be divided equally between Trinity United and the Jewish studies program at Waterloo."

He said she left the program $50,000, enough to launch an online course in Jewish studies, which will be dedicated to her memory.

"This is extraordinary, given the relentless onslaught of the United Church against Israel," Socken said, but he added that he doubts her decision to leave this sum to the Jewish studies program was political.

"I don't think it was a strike against the church, I just think it was a gesture of generosity and thoughtfulness," he said.

"I think it's important that while there may be certain people in the upper levels of organizations... that are very strongly anti-Israel... there are individuals at the ground level who feel very differently toward Jews and Israel, and this is a concrete example of that."

Dubé, who said Hagey became a member of her extended family when they met in her "late middle age," agreed that Hagey's decision to leave the gift to the Jewish studies program was based on her admiration for Socken and interest in the Jewish roots of her Christian faith.

Dubé described Hagey as "a prickly, difficult, scary lady, who was, in her heart, incredibly generous," as well as a "deep thinker, an intellectual without formal education.

"She was a formidable lady. She was known at the Trinity United Church as the lady in the hat because she always wore smart and large hats. She was imposing and scary, but underneath, she had the heart of a marshmallow."

Dubé said she was aware of Hagey's intention to donate part of her estate to the Jewish studies program because when Hagey fell ill, Dubé took over her care and had her power of attorney.

"I think she had two motivations. One was her very strong admiration for Paul," Dubé said, adding that Socken and her late husband, Pierre, were the best of friends.

Dubé said Pierre was Jewish by birth, but chose to follow his wife and family into the United Church.

Still, "he was fascinated with his Jewish roots and taught a study course that involved a study of the Jewish religion and Genesis, and we often had Paul in to speak, because Paul, of course, is quite a scholar in Judaism," Dubé said.

"Bette got to know Paul that way and Bette was quite taken with him. Paul organized a series of lectures with the Jewish studies program and Bette attended them faithfully as long as her health permitted, and she very much enjoyed them."

She added that Hagey was also fascinated by the Jewish roots of her religious beliefs.

"I think that because she had studied the Jewish roots of her faith, she felt it was all going to the same cause."

*Send Your New Year Greetings to Family and Friends through...*

The Canadian Jewish news

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A2
*Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel*
**The Israel Family**

A3
**Ben & Hannah Israel**
5730 Leger Avenue
*Wish their relatives & friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year*

B1
**Mr. & Mrs. Ben Israel**
**Carol, Judith and Nachum**
*Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year*

B2
*Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year*
**The Israel Family**
5730 Leger Avenue

B3
**Ben & Hannah Israel**
*Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year*

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# Zerofootprint CEO develops utility bill app

**Riva Gold**
Special to The CJN

Technion graduate Ron Dembo spoke to the Canadian Technion Society's Toronto chapter last week about a new piece of green technology.

Dembo, founder and CEO of Zerofootprint, has developed what he calls "the utility bill of the future."

The smartphone application allows users to see a minute-by-minute breakdown of their energy usage and compare it to others with similarly sized homes or offices.

The idea, says Dembo, is to make it easier for households and small businesses to understand energy efficiency and see how they can cut down on waste and expenditures.

Using a smartphone program called VELObill, a given household's water, gas, and electricity usage are illustrated using simple coloured charts.

Users are benchmarked against similar-sized homes to show if they are in the red, yellow or green zones for energy efficiency.

"Despite having the highest percentage of smart-meter saturation, most people in Ontario do not know how to interpret their own data," he said, adding that "in Canada, we're too rich, and energy is too cheap."

In response, Zerofootprint has "applied design thinking to the environmental space" using computer software technology.

In addition to helping individual households and small businesses reduce their energy bills, the application also opens an enormous dataset about consumer energy use.

By tracking millions of people's utility usage over a 24-hour period, the app can shed light on how and when people engage in energy-consuming activities like laundry, showering or watching television.

The application also targets larger institutions like banks and school buildings.

"We found that at some schools, there was over $1,000 wasted per student per year on energy," Dembo said.

In addition to founding the clean-technology company Zerofootprint, Dembo is also the founder and CEO of Algorithmics Incorporated, a risk-management software company.

**Zerofootprint's Ron Dembo spoke to the Canadian Technion Society about "the utility bill of the future."** ***[Riva Gold photo]***

The Technion graduate's appearance was organized by the Canadian Technion Society (CTS), which is dedicated to raising awareness and funds for the Haifa-based public research university.

This year, CTS Toronto is focusing on Generation Next initiative to attract people ages 25 to 40 to the organization.

"We believe in what the Technion does for Israel, and for the world," says CTS national president Eddie Pal.

"Right now, we want to get as many young professionals involved as we can."

As part of their "evolutionary revitalization stage," CTS will host a lecture by the Technion's Ishi Talmon, who will speak about nanotechnology. They will also lead an October event at the Hockey Hall of Fame showcasing new Technion technology designed to enhance cognitive training for basketball and hockey players.

For more information, visit cdntech.org.

The Canadian Jewish news

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## Israel Business Briefs

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**Intel expanding Israeli operations**

Intel Capital said last week that it is expanding operations in Israel, as it seeks to boost its portfolio of Israeli technology companies and improve returns on its investments. Marcos Battisti, managing director of Intel Capital for Western Europe and Israel, said a lack of local staff has held back investments until now, but the office has added two venture capital veterans. Battisti said the company will be more aggressive, since it realized that "we have missed opportunities here." Intel's global investment arm has invested in more than 60 companies in Israel since 1996. It has had a number of successful exits including Anobit, which was acquired by Apple; Passave, acquired by PMC-Sierra; and Gteko, bought by Microsoft, while Mellanox went public on Nasdaq.

**Newspaper circulation up in first half**

While revenues may be shrinking for Israeli newspapers, the key parameter of popularity is looking up: circulation increased in the first half of 2012, according to a survey conducted by TGI. The proportion of Israelis getting printed papers on weekdays rose to 66.5 per cent from 63.2 per cent in the second half of 2011. For weekend papers distributed on Friday, the figures were almost unchanged at 66.7 per cent this year.

*Yisrael Hayom* still has the largest circulation on weekdays with a 38.7 per cent share in the first half of the year, compared to *Yedioth*'s 37.6 per cent, but *Yedioth* has almost closed the gap as *Yisrael Hayom* has also lost ground. *Ma'ariv* has managed to stop its previous trend and rise to an 11.9 per cent share, and *Ha'aretz* was stable at seven per cent. But *Yedioth* still has the highest circulation on weekends with a 43.4 per cent share compared with *Yisrael Hayom*'s 31.3 per cent. *Ma'ariv* and *Ha'aretz* have 14.1 per cent and 7.6 per cent respectively on weekends.

**Teva's ProAir inhaler under attack**

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries' ProAir inhaler is under threat from a generic competitor. A relatively unknown generic firm has applied to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for approval of its generic version of the quick relief rescue inhaler for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

The request was filed under a section of the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act, informally known as the Hatch-Waxman Act, which appeals the validity of Teva's patent on the ProAir inhaler. ProAir is protected by five patents. The earliest expires in February 2014 and the last in September 2028. ProAir competes with GlaxoSmithKline's Ventolin. ProAir sales totalled $90 million US in the first quarter of 2012, an 11 per cent drop compared to the same quarter of 2011, due to a relatively mild winter that reduced the number of flu cases.

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## Italy holds Munich memorial

© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

**LONDON —** The Italian delegation to the 2012 London Olympiad made an emotional gesture at the Olympic village on Sunday by holding a minute of silence together with a number of Israeli representatives for the 11 victims of the 1972 Munich Massacre.

More than 30 members of the Italian delegation – headed by Sports Minister Piero Gnudi, Italian Olympic Committee president Giovanni Petrucci and International Olympic Committee member Franco Carraro – held the ceremony near the Israelis' quarters.

Piero Gnudi

Israel was represented by Zvi Varshaviak, chairman of the Olympic Committee of Israel; Efraim Zinger, head of the Olympic delegation; shooter Sergey Richter on behalf of the athletes, and Guy Strik on behalf of the coaches.

Varshaviak said the gesture was beautiful and moving. "It's a brave sign of solidarity and friendship between the Olympic family of Italy and that of Israel, which has continued for many years," he said.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has refused repeated Israeli requests to honour the slain Israeli Olympians at the opening ceremonies of both the London Games and those of previous Olympiads.

Zinger thanked the Italians and explained to them that his committee is doing everything to memorialize the 11 Munich victims as Israelis. However, he said, it is important to remember that they were also Olympic athletes, coaches and judges who were murdered during the Olympics.

"Therefore they are children of the Olympic movement and in our opinion it is the moral obligation of the International Olympic Committee to find a suitable way to perpetuate their memory," Zinger added.

In related news, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs commended CTV's Olympic hosts for taking their "principled stand" on air as the Israeli delegation entered the Olympic stadium in London during last Friday's opening ceremonies.

As the Israeli team prepared to enter the stadium, veteran Olympics host Brian Williams noted that his "position is well known and it is one that I have taken in previous Olympics. It is wrong that the IOC refuses to have a minute's silence for the Israeli athletes that were slaughtered in Munich. It is a much bigger issue this year, as it's the 40th anniversary of Munich."

He continued "Members of the Canadian government, yesterday our governor general, all [have called] for a moment's silence. [IOC president Jacques] Rogge says the ceremony is not the place to remember a tragic event, but... it's one of the most significant and world-changing events in Olympic history. It absolutely should have been done here. The IOC worries about politics? This event is political by its very nature."

CTV News anchor Lisa LaFlamme then added, "The widow of one of the victims spoke out saying 'they came with dreams, they went home in coffins.' They want to be remembered here tonight," to which Williams replied, "And remember – they died as Olympians."

On NBC, sportscaster Bob Costas also remembered the 11 Israelis killed in 1972 on air as the Israeli delegation entered the stadium.

"These games mark the 40th anniversary of the 1972 tragedy in Munich, when 11 Israeli coaches and athletes were murdered by Palestinian terrorists," Costas said during NBC's broadcast of the opening ceremonies. "There have been calls from a number of quarters for the IOC to acknowledge that with a moment of silence at some point in tonight's ceremony. The IOC denied that request, noting it had honored the victims on other occasions."

Costas noted that Rogge held a moment of silence in the Olympic Village earlier in the week.

"Still," Costas said, "for many, tonight, with the world watching, is the true time and place to remember those who were lost, and how and why they died."

After 12 seconds of on-air silence, Costas cut to a commercial.

Israeli Sports and Culture Minister Limor Livnat stood up in the VIP stands during Rogge's address at the opening ceremonies. The protest came after Israel's Foreign Ministry reportedly attempted to convince representatives from other countries to join her.

The official Olympics TV feed did not show Livnat standing during the speech, but it was shown on Israeli television after the ceremony ended, the *Times of Israel* reported.

Israel television stopped its commentary for 30 seconds as the Israeli athletes marched into the stadium while displaying photos of the 11 Munich victims.

*With files from JTA*

## PA objects to minute of silence request

JTA

**TEL AVIV —** The head of the Palestinian Olympic Committee called the campaign to hold a minute of silence for the 11 Israelis murdered at the 1972 Munich Olympics "racism."

In a letter to International Olympic Committee head Jacques Rogge, Jibril Rajoub wrote that "sports are a bridge for love, communication and the spreading of peace between nations and should not be used for divisiveness and the spread of racism," according to the *Times of Israel*.

Rogge declined numerous requests to hold the minute of silence at the opening ceremony of the London Games held on Friday. He held a minute of silence in memory of the athletes at a small ceremony in the Olympic Village on July 23.

Black September, a Palestinian terrorist group, was responsible for the killings in Munich.

In an interview with the French news agency AFP on July 23, Rajoub said that "sport in Palestine is a means to achieve national goals" as well as "a tool of struggle to present the Palestinian cause."

The call to hold a minute of silence in memory of the murdered athletes has received the endorsement of numerous public figures, including U.S. President Barack Obama and presumed Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

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# All eyes are on Israeli trial of methanol

Abigail Klein Leichman
Israel21c.com

HAIFA — With gas prices soaring along with the demand for energy independence, energy experts in the United States eagerly await the results of an Israeli pilot project testing the fuel M15.

M15 is made of 15 per cent methanol and 85 per cent gasoline. Methanol is made from natural gas, which both countries have in abundance.

M15 is produced by Dor Chemicals of Haifa, which is running the six-month trial along with gas-station chain Ten Petroleum, with the support and supervision of Israel's ministries of energy and water resources, transportation and environmental protection.

"We would like to prove that no changes are necessary to cars or to gas station equipment in order to use this blend," Ten CEO Danny Ben-Ner said. M15 is already popular in China, but test results on its possible effects to car engines and gas pumps have not been made public.

"We are closely monitoring the project because this is the most important experiment that is currently taking place in the world outside of China," says Gal Luft of the Institute for Analysis of Global Security, a Washington, D.C., think-tank.

Expectations are that the pilot will show no modifications are necessary and no harm is done to the engines or pumps.

**Motorists could be filling their cars with a new fuel made with methanol and gasoline in the future.** *[Flash90 photo]*

"The standards will allow us to use the information to demonstrate to the U.S. government and auto industry that existing vehicles can run on blends of methanol," says Luft.

Ben-Ner explains that 11 cars are participating in the test — 10 of them are from Dor's corporate fleet and the other one belongs to a Ten station manager.

"They were all checked before the start of the pilot in early June and will be double-tested again after they drive 30,000 kilometres," says Ben-Ner. "All the components from the fuel station, including pumps, will also be tested."

"We have identified the potential of natural gas-based oil to replace gasoline and diesel fuel in transportation, and methanol is one of the best candidates for short- and medium-term implementation," says Brachah Halaf, senior manager of oil replacement for the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources.

"When we got a request to finance and oversee this pilot project from Dor, we embraced it. We were looking for experiments that are system-oriented and need to be co-ordinated in many aspects among several ministries."

Emissions from natural gas-based fuel are much less toxic than those of regular gasoline, and methanol is biodegradable.

It's also cheaper. Using M15 would reduce gas prices in Israel by 50 agorot per litre (roughly equivalent to 13 cents per litre).

"The question is how to best use natural gas to replace oil," says Luft.

"It's a question being asked in Israel and also in the United States, which has abundant natural gas and a dependency on oil. Natural gas is one-sixth the price of oil on an energy-equivalent basis, so it makes total sense to replace oil with natural gas in transportation. Our view is that turning gas into methanol is the easiest and most economical way to do it."

Rich stores of natural gas have been discovered in Israel and in the United States over the past couple of years, and the race is on to plan how to use it in the most efficient way for fuel.

# Iranian leaders 'are testing our moral defences'

**Continued from page 1**

He went on to mention the U.S.-Israeli relationship, saying, "We serve the same cause and we have the same enemies. The security of Israel is a national security interest of the United States."

"An enduring alliance is more than strategic – it's a force for good in the world," he said, adding that the United States and Israel are part of the same "fellowship of democracies," and that the two countries "speak the same language" of freedom and justice.

Romney was met with strong applause when he mentioned the Munich Massacre of 1972, in which 11 Israeli Olympic athletes and coaches were slain. "Tragedies like this are not reserved to the past," he said, adding that they are a constant reminder of hate and the will behind "acts of hate."

His comments came amid controversy over the International Olympic Committee's refusal to commemorate the massacre with a moment of silence during the London 2012 opening ceremonies.

**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, met with U.S. presidential hopeful Mitt Romney in Jerusalem.** *[Israel Sun Photo]*

After his meeting with Netanyahu earlier in the day, in which the two stressed the dangers of a nuclear Iran, Romney described the Islamic Republic in his speech as "the most destabilizing nation in the world," and added that Tehran supports terrorists and the Assad regime in Syria.

He said Iranian leaders speak of wiping Israel off the map and that anyone who does not believe their rhetoric is naive or worse.

"The ayatollahs in Iran are testing our moral defences," Romney told the crowd in Jerusalem, adding that the conduct of Iran's leaders "gives us no reason to trust them with nuclear material.

"We should employ any and all measures" to prevent Iran from following a nuclear course, he said. "We recognize Israel's right to defend itself and America's right to stand with you."

The Republican hopeful also stressed that it was the responsibility of the international community to ensure that Egypt upholds its peace agreement with Israel.

*With files from JTA and Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf*

# Iran behind Delhi attack, Indian police say

Barak Ravid
© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

NEW DELHI — The Iranian Revolutionary Guard was behind terrorist attack last February on the Israeli Embassy in New Delhi, an Indian police investigation has found.

Tali Yehoshua-Koren, wife of the Defence Ministry's representative to India, was injured in the incident.

The *Times of India* newspaper, which published the findings of the investigation, reported that members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard began speaking with Indian journalist Syed Mohammad Ahmad Kazmi about the possibility of carrying out a strike against Israeli diplomats in New Delhi as early as February 2011, more than a year before the attack. At the time, a number of Iranian nuclear scientists had been assassinated, and Tehran blamed Israel for the deaths.

The investigation found that Kazmi, who is so far the only person who has been arrested on suspicion of involvement in the February attack, had been in contact with the Iranian regime for at least 10 years.

Indian security forces have tried in recent months to get information from the Iranians about a number of Iranian citizens that are suspected of being involved. Indian police have sent detailed letters to Iran asking for help in the investigation, although to date Iran has not co-operated.

The Indians gave the Iranians a list of five people that are suspected of belonging to the Revolutionary Guard. According to the *Times* report, the main suspect in the attack is Houshang Afshar Irani. Irani says he's a professional builder, although he acted as the motorcyclist who attached the bomb to the car of the Israeli embassy representative in the attack.

Another suspect is Sedaghatzadeh Masoud, who commanded the cell that carried out the attack. Indian police identified Masoud as a salesperson in a Tehran-based company. According to suspicions, he was a planner of a wave of attacks in New Delhi, Bangkok and Tbilisi.

Indian police identified a number of other suspects involved in the attack, Syed Ali Mahdiansadr, the owner of a Tehran cellphone shop, Mohammad Reza Abolghasemi, a Tehran government clerk, and Ali Akbar Norouzishayan, a retired accountant from the Iranian capital.

Another suspect is Leila Rohani, who is also suspected of being involved in the attack in New Delhi, as well as Bangkok, and has managed an escape to Iran to avoid arrest.

# Pan-European Jewish identity remains elusive

Ruth Ellen Gruber
JTA

**BUDAPEST** — Is there such a thing as a European Jewish identity? Can such an identity be created? What clout can European Jewry wield in global Jewish affairs?

Jewish policymakers have debated these questions ever since the fall of communism in the early 1990s erased east-west borders and opened the way to a new Jewish chapter in Europe. Back then, some strategists saw fostering a European Jewish identity as key to the political goal of making European Jewry a "third pillar" – or equal player – alongside Jews in Israel and North America.

Today, it is clear that the optimistic ideal of a pan-European Jewish identity remains elusive and the political goal of European Jewry as a strong third pillar has yet to materialize. Yet rejuvenated efforts are under way to tackle the challenge.

But what happened to damper the initial enthusiasm for the idea?

For one thing, "French Jews are very French, U.K. Jews are very British. It's a simple fact," said Rabbi Andrew Baker, director of international Jewish affairs for the American Jewish Committee (AJC). "Eastern European communities had many challenges during these last two decades in re-establishing Jewish life. But in the process, we have also seen how they were pulled closer to their respective governments' policies and views."

Or, as put by Barry Kosmin, who recently directed a survey of European Jewish leaders for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's International Center for Community Development, "We have aspirations versus reality."

The survey polled 328 "Jewish leaders and opinion formers" in 32 countries, and as far as Europe was concerned, it demonstrated a dramatic gap between theory and practice.

Most respondents "strongly supported" Jewish solidarity and a European Jewish identity, but only 22 per cent had "direct knowledge" of other Jewish communities in Europe and only 15 per cent said they were familiar with "the goals and programs" of the main European Jewish organizations.

Finally, more than 70 per cent agreed that "European Jewry is not composed of integrated communities across the continent."

Kosmin presented the survey finding in June at a conference in Barcelona sponsored by the JDC and the European Council of Jewish Communities (ECJC), an umbrella organization that recently revived operations in an attempt to kick-start closer European co-operation.

The data, said ECJC president Evan Lazar, prove the need for his group.

"The fact that the survey shows that so few community leaders know what is happening with other European Jewish communities validates the purpose and reason for being of the ECJC," Lazar, a Prague-based lawyer, told *JTA*.

The survey findings, in fact, reflect how both prospects and conditions have changed since the heady post-Communist days of the 1990s.

"There was a lot of optimism at the time, and looking back now, it is clear that it was not justified," Rabbi Baker said. "But understanding why is more difficult."

**An archival photo of Belgium's Jewish community holding a pro-Israel rally. The sign, in French, reads "solidarity with Israel."** *[RNS photo]*

Rabbi Baker, who helped organize a number of conferences and other initiatives promoting European Jewish identity and integration, said the lack of success was due to a combination of factors. Changed realities in the global arena, of course, played a major role: among them the collapse of the Middle East peace process, the second intifadah, the rise of Islamic extremism and spikes in anti-semitism largely linked to growing Arab and Muslim communities in Europe.

"Most European Jewish communities today face significant security concerns that no one imagined at the time of our conferences in the 1990s," he said.

The official report on a 1995 meeting in Prague – the first major conference on pan-European Jewish identity issues – declared in fact that it had taken place at a time "when Israel is not under threat and the problems of anti-semitism no longer pose an immediate danger."

But, Rabbi Baker said internal Jewish failures also helped thwart expectations. For one thing, the AJC official said, strategists had not realized how "nationally connected" European Jewish communities were and still are.

Ironically, he added, "Today, it is the need to confront common concerns and threats – antisemitism and anti-Israel campaigns primarily – that serves as the basis for pan-European and pan-Diaspora co-operation."

Against this background, Jewish strategists and policymakers are attempting to chart new courses.

"We are living in a time of multiple and shifting identities," said Mario Izcovich, director of pan-European programs at the JDC. "It is not a fixed picture. People don't seem to want to belong to anything permanently."

Still, he told *JTA*, the concept of European Jewry as the third pillar of world Jewry remains a viable political model to aim for.

"It simply cannot be that political issues regarding Jews can be discussed just by Israel and the U.S.," Izcovich said.

Hampering efforts, say some strategists and researchers, is a growing disconnect in some countries between mainstream Jewish institutions and the way Jewish lives are lived. Informal networks and alternative initiatives, they said, are increasingly important, particularly for younger Jews.

"Real identity comes in an informal way," said Mircea Cernov, who heads Haver, a Budapest-based NGO that teaches schoolchildren about Judaism and the Jewish People. "Real connections based on Jewish identity come outside Jewish institutions, just as real Jewish life is not according to the formalization of Jewish organizations and institutions."

Sociologist Andras Kovacs, who has charted the development of Jewish life in Hungary for decades and co-ordinated a survey released in 2011 on Jewish identity in five post-Communist European countries, agreed.

In many places, he told JTA, "new initiatives come from civic groups, not from the established Jewish community."

Moreover, Kovacs adds, "What people say about their identity is different from European Jewish politics and Jewish institutional politics. Regarding Jewish identity, the data show that a sense of European-ness does exist. But it is not so present in the Jewish leadership."

That leaves Europe's Jewish leaders – just like many in America – trying to connect their goals to the realities of the people they seek to unite.

## Israel Briefs

### *Vet sets himself alight*

A disabled Israeli veteran set himself alight two days after the death of an Israeli protester who set himself on fire during a social justice protest. The 45-year-old veteran, who used a wheelchair, poured gasoline on himself at a bus station in Yehud in central Israel. Onlookers doused the flames. He was taken to a hospital in Tel Aviv with burns on 80 per cent of his body, according to reports. His self-immolation occurred hours before the scheduled funeral of Moshe Silman, who set himself alight a week ago, during a social justice protest and died on July 20. Protest leaders, Silman's family and organizations that help the poor have come out publicly against imitating Silman's desperate act, but at least six people have threatened to set themselves on fire in recent days. The disabled veteran reportedly was in severe financial hardship.

### *Pre-emptive strike less costly*

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said that a pre-emptive military strike on Iran's nuclear facilities would be less costly for Israel than Iran's possession of a nuclear weapon. In an address to the Israeli army's National Security College, Barak said the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran "would be many times more complex, dangerous and costly, both in terms of human life and in terms of resources, than a pre-emptive strike." The statement came as the U.S. Congress is readying to approve a package of sanctions on Iran that are aimed at further mitigating Iranian oil revenues. The sanctions would cut down on electronic fund transfers from Iranian banks and also reduce transactions with Iranian national oil and tanker companies.

### *Jews in West Bank*

More than 350,000 Jews are living in the West Bank, a 4.5 per cent increase over last year, according to the Israeli government. Peace Now, which monitors settlement growth, claimed that the number is inflated. According to the *Times of Israel*, Israel's Interior Ministry reported that 350,150 Israelis live in the West Bank, an increase of 15,580 from last year. Including eastern Jerusalem and other Jerusalem neighbourhoods, the total population of Jews living beyond the Green Line that separates Israel proper from its administered territories is about 650,000.

### *Hezbollah not terrorist: EU*

Israeli media reported that European Union (EU) President Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis said that the EU would not grant Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman's request to declare Iran-funded Hezbollah as a terrorist organization because "Hezbollah is a political party in Lebanon which also runs charity organizations." Lieberman's request came after reports that Hezbollah organized the July 18 bombing of a bus carrying Israeli tourists in Bulgaria. "It's time to add Hezbollah to the list of terrorist organizations in Europe, as a message from the international community to those who on the one hand meet with diplomats and on the other hand murder innocent civilians on the same continent," Lieberman said at a conference of foreign ministers in Brussels.

*– JTA and JNS.org*

# A primer on modern Egyptian history

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Hosni Mubarak's downfall was long in coming.

Mohammed Morsi has compiled a list of historic firsts since his election as Egypt's new president this past June.

A member of the heretofore banned Muslim Brotherhood, he is Egypt's first civilian president, as well as the first Islamist elected to lead an Arab state.

By any measure, Morsi, an American-educated engineer, had to struggle to come so far. The clique of generals who have effectively ruled Egypt since the fall of its former president, Hosni Mubarak, manoeuvred to block his path to the presidency.

In the coming months, with a new constitution yet to be written and the Islamist-led parliament dissolved by the Supreme Military Council, he and the generals will jockey for power.

As Steven A. Cook suggests in *The Struggle for Egypt: From Nasser to Tahrir Square* (Oxford University Press), a fine primer on the Arab world's most populous and influential nation, modern Egypt is inured to political turbulence.

From an Egyptian officers' revolt in 1882 against the monarchy to the Arab Spring uprising in 2011, which resulted in Mubarak's ouster, Egypt has lurched from one crisis to the next since the late 19th century. This is the period that Cook, an American expert on Arab politics, examines in his deeply researched and felicitously written study.

He begins, appropriately enough, in 1882, when an Egyptian army colonel, Ahmed al Urabi, staged a rebellion to protest the erosion of Egypt's sovereignty. Having incurred crushing debts to France and Britain, Egypt fell under their control. In response to Urabi's challenge, Britain invaded Egypt, defeating Urabi's forces in the Nile Delta and turning Egypt into a colonial protectorate.

In his sweeping survey, Cook examines the British imperial presence in Egypt and Egypt's attempts to wriggle free of Britain's domination.

He notes that the most important group to emerge in Egypt during the interwar years from 1918 to 1939 was a religious society known as the Muslim Brotherhood. Founded in 1928, it was led by a primary school teacher named Hassan al Banna. The Muslim Botherhood, he adds, would have "a profound and lasting" impact on Egypt, since it tapped into Egyptian resentments and frustrations.

The Free Officers movement, which supplanted the corrupt monarchy 60 years ago last month, was spearheaded by General Mohammed Naguib. He was summarily shoved aside by Gamal Abdel Nasser, an ambitious colonel who had fought courageously in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

Nasser and his crafty cronies imposed martial law on their countrymen, essentially developing the authoritarian political order that has defined Egypt for decades, and turned Egypt into a hegemonic Arab power.

In one bold stroke, Nasser endeared himself to Arab elites and masses by nationalizing the Suez Canal, a marvel of French engineering. Britain bought its controlling shares in 1875 thanks to Rothschild funds.

The nationalization of the canal triggered British and French military intervention in the 1956 Suez war. Israel participated in that war, confirming Egyptian suspicions that Zionism was an extension of Europe's effort to colonize the Middle East.

As Cook points out, Israel and Egypt were already locked in a state of war when the Israeli army stormed into the Sinai Peninsula. During the mid-1950s, tensions boiled over as Israel accused the Egyptian government of supporting cross-border raids launched from the Gaza Strip.

At home, Nasser portrayed himself as an ally of the impoverished masses, instituting land reform that sorely alienated landlords. But Nasser's reputation as a reformer was tarnished by the anemic performance of Egypt's economy, writes Cook. "Egypt remained a place of vast asymmetries in wealth, health and education."

Nasser's vice-president and successor, Anwar Sadat, was widely considered a lightweight. But in reality, Sadat – a pro-Nazi sympathizer in World War II – was a shrewd operator who outwitted his rivals after Nasser's sudden death in 1970.

Cook documents Sadat's quasi rapprochement with the Muslim Brotherhood and his decisions to expel Soviet military advisors, launch the Yom Kippur War and make peace with Israel.

Cook also delves into Sadat's policy of improving relations with the United States in the post-war period. As he puts it, "Although Sadat relied on Soviet goodwill in order to fight the [1973] war, he harboured the belief... that the United States was the critical link to regional peace and prosperity."

Sadat's successor, Mubarak, also hewed to a pro-U.S. stance, believing that only the United States had the resources to assist Egypt in its development.

Egypt enjoyed unprecedented economic growth in the first decade of the 21st century, but the ills of crony capitalism ate away at Mubarak's popularity. His failure to address problems related to crumbling infrastructure, substandard health-care service and an inadequate educational system were contributory causes of his demise.

Egypt was theoretically a democracy, but in practice, Egypt was nothing more than a police state where the status quo was maintained and real dissent was quashed.

To the majority of Egyptians, Mubarak was the symbol of a hopelessly corrupt system, and had to go.

According to Cook, Mubarak's downfall, in only 18 tumultuous days, was long in coming. Pent-up grievances in Egyptian society were compounded by the murders of pro-democracy activists, the continuing rise in food prices and the revelations of "rapacious thievery" on the part of immensely wealthy business figures directly connected to Mubarak.

The Mubarak regime preserved Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, but it was a decidedly cold peace. Across the political spectrum, from the Nasserists and the Muslim Brotherhood to the Tagammu and the Wafd parties, Egypt's political elite opposed normalization of relations with Israel, Cook observes.

He elaborates: "For many Egyptians, including intellectuals, government officials and ordinary people, Zionism was – and remains – widely regarded as a version of western colonialism and thus a direct threat to Egypt."

With Morsi's inauguration as president, a new chapter in Egyptian history has begun. Cook, whose book was published several months before the Morsi era was ushered in, says it will be "extraordinarily difficult" to predict Egypt's future. But "the struggle for Egypt continues," he writes.

Cook's book should be read in conjunction with Robert L. Tignor's magisterial *Egypt: A Short History* (Princeton University Press). Tignor, a professor emeritus at Princeton, takes a reader on a fascinating journey from ancient to contemporary Egypt.

**'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING**

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# Scholar/poet Panofsky delves into print culture

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

For Canadian academic Ruth Panofsky, who has published widely in the field of print culture and book history, the MacMillan Company of Canada seemed like an irresistible topic.

"Along with Ryerson Press and McClelland and Stewart, MacMillan was instrumental in shaping Canada's literary culture of the last century," said Panofsky, a professor in the department of English and the joint graduate program in communication and culture at Ryerson University in Toronto. "But Macmillan also encouraged countless Canadian authors and helped establish a publishing industry for Canada."

Thanks to her previous research on Canadian novelists Mazo de la Roche and Adele Wiseman, both of whom were MacMillan authors, she came to realize that the men and women who managed the company through its history were as interesting and dynamic as the authors themselves.

And so Panofsky, an expert on Wiseman, decided to write *The Literary Legacy of the Macmillan Company of Canada: Making Books and Mapping Culture*, which was published recently.

Panofsky's interest in print culture and book history developed in graduate school at York University, where she specialized in Canadian literature and wrote her doctoral dissertation on Thomas Chandler Haliburton (1796-1865), Canada's first internationally recognized author.

Panofsky's thesis was on Haliburton's *The Clockmaker*, a series of sketches that established him as an international celebrity. "Remarkably, in its day, *The Clockmaker* was as popular as the work of Charles Dickens. But today its overt racism and misogynism makes it difficult to read," she said.

Nonetheless, Panofsky was intrigued by its historical success, and her work on Haliburton drew her to archival research and publishing history, which, she noted, "invariably uncovers the fascinating, behind-the-scenes details of author-publisher relations."

Born and raised in Montreal, she has been drawn to books since childhood.

"I was an avid reader as a child. My interest in books was encouraged by an uncle who was himself a voracious reader. He brought me all kinds of books. As a pre-teen, I devoured the Nancy Drew series, the All-of-a-Kind Family series, the biographies of Helen Kelller and Vincent Van Gogh and so on."

She added, "High school introduced me to Canadian writers. I discovered the poetry of A.M. Klein and the novels of Mordecai Richler and Margaret Atwood. I remember spending hours in my high school library immersed in a good book."

Canadian literature helped her understand her place in the world.

As she put it, "I am drawn to writing that probes the nuances of Canadian experience and sensibility in a diverse, complex, ever-changing universe. My taste for Canadian writing has only deepened and expanded over the years and includes all genres from short fiction and essays to poetry, which I did not read as a young person."

Panofsky, a member of the editorial board of *Canadian Jewish Studies* and the editor of *Parchment: Contemporary Canadian-Jewish Writing*, is particularly intrigued by Wiseman (1928-1992), the author of the novels *The Sacrifice* and *Crackpot*, a winner of the Governor General's Award and a woman of her mother's generation.

Panofsky has charted Wiseman's contribution to Canadian literature in scholarly books ranging from *Adele Wiseman: An Annotated Bibliography* to *The Force of Vocation: The Literary Career of Adele Wiseman*.

She believes that Wiseman's creative probing of profound moral issues, plus

Ruth Panofsky

her devotion to the literary life, are her most significant achievements. In her view, Wiseman's works warrant "closer critical scrutiny."

By no coincidence, one of Panofsky's areas of interest turns on Canadian Jewish female authors, which she covers in *At Odds in the World: Essays on Jewish Canadian Women Writers*.

"Jewish Canadian male writers like Richler, Leonard Cohen, Norman Levine, Irving Layton and Matt Cohen have long received critical attention, but their female counterparts have never had the same public profile," she observed.

Panofsky has a high regard for Helen Weinzweig, who produced avant-garde prose that was both challenging and disturbing, and Miriam Waddington, who used lyric verse to probe the female experience.

Among contemporary Jewish Canadian women writers, Panofsky admires the novelists Anne Michaels, Lilian Nattel and Nancy Richler and the poets Ronna Bloom, Susan Glickman, Isa Millman, Merle Nudelman, Karen Shenfeld and Rhea Tregebov.

A poet herself, Panofsky has published two books of poetry, one of which, *Laike and Nahum: A Poem in Two Voices*, won the Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Award for Poetry in 2008.

Published in 2007, *Laike and Nahum* was inspired by her Russian grandparents of the same names.

"Laike settled in Montreal as a young child with her parents. Nahum was brought to Montreal by one of his brothers. He was a presser and she was a homemaker. I knew them very well and lived with them for one summer as an undergraduate student. I was deeply attached to my loving grandmother and still miss her."

Panofsky's father, Marvin, was a clothing importer, and her mother, Brenda Yampolosky, was a housewife.

"I grew up in Chomedey, a suburb of Montreal," said Panofsky, 53. "In 1976, I joined the mass exodus of Anglophones from Quebec and left Montreal to attend Carleton University in Ottawa. I've remained in Ontario ever since, but I miss Montreal, which I visit regularly and regard as my psychological home."

Panofsky – whose husband Gary Gottlieb is a family lawyer – graduated from Carleton in 1980 and completed an master's degree at York University two years later. Her research paper was on Miriam Waddington's early poetry.

The mother of two children, Bram and Liza, she derives enormous satisfaction from being an academic.

"For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be an English professor," said Panofsky, whom one of her students described as highly intelligent, warm and creative. "I am one of those lucky people who early in life felt drawn to a profession, and happily, I have realized my ambition.

"I am comfortable surrounded by books and deeply gratified to be able to share my love of literature with my students at Ryerson. I have no plans for retirement, which seems far off, and I'm determined to keep writing and reading for a long time."

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# Independent filmmaker values art over profit

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

If Lloyd Kaufman's parents didn't make him learn French as a child, he may never have become the artistic filmmaker that he is today.

The 40-year veteran of independent filmmaking, responsible for cult classics such as *The Toxic Avenger*, said his first brush with creative film was in the pages of influential French film magazine *Cahiers du Cinéma*.

Kaufman, 66, discovered the magazine as a Chinese studies student at Yale University in Connecticut. He began reading it regularly as the enthusiasm of his cinephile roommates rubbed off on him. Kaufman describes his university-aged run-in with film as kismet, or destiny.

"If I didn't speak French, I probably would've become the Michael Bay of American filmmaking," he said, referencing the action film director who is known for churning out high-budget movies rife with special effects.

Kaufman, who will be in Toronto for the annual Fan Expo convention in August, was once en route to becoming a social worker or a teacher before finding his calling in film. "It was the '60s, and I thought I would make the world a better place," he said with a laugh on the phone from his Long Island, N.Y., office.

Instead, Kaufman founded an independent production company, Troma Entertainment, which he runs in partnership with Michael Herz, arguably making the world of film a better place.

Troma, straying far from the Hollywood world of glitz, glamour and multi-million-dollar budgets, works on very low budgets and focuses on unique, often shocking films that offer "genuine emotion" and social commentary.

"Troma is the jalapeño peppers on the cultural pizza, so to speak," Kaufman said, explaining that while high-budget films appeal to a wide audience, Troma films typically appeal to a niche audience, but are more challenging and interesting for viewers. "I don't think *Batman* gives you a genuine emotion – it gives you $200 million of something," he said.

Founded in 1974, Troma, unlike many independent film companies that have fizzled out due to financial pressure, has been operating continuously in New York for the last 38 years.

Early in his career, Kaufman took on an Israeli project with director Ami Artzi. The resulting film, called *Big Gus, What's the Fuss?* in English and *HaBalash HaAmitz Shvartz* in Hebrew, was, according to Kaufman, a huge flop, both financially and artistically. "We managed to make the worst movie ever made," he said with typical frankness.

Although *Big Gus* never took off in North America or in Israel, years later, Kaufman would learn he still has an Israeli following. While travelling through Israel, one of his daughters found a *Toxic Avenger* yarmulke, which she brought back for him.

To this day, the 1984 low-budget horror comedy about a "weakling" who falls into a vat of toxic waste and becomes a huge, super-strong creature is likely Kaufman's most widely known film. It spawned a series of sequels as well as a children's TV cartoon called *Toxic Crusaders*.

**Lloyd Kaufman directed the cult classic *The Toxic Avenger*. *[lloydkaufman.com photo]***

While many people may be unfamiliar with Troma's original works, they probably have heard of the many well-known actors and industry professionals that Kaufman's company helped launch. Among them are Samuel L. Jackson, Matt Stone and Trey Parker of *South Park* fame, and filmmaker James Gunn.

Troma's independence, Kaufman explained, allows it much more artistic freedom in a world where "there are a small number of giant media conglomerates, and most of the media that we get comes from those conglomerates or their vassals."

Kaufman believes that with the rise of the Internet and file sharing, as well as the ease with which simple film equipment can be acquired, the monopoly of media conglomerates will be challenged. "The making of cinema has been democratized," he said. "You can be a teacher, or a nurse or a social worker and still make movies."

Troma recently posted many of its films to YouTube so that fans can access them free, and Kaufman has also allowed for a *Toxic Avenger* musical to be made without charging for rights to the material.

For Kaufman, giving people access to the art, emotion and social commentary of Troma's films is more important than the profit. "I do believe that if you share your art with your fans, your fans will take care of you."

*Kaufman will be at the Fan Expo convention which runs at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from Aug. 23-26. www.fanexpocanada.com*

## TRAVEL TALK

By Bill Gladstone

### KOSHER CRUISES TO SPAIN OFFERED IN FALL

Toronto-based Uniworld Travel & Tours and Israel-based Ophir Tours are offering two kosher cruises this fall aboard the six-star Crystal Serenity. Both cruises feature the cuisine of international kosher chef Malcolm Green under the supervision of Rabbi Stewart Weiss who will host both cruises with his wife. A discount of between 8 and 13 per cent is offered for travellers on both cruises.

The Lisbon-Barcelona cruise takes in Lisbon, Madeira, Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the Canary Islands, Lanzarote, Agadir, Morocco, Cadiz-Seville, Valencia and Barcelona, Spain. Travel dates are Nov. 28 to Dec 9. Fares (per person in a double cabin) come in six categories ranging from $5,085 for a window to $10,074 for a penthouse suite. Port charges and taxes extra.

The Barcelona-to-Miami cruise departs Barcelona on Dec. 9 and ends in Miami on Friday Dec. 21. Ports of call include Barcelona, Tenerife in the Canary Islands, St. Maarten in the French West Indies, and Miami. The six categories of fares range from $4,835 for a window to $9,254 for a penthouse suite. Port charges and taxes extra.

For details or reservations, please contact David Freudmann at Uniworld, 416-493-3322, ext. 356, or David@Uniworldtravel.com

* * *

**Museum of Jewish Heritage:** Continuing exhibitions in this Lower Manhattan museum include *Emma Lazarus, Poet of Exiles*, presented in conjunction with the 125th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty on which Lazarus's famous poem was inscribed; *Filming the Camps, From Hollywood to Nuremberg*, an examination of how American film directors such as John Ford, George Stevens and Samuel Fuller filmed the war and the liberation of Nazi concentration camps; and *Let My People Go*, illuminating the movement to free the Jews of Soviet Russia from 1967 to 1989. 36 Battery Place, New York. www.mjhnyc.org

* * *

**Canada Travel Notes**

• *Beyond Pop*, an exhibition of the works of American pop artist Tom Wesselmann, is on view at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts until Oct. 7.

• *Van Gogh: Up Close*, a major Canadian exhibition of work by the renowned Dutch artist, takes a fresh look at his genius by exploring his representation of nature and his novel use of the close-up view. At the National Gallery, Ottawa, until Sept. 3. www.gallery.ca/vangogh

* * *

**Israel Travel Notes**

• The Jerusalem Development Authority has launched a new website offering travel deals, events and information highlighting tourism to Jerusalem. Available in English and Hebrew, the website employs Google street views and high-definition videos to provide a virtual tour of Jerusalem's many historical holy sites and modern attractions. The website is at www. iTravelJerusalem.com. A similar site for Tel Aviv may be found at www.visit-tlv.com

•The Jerusalem Opera Festival features classic and interactive opera performances at the Sultan's Pool, including Puccini's *La Boheme* (Sept. 6); *Pretty Woman Meets the Fifth Element*, a multi-media operatic performance (Sept. 10); and a cantoral performance featuring world-renowned vocalists. www. jerusalem-culture.com

• An annual Chamber Music Festival brings together classical musicians from around the world for various performances at the historic Jerusalem YMCA, Aug. 31 to Sept. 14.

• A major new performing arts centre and music and dance conservatory is under construction in Ashkelon in southern Israel. The 48,000-square-foot building, designed by French architect Maneulle Gautrand in collaboration with Israeli architect Batya Swirk Malul, will resemble a stack of boxes with a perforated metallic covering, and will offer sweeping views of Ashkelon.

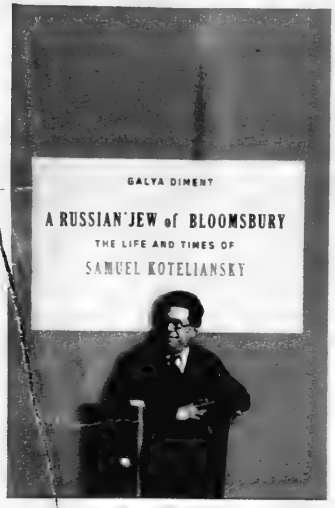
• More than 83,000 international travellers arrived in Israel in June for the kick-off of Madonna's 2012 world tour in Tel Aviv as well as for the Masada Opera Festival. Other international artists to perform in Israel this summer and fall include Guns N' Roses, Chris Cornell, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Lenny Kravitz.

• For information about travel to Israel, please visit www.goisrael.com

# EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

**SUMMER LITERARY COLUMN, PART TWO:** ***A RUSSIAN JEW IN BLOOMSBURY***




**Samuel Koteliansky** was never a major figure in the Bloomsbury circle. Author **Leon Edel** never even mentions him in *Bloomsbury: A House of Lions*, his masterful portrait of the loose affiliation of writers and artists associated with the London-based literary circle, nor is he mentioned in the other books about Bloomsbury on my shelf.

We owe it to writer **Galya Diment**, author of the 2011 book *A Russian Jew of Bloomsbury: The Life and Times of Samuel Koteliansky* (McGill-Queen's University Press), for shining a welcome spotlight on this intriguing and worthy subject, who was an important influence on **D. H. Lawrence** and a friend of **Katherine Mansfield**, **H. G. Wells**, **Mark Gertler** and other prominent figures of his day.

Kot – he acquired that nickname because few of his British friends could spell or pronounce his full surname – was born in Ostropol (now in Ukraine) in 1880 and arrived in London in 1911, having already devoured all of the original works of **Tolstoy**, **Chekhov**, **Dostoyevsky** and other Russian writers in their originals. **The Diaghilev Ballet** was then at the height of its popularity in London and the British public was entering into a mania for all things Russian, just as it had done for all things Japanese in an earlier era.

Introduced into the fringes of the Bloomsbury group, Kot's deep understanding of Russian literature and his passionate approach to life and art made him – despite his Jewishness – someone worth knowing. D. H. Lawrence invited him along with some other friends on a walking tour of the Lake District in July 1914. Kot was thereafter close with Lawrence for the rest of his life and exchanged more letters with him than anyone else outside of Lawrence's own family.

Kot's friendship with Lawrence thrived, Dimant writes, despite Lawrence's frequent antisemitic remarks. Apparently few people in that era regarded expressions of racial hostility as politically incorrect: there was no need for people to curb their tongues or keep their discriminatory thoughts to themselves. Even **Leonard** and **Virginia Woolf** occasionally made antisemitic jibes about Kot, somehow forgetting the fact that Leonard was himself a highly assimilated Jew.

In the 1910s and 1920s, Kot worked as a translator of Tolstoy, Chekhov, Dostoevsky and other Russian writers for Hogarth Press, the small publishing outfit operated by the Woolfs. His translation of **Maxim Gorky's** *Reminiscences of Leo Nicolayevitch Tolstoy* was the first of their several great successes. He often shared the credit for translation with Virginia Woolf, Lawrence, Mansfield and other collaborators who knew not a word of Russian but were capable of rendering his adequate prose into exceptionally fine English. Ultimately, after quarreling with the Woolfs once too often, he left Hogarth to work for another publisher and eventually set up his own small press.

Kot once sought Lawrence's permission to translate *Women in Love* into Russian, but Lawrence declined when he realized that he was still an unknown quantity in Russia. In 1927, Kot asked to read Lawrence's latest manuscript, **Lady Chatterley's Lover**, with a view to publishing it himself, but Lawrence told him the novel was "so improper, you wouldn't dare to touch it." He added: "It's the most improper novel ever written: and as Jehovah you would probably find it sheer pornography."

A fervent proponent of honesty no matter how harsh, Kot later acknowledged that he had indeed found the book "disgusting." One of his favourite aphorisms was, "Better an honest slap than a false kiss." He was a fierce critic of literature he disliked, and he transformed people he disliked into lifelong enemies. Possessing a dark Russian temperament, he was also moody and went in and out of deep depressions.

Although Kot was a largely secular Jew, his English friends, unused to socializing with shtetl-born Jews, sometimes jokingly called him Jehovah or a rabbi or an Old Testament prophet, Dimant relates. Mansfield's husband, **John Middleton Murry**, wrote that he "looked like some Assyrian king… with an impressive hooked Semitic nose, a fine head of coarse, black, curly hair and massive features – very dark eyes with pince-nez."

Although not a household name like the more prominent figures of Bloomsbury, Kot definitely left his mark on the art world. Dimant asserts that Lawrence used him as a model for a character in his 1923 novel *Kangaroo*, and was once so taken with a snippet of biblical poetry that Kot sang for him that he made it the basis of his Utopian vision, Rananim. Kot also became a close friend of Mansfield and shaped her awareness of Chekhov; as well as of H. G. Wells, who asked him to tutor his son in conversational Russian, and of **Mark Gertler**, a young painter and fellow Jew from eastern Europe.

Despite all the social pressure to become Christian, Kot persisted in his Jewishness, and even glorified Jewish culture on occasion. When the Habima Players' famous production of **S. Ansky's** *The Dybbuk* came to London, Kot dragged **Aldous Huxley** and other influential friends to see it. When **Lady Ottoline Morell,** a friend whom he suspected was trying to convert him to Christianity, invited him to a service in St. Paul's Cathedral, Kot accepted.

"She thought he would be impressed by the beauty of the music and the Church of England service," a mutual friend, Lady Glenarvy, later wrote. "The only feeling he got from it was… [that] it was all so completely Jewish; every hymn and psalm and prayer or reading from the Bible was about Jehovah, Jerusalem, the Children of Israel, Zion and the Hebrew prophets."

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• Active Seniors hosts a beautifully illustrated presentation, *Picasso, His Life and Art*. Miles Nadal JCC, Bloor and Spadina. Thursday, Aug. 9, 1:30 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 155.

• Some lovely paintings by former Torontonian Rebecca Morais have been on view in Aroma, Yonge and Eglinton. Morais, who made aliyah with her family in 2007 at age 11, is about to enter Grade 11 in Ra'anana Israel, and paints as much as she can. rebeccapaintsthings.tumblr.com

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# Teen to cycle to NYC for Alzheimer's research

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

For most people, just the drive from Toronto to New York would be an exhausting trip, but 19-year-old Benji Pister will be making the 800-kilometre journey by bicycle next month. It will take him six days.

Pister, who has just finished his first year of life sciences at McMaster University, will be making the bike tour in memory of his late grandfather, Paul. His goal is to raise awareness and money to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. His grandfather suffered from Alzheimer's before his death four years ago.

"My grandfather was a very unique person. He was always happy, and he loved every single grandchild that he had," said Pister, who has named the trek the Paul Pister Ride for Alzheimer's Research.

As Pister's grandfather became more affected by Alzheimer's, which is usually marked by deterioration in memory, emotional health and cognitive skills, the family had to deal with the pain of his worsening mental state.

"It really was heartbreaking," Pister said. "It definitely affected me a lot."

Despite the fact that Alzheimer's disease affects many elderly people, funding for research is not nearly as abundant as it is for other causes, such as cancer research. Pister is determined to help change that.

"What I want to get out of this is just to motivate others to do more fundraising for Alzheimer's, and really, the end goal is to find a cure," he said. So far, he has raised about $2,500 for the Alzheimer Society's research program, exceeding his initial goal of $2,000.

"The donations kept coming in," Pister said, adding that after a slow start, friends and family began spreading the word of his upcoming bike journey and people have been eager to help.

Pister began taking a serious interest in cycling when he was about 15 years old. Last year, he rode in the 100-kilometre Zareinu Moveathon to raise money for children with physical and developmental disabilities.

Since making the decision to do a ride to New York about a year ago, Pister has been training to become a stronger cyclist. "I've been doing some major rides," he said. In addition to training on a stationary bike and working on his strength at the gym, he bikes to Hamilton and back each week to take a summer course at McMaster.

Pister has also altered his diet to include more protein and carbohydrates. He has virtually cut out junk food, finding that it slows him down in training.

It's important for Pister to focus on preparation, as the ride to New York will have him riding some 150 kilometres a day, he said.

Because Pister's own bike is not suitable for the intense ride, he will be using an aluminum road bike for the trip, lent to him by his friend Benjy Wexler. "Without that bike, I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing now," he said.

Pister's father will be following him in a van, along with a friend who will be making a video documentary about the ride. The team plans to stop each night to rest and to make one stop each day until reaching New York.

Part of the reason for choosing the destination, Pister said, is because New York was one of his grandfather's favourite cities.

Although the training has been tough, and Pister will have a long road ahead of him when he begins the ride on Aug. 19, he is motivated by the importance of the cause. "I want people to take away that a disease like this can't be neglected," he said.

**Benji Pister will be cycling from Toronto to New York on Aug. 19 to raise money for Alzheimer's research.**

Pister hopes to make the ride an annual event so he can continue to raise money for the cause. "The training has been going great and the fundraising has been going great," he said. "I'm looking forward to the ride."

# *Benudiz named to Ontario Under-15 rugby team*

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

A year ago, Dylan Benudiz was unfamiliar with the finer points of competitive rugby. He was a hockey guy who didn't mind a little body contact, so when his buddy, Jake, suggested he might be suited for the rough and tumble aspects of rugby, Benudiz agreed to give it a try.

It turns out Jake was right: Benudiz, 14, was pretty good at the sport. He made the team at Bill Crothers Secondary School in Unionville, Ont., and helped the Colts win the York Region Athletic Association (YRAA) championship.

He played so well as a rookie that his coach suggested he try out for the provincial team. After surviving a number of tryouts, Benudiz was named one of 49 players selected to Ontario's Under-15 team.

Forty members of that group were chosen to travel this week to Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Quebec for a series of exhibition games.

**Dylan Benudiz**

"It's exciting," he said last week. "I never dreamed of this."

While in Quebec, the Under-15s will train with the Under-16 team, who are preparing to participate in the national championships. If Benudiz wants to play in a national event – and he does – it's something that will have to wait until next summer when he's older.

Though he's been at it only a year, Benudiz has fallen in love with the game. "Rugby is one of my favourite sports now," he said. "I enjoy how it's played and organized. When you're in the full game, you're not by yourself. You're with 14 other guys protecting you. They'll never leave you alone – they'll always try to support you."

Benudiz plays "hooker," the guy who wins the ball for his side during a scrum, when 16 bigger guys lock arms and push each other back and forth.

"I'm in the front row, where the main pushing is. I have to find the ball and hook it back to my teammates… You don't get as crushed as you might think."

At five foot eight, 150 pounds, mixing it up with the bigger guys might not be such a good idea. Better to stick with his own strengths, which are his quickness and his playmaking abilities.

"I'm sort of fast and can run to the ball faster and see the whole field," he said. He also rates his passing as pretty good and "I have good judgment for the scrums… I enjoy all aspects of the game. It's not all about contact – it's more about the teammates helping you and you helping your teammates to score."

Benudiz credits the coaching he received at Bill Crothers for helping his development, as well as training with the older boys at school.

He expects to continue to play for the school this year, but he's already planning for next summer, when he hopes to be a part of the Under-16 team and compete for Ontario at the national championships.

And he hasn't given up the hockey. He'll be back with the Vaughan Rangers this winter as well.

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# Israel has strict gun-control laws

**Ben Sales**
JTA

**Soldiers carrying their guns are a common sight in Israel** *[Israel Sun photo]*

**TEL AVIV** — First-time visitors to Israel might be taken aback to see groups of armed teenagers walking through a city plaza on a weeknight, or surprised to walk into a public bathroom and see an M-16 lying across the sinks as a soldier washes his face.

But guns are ubiquitous in Israel, where most 18-year-olds are drafted into the army after high school.

However, once those soldiers finish their service two or three years later, they are subject to civilian gun-control regulations that are much stricter than American laws.

In fact, it's pretty much impossible for civilians who live in Israel to acquire an arsenal of weaponry of the sort used by the alleged shooter in last week's massacre in Aurora, Colo. James E. Holmes, who is accused of killing 12 people and wounding 58 in the Aurora movie theatre, legally bought the firearms he used, according to reports, including a semiautomatic rifle, a semiautomatic pistol and a 12-gauge shotgun. Leading up to the shooting, Holmes had bought thousands of bullets online.

In Israel, assault rifles are banned except for special circumstances, such as communal self-defence in areas deemed to be a security risk. And while political violence in Israel is all too common and gun violence is a growing problem, random shootings of strangers – like the Aurora massacre – are virtually unheard-of here.

Unlike in the United States, where the right to bear arms is guaranteed in the constitution's Second Amendment, Israel's department of public security considers gun ownership a privilege, not a right. Gun owners in Israel are limited to owning one pistol, and must undergo extensive mental and physical tests before they can receive a weapon, and gun owners are limited to 50 rounds of ammunition per year.

Not all Israelis, however, may own guns. In order to own a pistol, an Israeli must for two years have been either a captain in the army or a former lieutenant colonel. Israelis with an equivalent rank in other security organizations may also own a pistol.

In addition, residents of West Bank settlements and those who work there may own pistols for self-defence.

Other groups of Israelis, such as professional hunters and sharpshooters, or people transporting dangerous goods, may also own firearms. And Israelis may keep unloaded guns they inherited or received as gifts.

Lior Nedivi, a former police officer, said that despite Israel's militarized society, neither soldiers nor veterans engage in extensive gun violence because 18-year-olds are tested for mental and physical fitness before being drafted.

In 2008, 143 people in Israel died from firearms, according to the website gunpolicy.org.

"They [IDF] don't recruit everyone," said Nedivi, who runs a company called Advanced Forensic Science Services. "If you are a person with a record of violence, you will be discharged."

Nedivi favours allowing private gun ownership with tight regulations, noting that armed civilians have used their guns to stop terrorists during attacks.

He said that gun massacres don't occur in Israel because gun owners here undergo more comprehensive psychological screenings than do U.S. gun owners.

"It's not guns that kill, it's people that kill," Nedivi said. "If this person in Colorado will be screened now, they will say he has mental problems. In Israel, most people like this don't get a chance to get a gun."

Gun violence does still occur in Israel, though gun control is not a sensitive political issue.

"We think the society is over-armed," said Smadar Ben-Natan, a lawyer who co-heads Gun-Free Kitchen Tables, an Israeli coalition to end domestic gun violence. "There are too many weapons going around. There is no justification that these weapons go home and are present in civilian surroundings."

Rather than lobbying for new laws, Gun-Free Kitchen Tables is pushing for the enforcement of current regulations, which require security guards to leave their weapons in their workplace. Ben-Natan said private security companies often do not abide by the law.

"The private police companies offer an illusion of security," Ben-Natan said. "They're not accountable in terms of the public interest. They don't bear the cost of the precautions that need to be in place. The people that pay this price are the women and family members who get shot."

For soldiers who take their weapons home on weekends and off-nights, the rule is they must be on their person at all times or under double-locks if left at home.

# Greek Jews protest new neo-Nazi 'rocker' lawmaker

JTA

**ATHENS, Greece** — The Greek Jewish community in a letter to political leaders and the country's president expressed its "revulsion" to the swearing-in of an antisemitic musician as a national lawmaker.

Artemios Mathaiopoulos of the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party took the oath as a member of the Greek parliament on Wednesday. He replaces another member of the party who resigned.

"This composer of hate lyrics that praise Auschwitz offends the memory of the six million Jewish victims of Nazism – of whom 65,000 were Greek Jews – also offends thousands of their Christian fellow Greek citizens and vulgarly trivializes Jews and their sacred places, is now a member of the Greek parliament," said the letter from the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece sent last Thursday.

The Jewish community took particular exception to Mathaiopoulos, who was a bass player in a hard-rock Greek band called Pogrom, which has a "repertoire of fiercely racist, fascist, vulgar and antisemitic songs," the letter said, noting that a song titled *Auschwitz,* has lyrics like "f*** Anne Frank," "f*** the tribe of Abraham" and "piss on the Wailing Wall."

The letter asked President Karolos Papoulias to take "all necessary measures to keep those who extol Nazism out of the mainstream of our country's political and social life."

Golden Dawn, which features a Nazi swastika-like flag and has a Holocaust-denying leader, swept into parliament with 19 lawmakers in recent elections campaigning on an anti-austerity, anti-immigrant platform.

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# Novels inspire student's campaign to eradicate hunger

**Riva Gold**
Special to The CJN

How much can a 20-year-old Torontonian learn from the Hunger Games trilogy?

Enough to start an international campaign to eradicate hunger and get her message heard by nearly 1,000 online supporters.

Guelph University student Lauren Morrison says the novels, written from the perspective of a 16-year-old female, inspire her because they remind her how lucky she is to live in a country like Canada.

The Hunger Games book and movie series, in contrast, is set in a post-apocalyptic world where food is scarce and children compete in a public battle for survival.

"The juxtaposition between our lives and their lives made the books so fascinating to read," she says.

"After reading, I knew I wanted to do something that was a tribute to the books' theme and show that fans can learn from the series and apply it to life."

Initially, Morrison just wanted to win tickets to the series' movie première, and started an online campaign to get tickets from TV talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres.

She created a Facebook page, "Get Lauren on Ellen for the Hunger Games," and quickly amassed more than 100 online supporters.

"After a week or two, I realized I could make something of this support and really make a difference."

She resolved to combine her love for Ellen, the Hunger Games, and community involvement and do something that incorporated all three.

Since the books featured a class system with mass starvation, she linked that theme to Toronto's own food struggles.

In June, she started a door-to-door campaign for food donations for her local food bank and encouraged supporters to do the same.

Morrison quickly decided to change her Facebook-organized mission so that it centred around food drives, and got 60 people to commit to collecting food themselves.

The issue of hunger was familiar to Morrison, who has volunteered at a school in Nairobi, Kenya.

"I got to see what it was like for people living in a place where they had nothing," she says.

"Children would ask us on a daily basis if we had a penny so they could get a piece of bread."

Going door to door in Toronto for two days, Morrison filled the back seat and trunk of a Ford Escape full of non-perishable food items and donated them to the North York Harvest Food Bank.

"We went door to door in the sun for five hours straight on a scorching hot weekend. People were really receptive to it," she recalls.

LAUREN MORRISON

"When I got to the food bank to deliver the food, I saw people lining up for hours in the blazing sun just to get a package."

Morrison says the summer is a particularly difficult time for food banks.

"The major times people are donating to food banks are on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. So that takes care of fall, winter and spring, but there's really nothing in the summer to make people consider making donations," she says.

Her next drive is set to take place later this month.

"My overall goal is to be able to promote my campaign against hunger on the *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*," she says.

"I'm a huge fan of Ellen. I respect her. She stands for equality, kindness, respect and love, and is a really good role model to a lot of people. When I hear what she says and what she promotes, it's empowering."

She also hopes such an appearance could grow her campaign.

"I want it to be an international project. You sign up with a group of friends, and you go around door to door on the weekend of the event, on behalf of friends, and collect food for your local food bank," she says.

"There are people all over the world who love this book. I want to help more than just my local food bank. There are more people out there who are struggling, and the more people who can get involved, the fewer people will be hungry."

Aside from her charitable work, Morrison hopes to eventually become an interventional cardiologist.

"My father has had four heart attacks and a quintuple bypass. Many people would feel awful after something like that, but he's happy to be alive," she says.

"And on top of my father, I show symptoms of the disorder. So I want to help people in the future who have heart problems, because I think I could relate to my patients."

Asked what else she's reading, Morrison says her other favourite series is Harry Potter. But don't expect a Potterhead campaign too soon.

"It's hard to raise wizardry awareness," she jokes. "That would not go over so well in the community."

For updates and more information about Morrison's project, visit www.facebook.com/getlaurenonellenforthehungergames.

*More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca*

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# 'We need to clean'

It's always on Thursday mornings. The horror. Even before I'm fully awake. I open my eyes and glance into Meir's gaze. I close them immediately. Then I hear his harsh voice: "Nina, we need to clean the house." Oh, boy.

You probably remember my issues with maids. Even though Meir swears on his poor life he, himself, threw away my precious shopping-bag collection, I know the last maid heartlessly stole it! Oh yeah, I saw her looking at my shopping bags with interest, especially the slightly torn bag from Holt Renfrew!

Anyhow, I've created a simple questionnaire for all of you, my friends, regarding our household cleaning situation.

*New to Canada*

*Nina Shenhav*

1. Take a look at your bookshelf. What's on it?
(a) Only books, either organized in alphabetical order, by height or by interest.
(b) Mostly books.
(c) Newspapers, toys, keys, open envelopes, pens, brushes and some books.

2. Where do you put clothes you've just purchased?
(a) In the washing machine. Who knows who tried them on before me?
(b) I fold them carefully and put them in the closet.
(c) Stores wouldn't put them in such nice shopping bags for nothing, right?

3. How do you treat your carpets?
(a) Lovingly. In fact, I try to teach everybody to walk with legs wide open in the hall, so the carpet wouldn't fade in the middle.
(b) Vacuum weekly, call the professionals twice a year.
(c) I treat them with respect. They don't bother me, I don't bother them.

4. How do you feel about a sink full of dirty dishes?
(a) I have a rule: never go to bed unless the sink is empty. I simply wouldn't be able to sleep!
(b) I call one of my kids and we wash the dishes together, while telling funny stories. Very bonding.
(c) I call one of my kids, shove a $10 bill into his hand and tell him to make the dishes disappear.

5. How often do you dust?
(a) Daily. It's very important for your health.
(b) Once a week, during the regular cleaning routine.
(c) Never. Why bother? Experiments show it'll be dusty again in no time.

6. What's under your bed?
(a) A clean bright carpet, what else?
(b) The book I'm reading.
(c) Newspapers, toilet paper, empty plates and cans, hand lotion, half a chocolate bar.

Results:

If you answered mostly B, all in all, you're a nice person. You don't expect much of life, and it treats you just the same. Hmm.

If you answered mostly C, you're a vivacious, artsy soul, with real passion for life, yet no one understands you.

If you answered mostly A, you're a compulsive creature, you're probably friends with Meir, and I'm truly afraid of you!

*Nina.shenhav@jmail.com*

**MUSHROOM SKEWERS**
**(ROASTED OR GRILLED)**

**1/2 tbls harissa**
(spicy tomato paste purchased in Middle Eastern section of supermarket)
**1 tbls olive oil**
**2 tbls balsamic vinegar**
**1 tsp oregano**
**8 oz. baby portobello mushrooms, halved lengthwise**

Whisk harissa, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, and oregano together in a medium bowl. Add halved mushrooms and toss well to coat. Marinate 30 min. Thread mushrooms onto presoaked bamboo skewers

*To Roast:* Preheat the oven to 350°F. Roast 10-12 min.
*To Grill:* Preheat grill. Grill 5 minutes per side.
*Yield:* 4 servings

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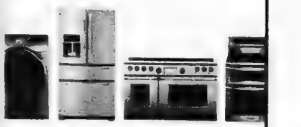

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## On cjnews.com

*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

The Communauté Sépharade Unifiée du Québec recently held its annual general meeting.

French lawyer and Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld talks about the recent arrest of Hungarian Nazi war criminal Laszlo Csatary.

***Exclusive to cjnews.com***

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa writes about how socioeconomic difficulties in Israel led to extreme expressions of protest.

The City of Vaughan is preparing to make an aggressive business pitch to Israel to foster increased trade between the city and the Jewish state.

**Serge Klarsfeld**

# Proposals about the day school tuition crunch

**Joseph Adler**

Guest Voice

The recent columns in the *The CJN* by Rabbi Jay Kelman and Abraham Foxman's regarding Jewish education in North America have prompted me to join the discussion. My wife and I have managed to incur the substantial cost of educating our children in the Jewish day school system in Toronto, and we are beginning to see the end of the enormous financial burden that this entails. We worry, however, for the financial wellbeing of our children and of other middle-class children and wonder how they'll fare in raising families in the future.

We do enjoy the benefits of living in a truly world-class city. And it may indeed be the case, as our community leadership constantly tells us, that UJA Federation of Greater Toronto allocates more funds to Jewish education than any other federation in North America. But this allocation does not mitigate or assuage the financial burden suffered by middle-class Jewish parents. Nor, more ominously, does it bode well for our collective future.

The status quo is simply unsustainable. Our community is in financial crisis. We can no longer rest on our laurels.

We must face the severe financial challenges with utmost dedication to resolving them. The cost of living as a Jew for most of the members of the community in the city of Toronto – with escalating housing, kosher food costs, tuition fees in excess of $60,000 of pre-tax income for a family of three, synagogue, camp, and other costs related to maintaining a Jewish way of life – is simply untenable. With increases in tuition alone of five per cent year after year, this issue will only worsen over time. We desperately need solutions now.

I wish, therefore, to suggest the following proposals regarding possible strategies to mitigate the enormous costs, all of which, in one form or another, have been proposed in the past by others.

First, parents of the day school system should be required, as a condition of enrolling their children, to leave five per cent of their estate to Jewish education and to buy insurance policies that are targeted to sustain the rising cost of Jewish education.

Second, our community day schools should adopt certain benchmarking practices to measure their performance against that of their peers, in order to identify cost-saving and revenue-enhancing opportunities. We need to take better advantage of our economies of scale across our day school system.

Third, we should not turn our backs on the pursuit of a political solution to persuade government to be fair and just. We are taxpayers and voters, too. Although it's clearly an unpopular position – as proven by its rejection in recent provincial elections – we cannot, as a community, afford to turn our backs on this issue.

Our politicians should continue to hear from us in an organized, coherent and vigorous fashion. Equity and the freedom of choosing the education most appropriate for our own children demand this from us. We need our community leaders to help us – our schools and our parents – organize this important effort.

I hope these proposals will generate some discussion and response within our community, from leaders and "ordinary" folk alike. We owe this to our children and our community.

*Joseph Adler is a parent and lawyer in Toronto.*

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Yossi Klein Halevi

Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf
Staff Reporter

When the space shuttle Endeavour finally lifts off on NASA's penultimate shuttle flight later this month, for many Israelis, it will symbolize the continuing journey of astronaut Ilan Ramon.

The Endeavour is tentatively scheduled to launch no earlier than May 16.

On a visit to Toronto last week, Asaf Agmon, CEO of Israel's Fisher Brothers Institute for Air & Space Strategic Studies – a non-profit organization that

Israeli Ministry of Science and works with NASA to bring Israeli experiments into space – said the Endeavour mission will carry two Israeli bio-medical experiments into space, one of which is a "legacy project" from Ramon's Columbia mission.

"There were more than 400 experiments on the Columbia. Only nine

"Justice has

heartfelt address

the nearly 3,000 p

the Sept. 11, 2001, at

Washington orchestra

In a statement issued

ister's Office on Monday,

the U.S. operation a "resoun

justice, freedom, and the valu

all democratic countries fightin

to shoulder against terror."

hours after the announcement

den's death, U.S. Secretary of State

ary Clinton said: "I want to offer my

oughts and prayers to thousands of families

of those killed in terrorist attacks.

"These were not just attacks against

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FRIDAY AUG 10 — SUNDAY AUG 12
ALL IN GREEKTOWN, YOURS TO ENJOY!

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

# Discover A New "Taste" at Pilaros Taste Of The Danforth

*Toronto's favourite festival offers fun for the whole family*

## Welcome to GreekTown and the Pilaros Taste Of The Danforth

Welcome! Whether you live in GreekTown, work here, or visit, you're bound to enjoy its many dining and shopping opportunities. If you've attended the Pilaros Taste Of The Danforth in previous years, you've experienced the unbridled joy of Canada's largest street festival. We look forward to hosting you again this year.

We take great pride in our area. Its unique character and welcoming spirit are internationally known. We are particularly proud of our role in the Pilaros Taste Of The Danforth. We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions of Pilaros Inc., our Title Sponsor, and all the other sponsors who help make this event possible.

On a personal note, I would also like to thank the members of our GreekTown BIA Board of Management for their tireless efforts throughout the year.

"From our GreekTown family to yours, welcome to the Pilaros Taste Of The Danforth. Enjoy!"

***Constantine Voidonicolas***
Chair, GreekTown BIA Board of Management, 2012

Toronto's favourite street festival has a whole new way to celebrate the fun and flavours of Greece and summer in the city. Every year in August, the city of Toronto flocks to GreekTown on the Danforth. Now celebrating its 19th year, the Pilaros Taste Of The Danforth is Canada's largest street festival, welcoming approximately 1.3 million visitors. A Decima Research poll reported that 90% of respondents identified "The Taste" as their favourite GTA festival event — beating out such iconic events as the Toronto International Film Festival, Caribana and Pride Week.

This year, as in 2009, 2010 and 2011, Pilaros International Trading Inc. is proud to be the Title Sponsor of the Taste of the Danforth. Pilaros is a leading importer of Mediterranean food products, primarily olives and olive oil — what the ancient Greeks referred to as "The Essence of Life".

## Canada's largest street festival is a favourite event of GTA residents

The GTA has more than 200,000 residents of Greek ancestry, the third largest Hellenic community outside of Greece, and between 6 pm August 10th and 8 pm August 12th, everyone who comes to the Danforth gets to be Greek for the day. But there is much more than the celebration of the Danforth's Greek heritage at the festival.

As always, this year's Pilaros Taste Of The Danforth has loads of fun, family-friendly activities for your entertainment and enjoyment. For highlights refer to page B22; for a complete list of events, performers and showtimes, visit www.tasteofthedanforth.com.

But when you visit the Taste, you're not just having fun; you're also helping to save lives. To date this event has raised over $1 million in support of Toronto East General Hospital Foundation. How's that for a win-win?

## Over $1 million raised in support of the Toronto East General Hospital

This past fall, the GreekTown On The Danforth BIA pledged an additional $250,000 towards the hospital's new Pediatric Clinic.

With singing, dancing and entertainment galore, the Taste has always had theatrical flair. This year, Alliance Films helps take it to a whole new level with their sponsorship of many themed events geared towards their upcoming releases *The Paranorman, The Expendables 2, The Hunger Games, The Resident Evil: Retribution, and The Possession.*

The Alliance themed events include the *Paranorman* Experience, *The Expendables 2* Photo Opportunity and Stunt Show, *The Hunger Games* Archery Experience, *The Resident Evil: Retribution* Experience, and *The Possession*.

Sports fan? We've got you covered! The Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors, Toronto Argonauts, Toronto FC and Toronto Rock all have exciting challenges for you.

And of course there will be most incredible Greek music this side of Greece, and an opportunity to win an Aegean Splendour Trip For Two to glorious Greece, courtesy of Transat Holidays.

With great food, great entertainment and great family fun, a splendid time is guaranteed for all.

We look forward to seeing you at the Taste. Opa!

This year, Montreal-based Pilaros International Trading is once again gratified to sponsor the 19th Annual Taste of The Danforth. To President Miltiadis ("Milton") Antypas, the Taste is much more than a branding opportunity.

"When we were first approached about sponsoring the Taste, we were aware of its history, and excited at the chance to be involved. We knew it was a wonderful cause. Now in our fourth year as Title Sponsor, we continue to be impressed at the community's participation and the passion they bring to the event, at all levels.

We share that passion. Our entire team is focused on ensuring that this year's Taste is the best ever.

We are proud to associate our name with such a prestigious event. But it's much more than a marketing opportunity. It's a chance to help save lives. We'd like to thank everyone involved — the Toronto East General Hospital, the merchants, and especially, you the public — for helping to make this a reality. Opa!"

***Miltiadis Antypas***
President, Pilaros International Trading Inc.


DISCOVER A GREAT TASTE

Pilaros TASTE OF THE DANFORTH
AUGUST 10-12, 2012

Presented by The **GreekTown** on the Danforth BIA

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**For more info visit www.tasteofthedanforth.com**

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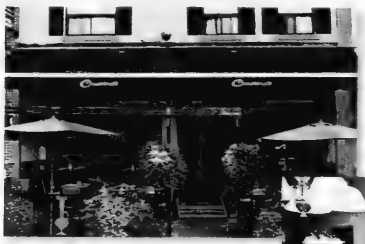
# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

## In GreekTown, authenticity is spelled "Christina's"

The term "authentic" is ubiquitous in regional cuisine. Rarely will you find a menu that doesn't boldly proclaim it.

But what does "authentic" really mean if everyone advertises it? Ask a native. It may look promising in print, but hearing a Greek say it rings truer.



To dine at Christina's is to learn the difference between *authentic* and *tellon* (perfect).

*Tellon* means the guests at the next table who've recently arrived from Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras or Heraklion find their food so much like home they forget they're on foreign soil.

This ability to lose yourself in the pleasure of the moment is as essential to your dining experience as the food itself. And no venue elevates you to those lofty heights like Christina's. Enjoyed in the richly textured elegance of its dining room or the sunswept comfort of its patio, its Greek cuisine has captivated Danforth-goers for decades. The grand old girl just keeps getting better.

Nor, of course, does Christina's clientele consist predominately of visiting Greeks. It's just that the Greeks who *do* visit seem to gravitate here. Word gets around. The opportunity to enjoy home cooking away from home is irresistible to many.

Christina's cachet stems in no small part from its universality. It appeals to people of all ages and from all walks of life. It accommodates all events and moods. A quiet family dinner? A boisterous birthday party? A starlit midnight toast? Christina's is all of these things. For the broadest cross-section of Mediterranean food lovers, "Dinner at Christina's" is the easiest decision they'll ever make.

On Sunday, Christina's puts on its brunch hat, serving up elegant fare for the price of a standard breakfast special. Weekend family outings are feasible here even on a budget.

Christina's selection of wines (Greek in particular) rivals some private collections. Wine connoisseurs are in their element here, but even if you're not knowledgeable, you can always count on your server to recommend the appropriate vintage.

Live Greek music and belly dancing on Friday and Saturday evenings is still a mainstay, and GreekTown's only year-round heated patio ensures your comfort when Mother Nature doesn't.

Photos courtesy of dine.to

Christina's management seems to have thought of everything, but like the perennial honours student, they never stop striving for excellence. Once you've reached the head of your class, your clientele — like the parent who expects straight A's — will accept no less.

Christina's On The Danforth
492 Danforth Ave. at Logan
416-463-4418
christinas.ca

## Pantheon a Greek fishing village at heart

The tranquility of a Greek fishing village at dawn is a recurring theme in Mediterranean seascape photography. To any Greek born and raised in that environment, it is symbolic of hearth and home. To people of other backgrounds, it evokes vague stirrings of a simpler time and place; we've all been there, in spirit if not in body.

Pantheon not only takes you to that little village, they sit you down at their dinner table and serve you the catch of the day. It might consist of Red snapper, Atlantic salmon and sea bass, as well as many other exotic selections you're unlikely to find elsewhere. Baby sea smelts and fresh anchovies are imported directly from Greece. Striped bass, orange roughy, black porgy, red mullet, sea smelts, and many others, impeccably prepared and seasoned, gratify the most discriminating fish lovers. At Pantheon, you could dine on a different fresh fish every day for a fortnight.

But selection alone does not a reputation make. Freshness is paramount and timing critical, particularly with fish and seafood. A minute too long on the grill or in the pan can detract from moistness, texture and taste. And no Swiss watch has the timing down better than Executive Chef Nick Paroussis.

Paroussis' partner John Troupis and his son Bobby Troupis understand that food is not merely sustenance, but art and soul. In that spirit, they do their utmost to ensure that each customer's visit is a sensory experience.

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OPEN 11 AM – MIDNIGHT, 7 DAYS
**www.pantheonrestaurant.com**

*"... a winning charm ..."*

*"... fresh fish, care with good products and little razzmatazz nudges Pantheon ahead of most competitors ..."*

*"As golden and desirable as an Olympic medal"*

It's paid off. Pantheon has doubled in size since it opened and now offers two bright, spacious dining rooms. Semi-private dining with a comforting fireplace is available in the west room.

In a business where turnover is the norm, Pantheon's continuity stands out. The same head chef and most of the same wait staff present when it opened are still in place. People enjoy working here, they like the clientele, and the clientele likes them. Continuity and loyalty go hand in hand.

The Olympic Pantheon was blessed with the opportunity to taste the Ambrosia and Nectar of the Gods. The Olympics happen every four years, but at Pantheon, in the heart of GreekTown, you can indulge in those same taste sensations whenever the mood strikes you.

Ingrained in the psyche of anyone born by the sea is that, from their own shore, they can go anywhere. Panthone's treatment of fresh fish — and every other item on its menu — will enhance that freedom feeling and transport your taste buds to worlds you never even knew existed.

## "Because life has to be enjoyed" more than a slogan at MR. GREEK

More than any single factor, the heightened awareness and enjoyment of Mediterranean cuisine across Canada can be traced back to the pioneering efforts of MR. GREEK®.

By extrapolating the success of the flagship Danforth store into a nationwide chain bearing the word "Greek", founder George Raios blazed the trail for many other operators who have piggybacked on the share of mind he created. In recent years it has become fashionable even for continental restaurants to include "Mediterranean" dishes on their menu.

### Voted "Best Greek Restaurant" 15 years in a row

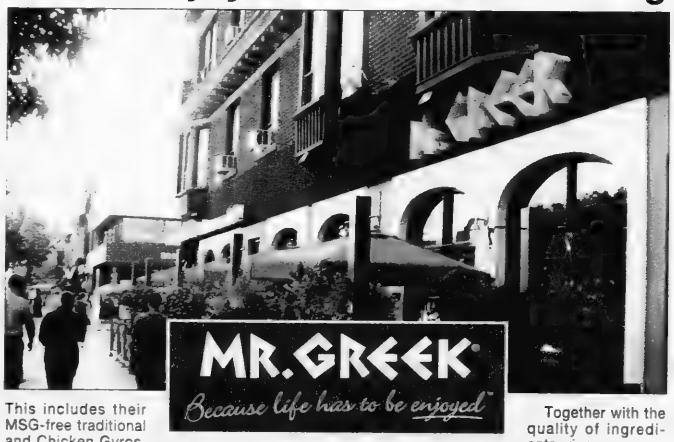
Raios is okay with that. Having created a national brand identity and consistent standard of excellence for Greek cuisine, he's far too busy leading the way to look back at who's following.

Nor has he rested on his evolutionary laurels. He also undertook to revolutionize the way Greek food is prepared and perceived.

"'*Revolutionized*' is a strong statement," he says. "'Back to basics' might be more accurate. In its original pristine state, the Mediterranean diet is among the healthiest known to man. Our forefathers used the purest and freshest ingredients. So do we. They did not add chemicals or preservatives. Neither do we."

Old-fashioned, healthy home cooking has always been a core concept for Greek restaurants but "we wanted to ensure that in our case, the reference to 'health' was supported with facts. Our customers can enjoy any item on our menu in the knowledge that at MR. GREEK, great taste and good health go hand in hand."

The facts are that MR. GREEK uses only trans-fat-free oils and adds no MSG or preservatives.




526 Danforth Avenue • 416-461-3434
mrgreek.com • mrgreekcatering.com

This includes their MSG-free traditional and Chicken Gyros, made according to their own exclusive recipe. They serve the freshest fish, prepared traditionally and grilled to perfection. Their chicken souvlaki is made of 100% chicken breasts.

And MR. GREEK is one of the few Greek restaurants — if not the only one — to detail the nutritional content of its menu on its website.

And how has this commitment translated into customer satisfaction? MR. GREEK has won the *Toronto Sun* Readers' Choice Award for Best Greek Restaurant 15 years in a row!

Together with the quality of ingredients, rigorous compliance standards at every operational level ensure that your sit-down dinner, take-out, delivery or catering order has the same exquisite taste at MR GREEK Aurora, MR GREEK Richmond Hill — or any other location — as at MR. GREEK Danforth.

For members of the MR. GREEK team, a warm, service-oriented approach is not just an asset, it's a prerequisite. You are greeted with a smile and treated in style whether you're ordering a quick bite or sitting down to a family dinner. "We're not just inviting you into our restaurant, we're welcoming you into our home," says Raios.

Your MR. GREEK experience might begin with a freshly tossed Greek Salad, dressed with MR. GREEK's signature vinaigrette — a tempting combination of fresh tomato, cucumbers, kalamata olives, feta cheese, iceberg and romaine lettuce. Among the main courses, you'll find MR. GREEK's expertly grilled souvlaki deserving of its reputation as 'Canada's favourite'. Moussaka is carefully prepared with a traditional recipe that would make any Bubie proud. The

### Mission statement is more than an advertising slogan

Taverna Chicken is magnificently moist with sealed-in juices. Lamb "Arnaki" Fournou — lamb shank slow roasted in its own juices — is so tender you won't even need to use a knife. For a change of pace, try a Mediterranean-inspired pasta, seafood dish or a Certified Angus Beef® Ribeye or Striploin steak.

A perfect ending is the fresh-daily baklava — thin, crispy phyllo layers sandwiched with toasted nuts, honey and a hint of cinnamon.

MR. GREEK's mission statement, 'Because life has to be enjoyed', is more than an advertising slogan, says Raios. "Being part of our team means living up to that affirmation by ensuring that every customer enjoys their visit to the fullest. We guarantee it."

What gives him the most pleasure, he says, is enabling increasing numbers of people to discover the joys of Mediterranean cuisine. "Everyone deserves the experience of dining in a Greek home. I'm proud of the fact that we have shared that experience with as many people as possible. We look forward to sharing it with many more."

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

## Historical flavours come alive at Messini

When visiting most websites, you're tempted to "Skip Intro" as prompted. You want to get to the heart of the matter ASAP.

Visit Messini's website, however, and you'll find yourself engrossed in the historical introduction; at Messini, history *is* at the heart of the matter.

A sequence of richly-textured, sepia-toned photographs of the southern Greek village of Messini, circa 1930, set the historical stage for the taste treat you'll experience at 445 Danforth.

After 23 years of restauranteuring in Europe, owner Marinos Dafnas opened Messini with the singular goal of elevating gyros preparation to the lofty level it enjoys in Greece. If you know gyros only as meat on a pita, Messini will open your eyes — and your taste buds — to an exciting new dining experience.

So how does the Messini version of gyros rise above the rest?

- **Meticulous preparation.** Roasted to perfection on a spit, the gyros (pronounced *yee'-ros*, from Modern Greek *guros*, "turning") combines the finest marinated cuts of moist and dry meat to ensure that it retains its juiciness and tenderness throughout the cooking process. Unlike your typical fast-food gyros, Messini's are prepared fresh from scratch: no freezing, no precooking;
- **Quality and freshness of trimmings.** The tzatziki, red onions, parsely, spices, and French fries (as per Greek tradition), like the meat, are all up-to-the-minute fresh;
- **Pita made fresh daily on the premises.** As with any fresh homemade bread vs. mass-produced, there's simply no comparison.
- **Variety.** Messini caters to a wide range of palates and dietary preferences by offering chicken and vegetarian gyros in addition to the traditional meat.

MESSINI AUTHENTIK GYROS

445 DANFORTH
416-778-4861
WWW.MESSINI.CA

The result: a whole that's greater than the sum of its parts — a sandwich that melts in your mouth with a rich blend of subtly interwoven flavours.

The prices are more than reasonable, with gyros dinner entrées starting from $9.25, lunch specials from $6.50. The menu also includes mainstream Greek selections, but you'll do yourself a disservice if you don't at least try the gyros.

Messini's immaculate interior flanks an open kitchen. Pleasant brown and cream tones — gleaming ceramic tile floor, rich wood trim and comfortable seating — create an aura of casual dining elegance.

The beaches of Peloponessos may seem far away, but at Messini, some of southern Greece's best tradition and culture is right here for the sampling.

## Search for perfect burger stops at Burger Stomper

Burger lovers are a nostalgic bunch. Their favourite food is more than food: it's a pop cultural icon evocative of '50s diners and teenage love.

Two such burgerphiles — partners Nick and John — brought a Big Idea to the quest for the perfect hamburger. They created the perfect *device* to create the perfect burger. The Burger Stomper — the only two-in-one hamburger press on the market — was born.

It wasn't an overnight process. Many brainstorming sessions were required. In terms of R & D, their research consisted of field work (taste-testing countless burgers across North America), and developing a prototype to improve on the varieties they sampled.

Thanks to its patented stick-free technology, the Burger Stomper tool presses perfectly-formed patties, every time, in five seconds flat. It can be purchased online at amazon.com. An impressive demonstration video can be viewed at www.burgerstomper.com.

This radical new device has earned Nick and John not only a five star rating in virtually every burger fanatic's book, but also an appearance on an upcoming episode of CBC's *Dragon's Den*.

Instore at 364 Danforth, an immaculate open kitchen is fronted by an urban high-tech / rustic low-tech duet of gleaming stainless steel and barn board. It's a fresh new environment in which to enjoy a fresh new take on burgers.

"We loved hamburgers too much to open just another burger joint," says John. "We wanted to elevate the burger to its rightful place in the pantheon of alltime great foods."

That meant giving burger lovers a compromise-free product. Says Nick, "It can be 'fast food' if you want it to be, but it is not junk food. It's not a meal you "settle for". It's *healthy* food with premium ingredients at a mainstream price. We use only Triple A premium hormone-free and antibiotic-free beef, ground daily and never frozen. No fillers, no binders — ever."

BURGER STOMPER
Burgers Made Easy™
364 Danforth at Chester subway
647-347-7867
www.burgerstomperbar.com
Follow us on twitter @BurgerStomperBr
Like us at Facebook/burgerstomperbar

You can taste the difference quality makes; these burgers flat-out rock. All vaneties of cheese used are real, not processed. The fries are hand-cut from russet potatoes, the individually-battered onion rings crisper than a Wayne Gretzky pass.

And what's a burger without its running mate — the milkshake? Try the Peanut Butter Nutella: it's paradise in a glass.

The Classic Burger ($5.75) or Cheese Please ($8.50, including a disk of carmelized cheese) will satisfy a ravenous appetite. For over-the-top indulgence, the Secret Stomp ($11.50) towers with experimental and off-menu toppings like gravy stuffed onion rings. You tell them what toppings you *don't* want — then watch them build you a masterpiece.

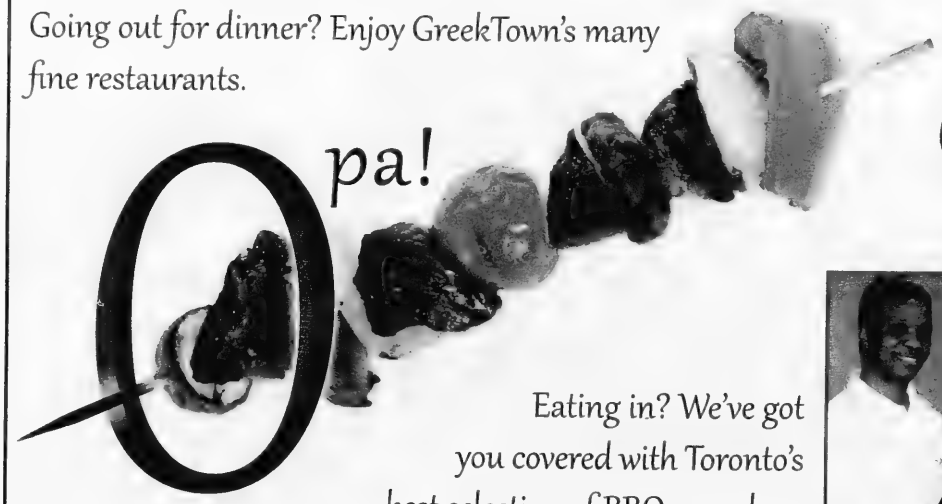
Other menu items such as salads and grilled chicken sandwiches are planned, but it's the burgers that are bringing in clients in droves, and they will remain the focal point.

And the exclamation point.

"Using a hamburger press is a great way to make sure all your patties [are] cooked evenly throughout. But it can be frustrating and messy to remove the patty from the mold. **Not so with the Burger Stomper.** When we tested the stainless steel tool, beef patties easily fell off of the end of the Stomper every time."
***GOOD HOUSEKEEPING***

Going out for dinner? Enjoy GreekTown's many fine restaurants.

Opa!



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162 Willowdale Ave. 416-224-2526
(North of Sheppard, near Yonge) www.sobies.com

# Astoria grows the brand one satisfied customer at a time

Those of us outside the restaurant industry might see its business and culinary aspects as two different worlds. But they're not as disparate as they might seem, says Astoria's President Peter Kerasiotis.

In growing its brand, Astoria has researched and sourced new locations with the same care and attention to detail as the chefs who fastidiously select the fresh ingredients for your lunch and dinner.

"Hand picking", says Kerasiotis. "We're not a fast food restaurant charting growth by how many franchises we can open in a year. We measure our success by customer satisfaction, one meal at a time."

Astoria's second location, in Mississauga, was years in the planning. "Our philosophy about adding infrastructure is that it's permanent," says Kerasiotis. "We have no intention of adding a location to 'try it out'. It's not a dress rehearsal."

"Astoria is an institution. We knew that opening a second store was a huge step. But we would never dilute our brand. The overwhelmingly positive response to Astoria Mississauga was our green light to entertain opportunities for further expansion, which brought us to Newmarket."

## Ambience must feel as good as the numbers look

Astoria does extensive market research of any new location opportunity. If the data indicate a market is propitious, onsite visits follow to determine if the neighbourhood and ambience "feel" as good as the numbers look. "Number crunching is important, but it only tells you part of the story," says Kerasiotis. "The site has to feel like a place we'd want to bring our own family for dinner."

The truth is, Astoria receives a steady stream of offers from major shopping centres, smart centres and strip plazas seeking anchor tenants. "We could easily be up to a dozen locations by now but that's not our m.o. We take our time, we do it right or not at all."

While retaining the welcoming Mediterranean ambience of the GreekTown location, the Mississauga store sports a distinctly different decor. The same will be true of the Newmarket location when it opens this fall. "Any art critic knows a cheap reproduction from the original. It's the same with food. You don't take a brand with a 40-year history of success and cookie-cutter it."

Lifelong Astoria customers, he says, have developed such a proprietary relationship with Astoria that "they consider it theirs — and it is. Their loyalty and support over four decades gives them an ownership stake. It may not be on paper, but as a bond and a partnership it carries equal weight. Everything that's been done has been done with our customers in mind, and in response to their wishes."

Creating a new dining environment for every store means higher architectural fees, but it's consistent with Astoria's uncompromising approach. "We prepare our dining environments like we prepare our meals — from scratch, with the finest ingredients."

Family comes first at Astoria; the sacred nature of food and the dining ritual is always front of mind. Quality rules: Astoria still imports staples such as feta cheese, olive oil and olives in small quantities directly from Greece. Their staggering portions still quell the most outrageous appetites.

Greek appetizers like grilled calamari and creamy homemade tzatziki are a welcome prelude to your feast, if you can keep your Astoria-induced souvlaki craving at bay long enough to sample them.

New generations of Greek food lovers with increasingly sophisticated palates have prompted many restaurants to overhaul their menus. Astoria has resisted sweeping changes in favour of subtle tweaks, while retaining the favourite dishes beloved by young and old alike. If it ain't broke, don't fix it; Astoria's souvlaki, moussaka and grilled fresh fish taste as good today as they did four decades ago. It's hard to improve on perfection.

It's no accident that the first signs of an upcurve in the popularity of Greek cuisine coincided with Astoria's opening, nor is it coincidental that Greek food's continued growth in popularity parallels that of the Astoria we know today.

## "Best of the City"

*Toronto Life*

Some old customers for whom the Danforth location will always be the Mother Ship nevertheless enjoy dining at Astoria Mississauga when business or pleasure take them there. Newmarket means even more of Astoria to love. Its growth is like having a favourite relative in another city: something to look forward to when you travel.

The Newmarket location will have its own unique character. The only thing it will replicate is "the best family dining experience money can buy. And that will never change," says Kerasiotis. "You can update your décor and your menus, but the bottom line is the quality of food your put on your guest's plate. Our customers bring a very high set of expectations to our table. Only one group of people I know has higher expectations and that's us."

In GreekTown, Mississauga and soon Newmarket, it's an approach that suits Astoria's customers just fine.

ASTORIA
shish kebob house

*"The Future of Greek Dining"*

**390 Danforth Avenue**
**at Chester subway**
**416.463.2838**

**1970 Dundas St. East**
**Unit 1, Mississauga**
**905.615.1444**

**16850 Yonge Street**
**Newmarket • Opening This Fall**
**905.895.0123**

**www.astoriashishkebobhouse.com**

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

## Mezes inspires everyone — including Greeks

In the restaurant business, people from your own ethnic group or geographic area are often your harshest critics. If you were weaned on Mediterranean cuisine from the age of four — and home-cooked Greek specialties have been the staples of your diet through adolescence into adulthood — it's probably going to take an exceptional meal to elicit your praise.

If every bite you take becomes a comparison test with your mother's home cooking, guess which "contestant" is liable to be declared the winner?

The common-sense approach is to relax and enjoy your meal on its own merits, without endlessly comparing it to Mom's.

But some people just can't help themselves.

Mom may not follow them everywhere, but their "Mommy Barometer" does.

It's the yardstick against which they measure everything they eat.

These picky people are easy to spot — or hear. "The lamb chops are great. Not as good as Mom's, of course." "The moussaka is excellent. Other than Mom's...it's the best I've ever had." And so on.

For most restaurants, this type of customer is the least desirable. Who wants to be held up to an impossible standard? The least discriminating clients are always the easiest to please.

But Mezes isn't most restaurants.

Mezes doesn't shy away from such comparisons, they welcome them.

They're not worried about you bringing your "Mommy Barometer" because they're too busy using their own. They share your lofty standards.

So if you have a friend from Greece, Spain, Israel — or any Mediterranean country — who's skeptical about a restaurant's ability to measure up to their ideals — Mezes is the place to bring them.

The reaction can be amazing.

Recently, we witnessed a Greek expatriate who had never set foot in Mezes — a diehard "Mommy Barometer" guy — sigh rapturously when he tasted the Lamb Chops. We waited with baited breath for his verdict. Would he give them the A Plus they obviously deserved? Or would he understate his satisfaction with a B Minus?

"Perfect" was all he was able to utter.

If you dine regularly at Mezes, you know that this reaction isn't rare; it's common.

Here, they treat food with consummate respect. The mere act of serving it is a sacred trust. Mezes pays top dollar for all their ingredients to ensure you enjoy the best of everything. But that added expense is not reflected in their prices.

"Our customers can taste the difference freshness and quality make. We believe in rewarding them for that, not penalizing them," says proprietor Sue Zindros.

When you come to Mezes, be prepared to explore Greek cuisine as you never have before.

The consistent excellence menu-wide makes it difficult to pick favourites here, so most customers start by ordering a large assortment of appetizers. They're all first-rate, but don't just fall back on old favourites like hummous and tzatziki; no visit to GreekTown is complete without sampling Mezes' *Gigantes* and *Dolmades*. When it comes time to order your entree — if you can manage to get through the cornucopia of mezes — there's an equally compelling array of home-cooked meat, poultry, fish and vegetarian specialties to tempt your palate.

Mezes offers one of the most extensive Greek wine portfolios not just in Toronto, but nationwide, and can recommend the ideal accompaniment to your meal.

Since the Mezes first opened its doors, it has distinguished itself not only by an unwavering commitment to excellence, but also by recognizing that the simple pleasure of enjoying a meal with friends and family isn't just one of life's important things.

It's life itself.

Mezes Restaurant

AUTHENTIC GREEK CUISINE

456 DANFORTH AVENUE

416-778-5150 · WWW.MEZES.COM

## Ouzeri: Danforth's most relaxed dining

A splash of vibrant colour, sweeping sky-blue awnings, and a festive patio beckon you inside. Open, airy, and spacious, Ouzeri breathes relaxation like no other restaurant. It's beaches and boardwalks without the sand. The gentle breeze that wafts through the main dining area caresses your cheeks with sealike serenity.

Many fine GreekTown restaurants have patios, but on a sunny day Ouzeri feels like it's *all* patio. Its innate summery spirit makes it a favourite year-round destination of Mediterranean food lovers with an affinity for open spaces.

The resulting frame of mind enhances the enjoyment of your meal immeasurably. It's a better digestive aid than any enzyme.

Like their pride and joy, brothers Chris and Alex Trahiotis are bright, cheery, welcoming people whose love of the restaurant business comes with the ease and second nature of people born to it.

Marrying European fine dining with Greek cuisine, Ourzeri's eclectic menu is focused on quality, not volume — the kind of quality that will stir your fondest memories of home cooking. No Bubie would ever acknowledge the superiority of another maven's chicken soup, but Ouzeri's might push her to the brink of that unthinkable admission.

You'll maintain your lighter-than-air feeling as you sail through Ouzeri's appetizers, which are presented with fine-dining elegance. Among the entrées, you'll find mainstream choices and signature items prepared according to time-honoured family recipes. *Strydia Ouzeri* is topped with spinach, tomato, kaseri cheese and Ouzeri's special sauce, then baked to perfection. Lamb rosemary pie, offered in your choice of lamb shank and feta or chicken with a rosemary and mushroom sauce enveloped in filo, is warmly recommended. The moussaka — both meat and vegetarian — is as good as it gets in GreekTown, and the seafood richly deserves the "authentically Greek" label you'll encounter everywhere on the Danforth. Fresh fish is available daily, and may feature Red Snapper, Sea Bass, Salmon, or whatever catch happens to be freshest on the day you visit.

500A Danforth Ave. 416.778.0500
www.ouzeri.com

Ouzeri's extensive Greek wine list has a selection that will perfectly complement any of the entrées, or stand on its own as an after-work or after-dinner libation. The service is friendly and extremely thorough, with ample wait staff to keep pace with your needs.

Whether you're looking for a quick bite or a long, pleasurable meal, Ouzeri's three levels of dining all convey the same message:

Relax. Relax. *Relax*.

**"One of my favourite summer patios" — *Saul Korman***

## At Zorba's, the best menu is no menu at all

Whether you're a connoisseur of Mediterranean cuisine or just acquiring a taste for it, deciding on your main course isn't always easy. Lingering over menus and salivating over options is a common indulgence, especially with Greek food and its plethora of choices.

At Zorba's, however, the decision-making process is pre-empted by the *Katsarola* (Greek for "pot", a metaphor for home cooking). You can ask for a menu, but regulars never do. Would you ask your *mother* for a menu?

Doing so won't elicit the same rebuke here as it would at home, but once you've sampled the Katsarola, you'll understand why Zorba's menus are superfluous — unless you're ordering a fresh salad, a shish kebob or hamburger and French fries for the kids.

The only real difference between Zorba's Katsarola and a home-cooked meal is selection. Patriarch and chef Kosta Carasoulos spends much of the day cooking to feed a bevy of regular guests who know a good "Mom" when they find one. The fruits of his labours are lovingly arrayed on a steam table. Today, there's lamb shank, lamb fricassee, roast chicken, roast potatoes, moussaka, pastitsio, *gigantes*, green beans with zucchini, carrots, cauliflower, okra, soup, and whatever else captures his fancy. Tomorrow? Only Carasoulos knows. There's no formal meal planning here, just well-honed culinary instincts — and a clientele whose taste buds respond better to these visual and aromatic stimuli than to a written rendering.

This is less a restaurant than a home kitchen feeding a huge extended family, of which you are now a *de facto* member. You can call ahead to see what's available, but why spoil the fun? Most of Zorba's customers just show up with an appetite and a smile.

That's the good news. The bad news is that once these mouthwatering homemade specialties are gone, they're gone. (You thought this was a restaurant?!) With an eager clientele weaned on home cooking, it's best to arrive early for best selection.

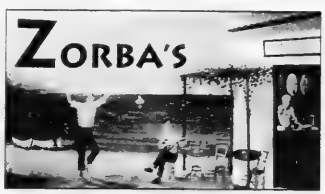
For the family that wants to dine in a laid-back atmosphere, Zorba's is a perfect fit. For anyone working to deadline, it's one of a very few restaurants capable of serving a home-cooked meal on a fast-food schedule.

The opportunity to enjoy such *haymishe* fare in a 20-minute window is priceless. Remember coming in from hockey or other childhood games to a hot meal, bolting it down and running out to play again before dark? Those idyllic days are gone, the rink or playground long since replaced by the workplace. But if there's a restaurant that revives that nurturing spirit, it's Zorba's.

The prices are modest, to say the least. Rarely will you enjoy so much food for so little. That may explain why during the week, the take-out lineup sometimes rivals the sit-down crowd. You just can't cook at home for less.

The service is courteous, but there are no grand formalities here — just the unassuming warmth of people who, like an old friend who never changes, are always easy to be with.

Zorba's is a throwback — a welcome antidote to the inexorable march of time.




681 Danforth Ave. at Pape
416-406-1212

## Select Bakery a Perfect 10 to cakewatchers

We're not talking about a beauty pageant here — though as bakeries go, Select's regal air is crown-worthy. And, pageant-like, not only Greece but numerous other countries are represented in its array of exquisite pastries, either by their traditional classics or close variations thereof.

What we're talking about is the 10th anniversary of a bakery now celebrating a decade-long reign of excellence in GreekTown. Select set a new standard when it opened its doors and has steadily raised the bar ever since.

Like many of the storied bakeries of Europe, Select oozes opulence on a grand scale. But it operates with the intimacy of a close-knit family business. The Katsamatis family — father Emmanuel, sons Kosta and Nick, and daughter Ereti — lead a cheery staff of skilled bakers and pastry chefs.

Select is easy to find, greeting you at 405 Donlands just south of O'Connor. The problem isn't access, it's *egress* — getting out without buying half the store. You may come for a birthday cake, but odds are you'll leave with a *Galaktoboureko* and some *Loukoumades*. Thought you'd just pop in, grab a loaf of European Village Bread, and duck out? Five minutes later you're inhaling the remains of your third chocolate-covered baklava, wondering what hit you.

Nor is Select's scope limited to the European specialties. You may not come here just for apple turnovers, but Select's are...well, a Perfect 10. It's rare for a bakery with such variety to hit all the right notes across its full selection, but if you linger for a few minutes over a coffee and watch the staff at work in their open kitchen, you'll get a sense of the commitment that's being made to achieve this level of excellence.

In addition to its baked goods, Select offers terrific prepared foods. Moussaka, *pastitsio*, and many other entrées — plus the full gamut of Greek dips and sauces — are made fresh daily. Many entrées are available fresh or frozen, and most are suitable for freezing. Need to entertain on short notice? Select is a one-stop destination for party trays, rolls, and related comestibles.

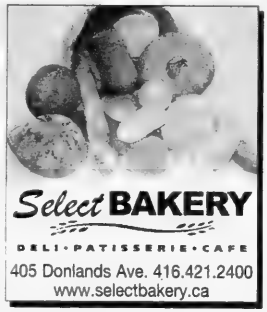
Specialty cakes are always fresh and can be inscribed on a moment's notice, though it's best to order more elaborate creations in advance.

How elaborate?

No king or queen ever had access to a finer team of artisans than you do at Select. A week's notice is preferred, but if real-world demands scuttle your best-laid plans, Select is up to the challenge. "Presentation has become almost as important as taste and texture," says Kosta Katsamatis. "Anyone planning a wedding these days is looking for the 'Wow' factor in all phases of the meal, especially the cake. It's the Grande Finale. It has to look amazing, not only to impress your guests, but also because, after the wedding dress, it's the most-photographed item at the wedding reception." When your artistry shines under the scrutiny of 8 megapixels (and that's just the kids with their iPhones, never mind the professionals), you know you've earned the "Perfect 10" crown.

Tight timelines create pressure, but Select can take the heat. "Just because we have less time to prepare doesn't mean you're prepared to accept less," grins Katsamatis. "We understand that. We're happy to relieve you of that pressure."

To those of us for whom an affinity to the local bakery was an integral part of growing up, Select keeps the back-home feeling alive. As it enters its second decade, Select rekindles our fondest memories with every bread, cake and pasty it bakes.




405 Donlands Ave. 416.421.2400
www.selectbakery.ca

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

## Culinary art worthy of the Louvre at Pappas: new masterpieces created fresh daily

"The art of Mediterranean cuisine" is a ubiquitous phrase in culinary circles. For Pappas Grill it's doubly relevant.

In 1988, founders Bill and Meropi Klianis were sourcing a new location for their art gallery (Williams Gallery at Yonge and Eglinton) when they stumbled on a sprawling space in the heart of GreekTown. Too large and too ambitious for their small gallery — but too loaded with restaurant potential to pass up — the serendipitous space wooed the Klianis family from one art form to another.

A lengthy and painstaking transformation ensued under the direction of architect Robert Chan of Hirschberg Design Group, with considerable input from Bill and Meropi. The breathtaking result instantly captured the fancy of a dining public eager for an eclectic departure from traditional Greek menus.

### "We didn't want to open just another Greek restaurant"

"We didn't want to open just another Greek restaurant," says daughter Jane Klianis, who with brother John now oversees all of the restaurant's day-to-day operations. "There was no point in duplicating what was already being done by our neighbours." In the art world, if you bring nothing new to the table, you're either uninspired or a copycat. Clearly, the Klianis family's art experience transmuted to their restaurant ethos.

Pappas' winning mix of elegant Mediterranean dining in an airy, light-filled, tri-level dining room has captivated GreekTown goers since Day One, not only for the quality of its cuisine but also for its unique ability to adapt to any occasion or mood. It's fine dining, yet casual and relaxed. It affords privacy, yet provides sweeping sightlines. It's the epicentre of GreekTown activity — letting the outside in like a beautifully landscaped public square disguised as a restaurant — yet it's a secluded shelter in which to pause and reflect.

Jane and John keep close tabs on all aspects of the business, but are careful not to micromanage — especially with their chefs. "Artistic people need artistic license," smiles Jane. "If you take away their freedom, you stultify their creativity. We buy market fresh ingredients every day, give them to our chefs, and tell them to make something wonderful."

The result is always novel and often spectacular, she says. "Our customers look to us for new taste experiences. That doesn't mean changing the menu every six months, it means creating a complete new set of dinner specials every week."

These take the form of a seven-day Prix Fixe menu which revitalizes your palate without devitalizing your portfolio. $25 gets you a choice of hot or cold soup, two appetizers, and four entrées. That's exceptional value for any fine restaurant, let along one that racks up awards like others rack lamb.

Pappas Grill

440 Danforth Avenue
416-469-9595
www.pappasgrill.com

Speaking of this Mediterranean staple, there's more care and attention to detail in Pappas' Oven-Roasted Lamb Shank than in some entire menus we've seen. Slow roasted for eight hours in Greek oregano, fresh garlic and spices, it stews longer in its own juices than your mother-in-law after a put-down of her cooking. The Pappas Rigatoni (spicy homemade Greek sausage, sweet peppers and garlic with feta, parmesan and kefalotiri cheese in a rich white wine cream sauce) has seen more than one Italian chef add Opa! to his vocabulary. The Mediterranean Shrimp sautéed in white wine is a seafood revelation.

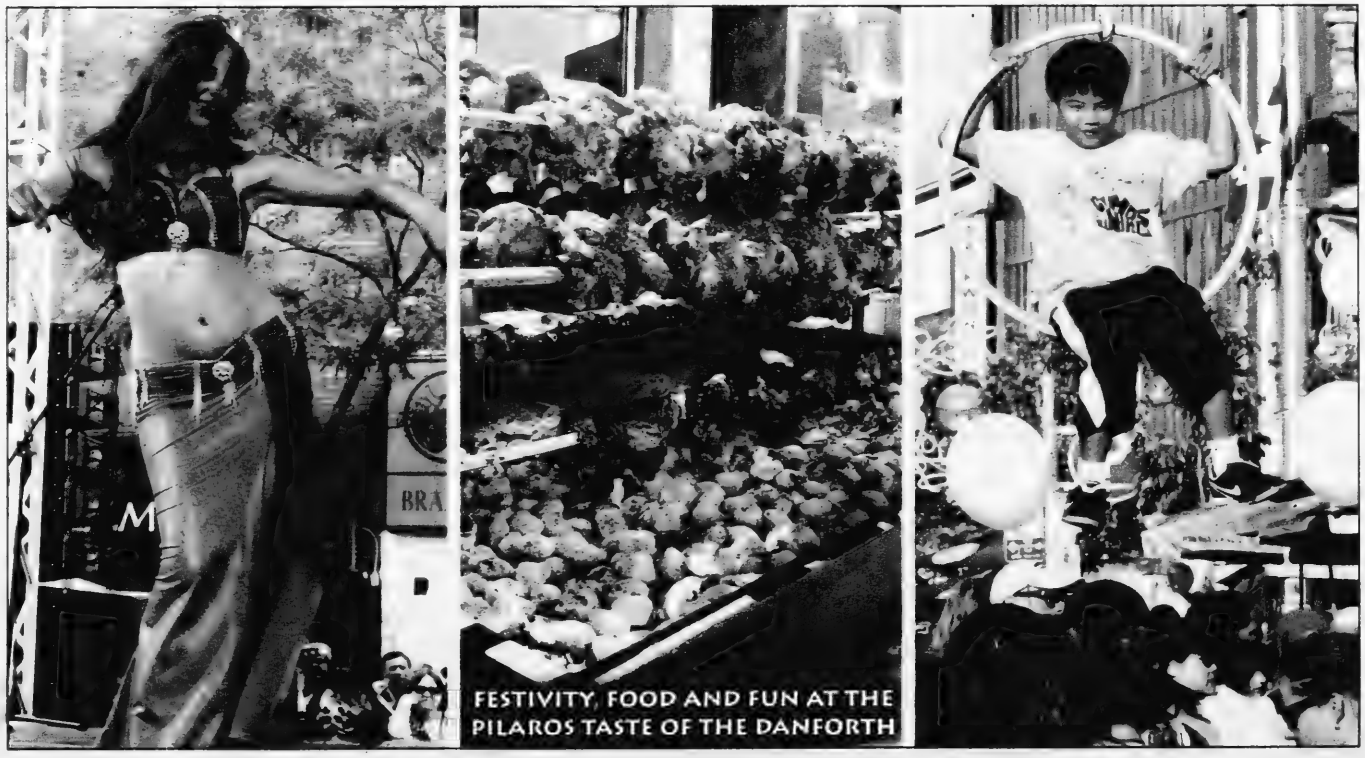
Pappas cooks most of its dishes in extra-virgin olive oil, but the extra cost of this and other premium ingredients like white wine is not reflected in its prices. "Using fresh, pure ingredients isn't a "bonus," says Jane, "it's standard. You don't like a contractor cutting corners on your house; we don't cut corners in creating your meal."

All Pappas' dishes are made fresh from scratch on the premises. No MSG, additives or preservatives are used — ever. "Mediterranean cuisine in its pure state is intrinsically healthy," says Klianis. "We keep it that way."

Ditto for the Saturday and Sunday continental Brunch, where you can enjoy eggs in any style imaginable. Try the three-egg Omelette Onassis filled with artichokes, topped with smoked salmon, drizzled with avgolemono dill sauce, and served with Greek salad.

### "Our customers look to us for new taste experiences"

Fame may be fleeting, but not at Pappas Grill. If so, its cameo appearance in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* would be long forgotten. Truth is, Pappas' cuisine had made a lasting impression on the Toronto dining consciousness long before its foliated frontage lit up the silver screen.



FESTIVITY, FOOD AND FUN AT THE PILAROS TASTE OF THE DANFORTH

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

## Kaylvia too busy setting tables to set trends

In the restaurant industry, being known as a trend-setter can give your business a short-term boost. If you're lucky, restaurant-goers looking for a bandwagon to jump on will check you out and follow you on Twitter.

But how do you set trends when you're too busy setting *tables*?

How do you launch "the next great thing" when you've just served 40 platesfull of it — and have another 40 guests waiting?

When your restaurant is full of customers who already know what they like — and can't be swayed by stories about the "flavour of the month" — your name is probably **Kalyvia.**

What's great about Kalyvia is what's great about GreekTown. It's reliable. It's what you know and love. When a discussion of where to go for dinner turns into a debate — and you hear about this new trend or that new concept — you tune it out. Because in your mind, there's no debate.

The home cooking you'll find at Kalyvia has an enduring value that trends don't. It tastes as good today as it did 10 years ago — and as it will tomorrow.

Kalyvia's Tsafatinos family takes pride in preserving this legacy, but, like many Greek restauranteurs, they don't make a big deal about it. You might see a line or two about it in their menu, but no elaborate manifesto with a family tree of famous chefs descended from royalty.

""We try to let our cooking do the talking and leave the feedback to our customers," says Jimmy Tsafatinos.

Does this sound familiar? Our grandmother never told us how good her soup was. She may have *asked* if it was good ten times — and every time you said yes, she'd reply *"Are you sure? Tell the truth!"* You won't be subjected to this ritual at Kalyvia. They'll only ask you once.

KALYVIA
420 DANFORTH AVE.
416 463-3333
WWW.KALYVIA.COM

In GreekTown, competition is collegial and congenial. Says Jimmy: "We're happy to be one of many good restaurants with something to offer. We work together to create a family environment, an area that everyone will enjoy coming to. One night they might eat here, the next night at our neighbour's. As long as they come to GreekTown, we're happy."

Kalyvia has always given GreekTown-goers plenty of reasons to choose them. Their main dining room affords comfort and privacy, and is a great spot for milestone events. Their lively patio is always in demand. Dining in? Their take-out orders receive the same care and attention to detail as their sit-down dining, and they offer local delivery.

The Tsafatinos' home town of Kalyvia is one of some 10 Greek villages bearing that same name. If you were doing a PhD thesis on Greek village cooking, a comparative study of the 10 Kalyvias would make for interesting fodder. Your findings would no doubt give rise to lively debate, at least among Kalyvians. Good luck getting any one of those towns to admit that their food isn't the best, smiles Tsafatinos.

And which Kalyvia's cooking *is* the best, in his humble opinion?

"I can't tell a lie," he grins. "It's ours."

Now *this* is a rivalry we can get with — a tasting competition in which no one takes themselves too seriously, and the customer always wins.

Exactly as it should be.

## At Pan "love fills up a small space very quickly"

Food with flavour speaks to the palate; food prepared with respect and served with love speaks to the soul. Of GreekTown's many fine restaurants, none engages in this dialogue more passionately than **Pan.**

Large enough to accommodate a party of 75 — but small enough for candlelight intimacy — it's your mother's kitchen transposed to a Greek island.

It's everything that a chain restaurant isn't. Its menu is not a "catch-all"; it's a limited-edition collection of culinary gems.

This focus doesn't mean lack of selection. It simply means that no item is on the menu merely to fill a slot. "We don't serve assembly-line food," says Chris Christodoulou. "We make to order, with our own signature style. Our chef will prepare your food as if you were guests in his own home."

And present it regally. The subtext here is *individuality*. Take Pan's Rack Of Lamb, for example. Finished in a walnut basil oil dressing, served with artichokes and leeks in a fresh herb fricassee over feta scalloped potatoes, its rendition is uniquely Pan's. Ditto for the Santorini Chicken, Caria Lemon Roasted Chicken and Stuffed Jumbo Quail, perennial mainstays of Pan's menu.

Fish and seafood lovers are gratified by an eclectic selection that includes Rhodes Shrimp (sautéed onions, garlic and feta, in a white wine lemon dill cream sauce, served with garlic sautéed spinach over monastiri orzo pasta).

Pan's dining environment has more cachet per inch than a charm school. But its unique ambience is no secret. So reservations are always a good idea, especially for Friday and Saturday night, when live music and belly dancing are featured.

Chris and Soula Christodoulou are blissfully content with their diminutive digs. "Most of us grew up in small homes," says Chris. "But love fills up a small space very quickly. There's always room for one more at the kitchen table."

You won't have to share your table at Pan, but the foregoing metaphor still resonates with those of us reared on "old-school" sharing. Our grandparents — or parents — didn't know from monster homes. They just knew how to give us everything they had to give, in a home whose grandeur was measured by the size of their hearts.

Pan doesn't just serve Mediterranean food, they bring it to life. In an inviting enclave where there's always room for one more at the "kitchen table."

PAN
Mediterranean Cuisine
516 Danforth Ave. 416-466-8158
www.panonthedanforth.com

**"The greatest Greek Food Toronto has ever known"** — *Globe & Mail*
**"Freshness and textural detail of the essence"** — *Toronto Life*

# Caffé Demetre's homemade iced cream hits right note for Streisand

You're strolling the Danforth, minding your own business. Suddenly, you're being served a *Life Sentence* Belgian waffle with Peanut Butter Overload iced cream, topped with bananas, fudge brownie, fudge and peanuts.

You're now just another inmate "doing time" at Caffé Demetre — swallowed up by a vortex of splits, sundaes, bowls, cones, crêpes and waffles, with an irresistible common denominator: the best iced cream you've ever tasted.

### Made the old-fashioned way with no additives or preservatives

Relax; it's a crime so common that the dessert emporium sells "over 2000 litres of iced cream a week" in peak season, according to founder Gary Theodore. The fact that it's home-made the old-fashioned way (no additives, no preservatives) reduces somewhat the guilt of this unbelievably pleasurable indulgence.

(By the way, *iced* cream is not a typo. Caffé Demetre uses this centuries-old term as a reminder that all of its *iced* cream is made freshly on the premises at each of its 11 GTA locations).

You've served your life sentence, but there's no rest for the wicked. It's time for a *Stormy Weather Frappé*: a frosty and thick blend of European coffee, caramel, milk, ice, Honey Vanilla Iced Cream, served in a tall fudge and caramel striped glass, topping with fresh whipped cream and caramel drizzle. This year-round favourite puts any frappuccino to shame. All Demetre's beverages — from freshly brewed conventional coffee (40 varieties) to cappuccino, frappés, steamers, and espressos — are top-drawer.

The espresso is a case in point. Caffé Demetre now uses the latest "grind on demand" technology to ensure that the beans are 100% freshly ground for each order, with no loss of vital aromas or flavours. They also offer a great Decaf Espresso for patrons who don't want caffeine late at night. All espresso drinks are served with mini-almond biscotti.

What a place to pop the big question! Sweeten up your prey with a *Sweetcar Named Devour* crêpe (Chocolatta Iced Cream, fresh strawberries, and fudge sauce). And get the ring ready.

Now that you've enjoyed the main course, it's time for dessert...

caffé Demetre®
400 Danforth Avenue
416.778.6654
www.waycoolcafe.com

Caffé Demetre is one of the few iced cream parlours in North America where you can still enjoy banana splits and other iced cream desserts the way your parents and grandparents did. Since opening in 1989, they have honoured that tradition by adhering rigorously to its original iced cream recipe; it's difficult to improve on perfection.

Maintaining this kind of quality doesn't come easily. Here, even fresh daily doesn't cut it. At Demetre's, the iced cream is made virtually *on demand*, so that it always arrives at your table freshly-made.

The original recipe, like the original (and recently renovated) Caffé Demetre, was borne of Theodore's passion for ice-cream making. Many young entrepreneurs today buy into a slick business "concept" and learn their trade after the fact. Not Theodore. He spent years studying and honing his craft before opening the first Caffé Demetre. "I wanted to perfect my recipe *before* sharing it with the public."

But Demetre's is much more than an iced cream parlour. Their crêpes and Belgian waffles are made according to the same exacting standards and with the same premium fresh ingredients, as are the sauces drizzled over desserts too numerous to name, one more mouthwatering than the next. This is not a place for self-restraint. The good news is, the quality and freshness of the ingredients allows you to indulge without experiencing the annoying, cloyingly sweet aftertaste common to many commercial desserts.

And Theodore is quick to differentiate between discipline and denial. "We all have cravings. Indulging them is part of enjoying life. *Discipline* is treating yourself to the real McCoy. *Denial* is forcing yourself to do without it entirely."

What often happens in the latter case, he says, is that you'll either (a) eat a low-fat or low-cal substitute, which fails to satisfy and only intensifies your craving, or (b) when the unreasonably-suppressed craving resurfaces, you'll grab the nearest *nosh* — often a packaged product full of chemicals. Now you feel doubly guilty: you've not only sinned, you've done so with a substitute. Whither satisfaction?

If you're on a diet, you should either not come here or resolve to be good to yourself when you do. If the iced cream doesn't get you, the crêpes and Belgian waffles will. Saying no to *Moo La La* is like turning down a date with Brad Pitt. Nutello Chip Iced Cream drizzled with Nutella® Sauce and garnished with Sliced Bananas and Roasted Hazelnuts....Yeah right. Like we're going to say no to *that*.

Fortunately, there are enough iced cream connoisseurs — and regular folk who realize it's good for your psyche to say *Yes* once in a while — to keep Demetre's hopping.

### Goes down as smoothly and sweetly as a Streisand melody

Nor are those afficionados shy about sharing their thoughts. Take Barbara Streisand for example. During an ACC concert tour, she told audiences she loved the iced cream she'd enjoyed at the original Caffé Demetre on the Danforth. Theodore couldn't have been happier if she'd sung for him personally. Clearly, she of the mellifluous voice has good taste in iced cream.

At Caffé Demetre, even a casual dessert becomes an event, making it a natural for parties and impromptu celebrations. Want to be an instant hero? Bring the children for their next birthday. If things get out of hand, Demetre's understands. No child surrounded by all these goodies can be expected to control his parents.

The menu sets a festive tone with a rainbow of colours and playfully-named specialties, like *The Cold And The Beautiful*, *From Here To* Maternity, *Slice Capades*, and *A Cake Walk*. Ten original iced cream flavours (including White Chocolate, an all-time favourite) and a dozen or so specialty iced cream desserts offer infinite possibilities.

Despite Caffé Demetre's popularity, Theodore and his team remain well-grounded. "You're only as good as your last batch of iced cream," he says. "You can taste the difference quality makes, and we will never compromise that — *ever*."

Sweet music to an iced cream lover's ears.

# Big Carrot certified by Ecocert Canada: over 700 products and counting

If you have a favourite store that gives you great service, you tend to keep shopping there — especially when part of that service is the expert advice needed to make an informed purchase. The Big Carrot has become that destination store for an entire generation, and its customers have reciprocated with a level of loyalty unparalleled in the retail food business.

If you shop at The Big Carrot, you'll understand why it doesn't "feel" quite like any other store: it isn't. It's businesslike, but in no way "corporate"; the personal touch is ever-present. Because it's a worker-owned co-op, its members have an all-for-one and one-for-all attitude and never lose sight of the big picture: putting the customer first.

Ironically, in exemplifying the qualities typically associated with a small business, The Big Carrot has gotten bigger. Three separate expansions in the past 11 years have seen it almost double in space. Metropolitan Toronto's largest Canadian-owned purveyor of products for healthy living offers you much to enjoy.

The Big Carrot is really three stores in one: a health food store and market; a holistic dispensary; and an organic juice, coffee and sandwich bar. It caters to a loyal clientele that embraces both its ethos and its products: minimally processed, organically grown, cruelty free, environmentally safe and, increasingly, non-GMO. Many of these products are also Kosher-certified.

Health-conscious customers seek out The Big Carrot for its extensive organic fruit and vegetable department (over 100 varieties at peak season) and its unmatched selection of organic bulk foods, dairy products, frozen foods, and packaged goods. Its extensive body care department boasts Canada's widest selection of personal care products for the entire family, including baby.

The Big Carrot is as passionate about engaging its community around food issues as it is about selling the best food available. As one of the founding members of the Non-GMO Project, a non-profit organization committed to preserving and building sources of non-GMO products and providing verified non-GMO choices, The Big Carrot continues to be at the forefront of the non-GMO movement. In addition, The Big Carrot also partners regularly with the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN).

Due to CBAN's ongoing efforts, 2012 brought about the victory over "enviropig" when the hog industry group Ontario Pork conceded to public pressure and stopped funding GM pig research at the University of Guelph. The university is now closing down its active research and ending its breeding program of GM pigs. The Big Carrot is proud of its active role in this victory. The latest campaign to create a buzz is the fight against GM Alfalfa. The campaign is centered around an animated short video titled "Queen of the Pasture" featuring two Big Carrot staff members. The educational video is used to raise awareness about the threat of genetically modified alfalfa in our food system.

The Big Carrot was one of Canada's first retailers to certify to the new Canadian Organic standard, underscoring its 28-year commitment to good organic stewardship. Ecocert Canada has certified The Big Carrot to process and package over 700 organic products in its juice bar, bulk, spice, cheese and produce departments.

Retailer certification is not required by the CFIA, but at The Big Carrot it is seen as an important part of preserving the integrity of the entire supply chain. "We see our certification as our responsibility, to both our producers and our customers, to ensure that the hard work of the organic farmer is being preserved," notes Big Carrot Standards coordinator Maureen Kirkpatrick.

For natural and organic pastas, breads, buns, bagels, flatbreads, cookies, muffins, and other wholesome nosherie, no other store — or bakery, for that matter — even comes close. There are literally dozens of choices here, many of them wheat-free, dairy-free, Kosher-certified — or a combination thereof. Rudi's organic Kosher breads have been a hit for their incredible flavour and moisture.

Other Kosher-certified products, to name but a few: Sunflower Kitchen dips, pesto and soups; Imagine Foods Tetra Pack Dairy-Free Soups (the ultimate in convenience); Nature's Path Organic Cereals; Organic Meadow Yogurts & Pressed Cheese; Amy's soups, pizzas and frozen entrées; Enjoy Life Nut and Gluten Free Cereals, Cookies and Snack Bars; and an immense variety of chips and other snack foods.

The Big Carrot's inhouse vegetarian deli offers 50 in-house certified organic dishes, baked goods and desserts daily. Toronto's only organic juice bar offers over 50 choices of juices, blender drinks, nutritional boosts, shakes, and fair-trade organic coffees, as well as Grab & Go sandwiches & salads plus other treats.

The Big Carrot has remained the leader in an increasingly crowded field by offering products that are as good for the environment as they are for its customers, and by providing a level of expertise and personal service unmatched in the industry. It also demonstrates its environmental friendliness by heating its water tank by solar panels.

Through its ongoing expansion, The Big Carrot has retained the humility and friendliness of its early years. This is a store that's down to earth in every possible sense, and a real pleasure to visit. It's an oasis of calm amid the chaos of everyday life. A visit here isn't just grocery, supplement and cosmetics shopping; it's a balm to the spirit.

THE BIG CARROT

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Serves 2
www.ceresjuices.com

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

## Each meal a new chapter in favourite book

How does a small, owner-operated restaurant enjoy 18 years of success in an era of ever-increasing competition and ever-shrinking budgets?

And how does it build a clientele so loyal, they could almost find their way to Avli blindfolded?

And now is it that of the many Mediterranean restaurants that opened in the GTA in the mid 1990s, Avli is one of the few still standing? (Here's a hint: owner/chef Lambrinos Vassiliou hasn't sat down since the opening).

This is an exaggeration, of course, but the metaphor is not far from the truth. Cooking with inspiration means being quick on your feet. It means drawing every bit of flavour out of market-fresh ingredients to create dishes that will inspire your customers. It means treating each dish like an original work of art.

"A meal is like a stage play," says Lambrinos. "If the theatre troupe is talented, you can expect an inspiring performance. But the show will not always be identical. The inflections and emotions will change slightly from one performance to the next. The actors are not following a formula."

"We operate the same way. I don't call myself an artist but I can tell you that, even with my favourite recipes, each meal is unique. This is not paint by numbers."

Lambrinos may not call himself an artist, but the critics do. Sara Waxman's "food that is poetry" tribute is probably one of the best compliments ever paid a restaurant.

Many dishes on Avli's menu elicit rapturous praise. The signature pies (Seafood, Rabbit & Spring Onion, Lamb, and Chicken Mushroom), with their hand-brushed olive-oil crust, are unsurpassed in the genre.

Avli's core group of discerning guests have remained loyal not only because of consistent quality but also because each visit takes them to new levels of enjoyment. For them, each meal adds a new chapter to their favourite book.

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**"A delicious meal" – *New York Times* • "Food that is poetry" – *Sara Waxman, Toronto Sun***

**"The exotic scent of Byzantium" – *Joanne Kates, Globe and Mail***

**"Some of the best food on the Danforth — nongreasy, thoughtfully prepared, and carefully seasoned. The half chicken is exquisite, the meat moussaka the best around" – *Frommer's***

## "Our relationships are all we've got"

Dine at any of the Danforth's fine family restaurants and chances are you'll not only enjoy a hearty meal but also witness a positive family dynamic in action.

For Allen Fraser, Psychotherapist and Counsellor, positive family dynamics aren't just a by-product of his business. They are his business.

Allen Fraser
MSW, RSW

Located in the bustling Carrot Common, Fraser draws on 38 years of experience in family counselling to help clients improve the quality of their relationships — and their lives.

Fraser's practice covers the full spectrum of relationship issues, as well as grief and bereavement counselling. His clients include couples dealing with marital issues, parents and children seeking a middle ground — anyone who has reached the point of acknowledging that they need help.

Fraser's byline is "Learning to let go of holding on." It's one that resonates with his clients — and is easier said than done.

"Most people can visualize themselves relaxing and letting go," says Fraser. "In practice, however, it means letting go of weeks, months, often years of hurt, anger, resentment, cynicism, jealousy...all the negative emotions that, when left unchecked, can become so ingrained that they are second nature. They're like a second skin that cannot be shucked off; it has to be shed gradually."

"People rarely see a counsellor as a proactive measure," he says. "By the time they make an appointment, they've usually been mired in a conflictual behaviour pattern for a long time. We'd all like the therapist to wave a magic wand and give us an epiphany from which we emerge in perfect harmony. But generally speaking, anything that takes a long time to break down takes time to build up again."

Making the initial appointment is an important first step, says Fraser. "Once you've passed the denial stage and accepted that if you could fix the problem yourself you would have done so already, you can begin the healing process in earnest."

Typically, the first meeting is spent defining the problem or problems that require resolution. Subsequent sessions enable client and therapist to explore the issues in greater depth, identify the root cause(s), and develop a resolution strategy.

In his 38 years of practice, seeing clients in his office or in their home, Fraser has helped hundreds of individuals, couples and families strengthen their bonds, restore their faith in one another and themselves — and learn to "let go of holding on."

Where there's a will there's a way, says Fraser. "When both parties are coming from a good place and willing to work together to improve their relationship — and be patient with each other and themselves throughout that process — good things happen."

Too often, he says, people are forced to reconnect with their true feelings by a traumatic event. "One minute you're arguing with your spouse about a credit card purchase and the next minute you find out she has cancer. That money that was so important a minute ago? You'd gladly flush it down the toilet — along with the rest of your possessions — for the guarantee of her good health."

That doesn't mean you should go into therapy whenever you have an argument, says Fraser. It just means that "in today's fast-paced world, with all its pressures and stressors, it's easy to become jaded and accept a relationship decline as 'just life'. It isn't. A relationship you value is a relationship worth fixing."

"We should all stop ourselves from time to time and ask if the discord we're experiencing is what we want to feel 5 years from now or 10 years from now. Because 5 or 10 years from now isn't really 5 or 10 years, it's tomorrow. And tomorrow is already today in our minds."

"At the end of the day, our relationships are all we've got. We owe it to ourselves to make them the best they can be."

Allen Fraser can be reached at 416-698-8198 or on the web at www.allenfraser.com.

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Pilaros TASTE OF THE DANFORTH

# Healthy Planet's growing orbit brings vegetarian café, other delights to Danforth

The Danforth, already home to Toronto's highest concentration of health food stores and wellness practitioners, just got a major nutritional boost with the arrival of the **Healthy Planet.**

Situated at Danforth and Carlaw in the heart of GreekTown, this sparkling new emporium offers Danforth-goers the greatest selection of healthy food choices on the planet....*er, in the Planet.*

This is not just another health food store. It's big (5,000 square feet), bright, and features Fresh Planet Food — the Danforth's first vegetarian café with both indoor and dedicated outdoor patio seating.

## Danforth's first vegetarian cafe with dedicated outdoor patio seating

Raw and vegetarian food lovers have been salivating since news of Fresh Planet Food first broke. Their enthusiasm is shared by Manager and Nutritionist Heidi Horowitz. "This store — and the opportunity to serve gourmet vegetarian food both indoors and out — has been years in the nurturing and planning."

The cafe offers a spectacular variety of vegetarian food options, including gluten free, dairy free, dehydrated and fermented foods; all of which are organic, heart healthy and nutrient dense.

Horowitz works hand in hand with 12-year veteran vegetarian Head Cook Pina Giuseppina. Food Director Andrew Muto, and a team of innovative raw food chefs.

Since The Healthy Planet's opening in early July, the response from GreekTown has exceeded their expectations. Says Manager Siddik Motala. "The Danforth has become a magnet for health-oriented providers and consumers. It was a natural fit for us. We needed a location that had enough space, a high profile, and patio seating. This is it."

The Healthy Planet carries every major brand name on the market in packaged and bottled goods, health and beauty products, vitamin, mineral and food supplements, and sports nutritional supplements. Less-known boutique brands also hit their shelves *before* they become famous. "We are constantly sourcing the marketplace for the best products, says Motala. "Our staff are well-educated and well-versed in the properties and advantages of each."

The sports nutrition section is gigantic — a small store in itself. The serious athlete or trainer will feel right at home here. It's all part of the Healthy Planet's one-stop shopping concept, says Motala. "Whether you're an expectant mother on a restricted diet, a hockey player who's been ordered to put on 10 pounds for the coming season, or a householder greening up your home environment with chemical-free cleaning products, you'll find everything you need right here."

And when you're done shopping, you can relax on the patio with a fresh salad and a tall, cool glass of organic juice. The café, says Horowitz, "is more than a place to grab a quick bite; it's a destination — a place to have a proper, sit-down meal in a relaxed environment."

To that end, Fresh Planet Food employs a full-time raw food chef who parlays the freshest produce, herbs and spices into the most exquisite gourmet vegetarian fare this side of heaven. It's not just "alternative cuisine" says Horowitz. "It's a whole new dining experience that will redefine your idea of freshness and flavor."

Scintillating salad choices on the summer menu include:

• Watermelon Arugula • Summer Root Slaw
• Moroccan Quinoa • Summer Sprouts
• Spicy Mango • Vegan Caesar
• Deep Green Medley

*Manager Heidi Horowitz (C) flanked by Raw Food Chef Bilyana Scholes (L) and Juice Bar Manager Natasha Szauter (R)*

Healthy Planet

568 Danforth at Carlaw 647-873-1204

*And six other locations to serve you*

www.healthyplanetcanada.com

Included on the fall menu are:

• Porcini Mushroom & Pecan Vegan Paté
• Tuscan Bean Dip
• Winter Persimmon & Arugula
• Autumn Apple Squash
• Carrot Ginger Soup
• Arabian Spiced Roasted Autumn Vegetables
• Chocolate Covered Figs
• Warm Winter Fruits

In addition to salads, there are soups, Panini, fresh organic cheeses (both conventional and vegan), Vegan Tofu Burgers, and many more fresh-daily options. Their Spicy Baked Olives are the bomb.

They even serve breakfast here!

For lunch and dinner, you can build your own plate or enjoy Fresh Planet Food's "Grab & Go" meals priced as low as, or lower than, many conventional prepared meals.

Affordable pricing is intrinsic to the Healthy Planet's approach, says Horowitz. But quantity must always be measured against quality. "In absolute terms, organic food — and any food farmed with eco-friendly methods — is more expensive than conventional food. But in nutritional value *relative to volume or weight*, it's actually cheaper."

Some who try the Healthy Planet's gourmet delights for the first time may doubt that a small serving can satisfy their appetite. Yet the same people "come back raving about how that small portion kept them going all day."

But small portions are not mandatory. No one will look askance at you for loading up on carbs. "If you like bread or potatoes with your meal, by all means enjoy," says Horowitz. "But a fresh meal packed with nutrients does not need to be "padded."

You mean my fourth slice of organic chocolate cake qualifies as "padding?"

If this culinary genre sounds like a dieter's best friend, it is. Sensational taste and weight control, rarely uttered in the same sentence, are regular pen plans here, even at dessert. One fresh frozen yogurt parfait and one cappuccino later, you're still footloose and fancy free — and hundreds of calories under your quota.

## Sensational taste and weight control at the same party

The Healthy Planet's sustainable purchasing practices favor locavorianism and in-season buying. All coffee and tea served in the café are Organic Fair Trade, and all take-out containers are biodegradable. The Healthy Planet is community-minded and supports worthy charities like the Canadian Celiac Association.

What began as a single-store operation in 1998 has grown to a seven-store juggernaut in 14 years, with plans for further expansion in the offing. A full-service web store with an informative blog is accessible 24/7.

The importance of a healthy lifestyle isn't new, says Horowitz. What *is* new is our heightened awareness of it. "When our grandparents told us *Go in good health*, they were onto something. We're finally listening."

Clinical studies have shown that not listening to Bubie and Zadie can be harmful to your health. At the Healthy Planet, they've been listening all along.

## The Danforth's green space: a ribbon runs through it

With hundreds of fine restaurants and shops at your fingertips in GreekTown, it's easy to spend all your time on Danforth Avenue proper. But if you think that Withrow Park is the area's only green space, you're mistaken.

Most people enjoy a relaxing stroll after lunch or dinner, chatting and taking in GreekTown's many pleasant sights. If you venture just half a block north of the Danforth between Chester and Woodycrest Avenues, however, you'll discover a mini "green belt" of parkettes and Green P lots connecting those two streets in an almost unbroken ribbon.

The sheer number of lots and their proximity to Danforth Avenue can save you time no matter where you park. If you're habitually tardy, it also minimizes the embarrassment of being late for your dinner date or appointment.

The parkettes are no secret to the locals. On a pleasant day, you'll find mothers strolling their babies or young children (who enjoy the play area in the Carlaw Avenue Parkette at left), elderly folk relaxing on a bench, and people of all ages using this."green gateway" to move from A to B expeditiously.

Coupled with the area's canopy of mature trees, the nicely landscaped parkettes and their gently winding paths provide a quiet oasis.

# Top secret report from 569 Danforth reveals (oo

"Hello Mr. Smith. This is Saul Korman."

Most business owners don't call qualified job applicants — let alone *unqualified* — unless they're selected.

But most business owners aren't Saul Korman.

"... Thank you for sending me your application; I appreciate it. I'm afraid we can't hire you because you have no experience in the clothing business. But thanks for thinking of us, and best of luck. Call me back if you have any questions."

Someone obviously forgot to tell Korman that hiding behind voice mail is the norm today. Not only doesn't he hide from it, he'll grab the phone on the second ring if you don't get it on the first.

"If someone cares enough to write me a letter, then I care enough to reply." But his attentiveness goes beyond reciprocation. He's fascinated by people. "Everyone has a story. I listen. I learn."

At this rate, by the time his 70th anniversary rolls around, he'll have the *shmatah* business down pat.

Korry's is the suit store, to be sure. Thousands of well-dressed customers in the GTA and beyond are living proof. But if it's the quality of the garment that bring men to his door, it's the quality of the *experience* that sees them leave better dressed than when they came.

How does a clothing store continue to grow and flourish for 60 years? According to Korman, customer care is the #1 reason.

In the final analysis, excellent point-of-sale service is as important as the quality of your merchandise — perhaps *more* important, says Saul. "When you buy a great suit and you get great service, you may remember the service more than the suit. If you get bad service, you'll shop somewhere else next time no matter how good the suit is."

Continues son Shawn, "Anyone who comes in our door has picked us. Even if they're only browsing, they've chosen *our* store to browse in. We never take that for granted."

Korry's spends a small fortune on radio advertising to remain front of mind. His running monologue delights many listeners and annoys a few, but leaves none indifferent.

If he had a nickel for every time he's uttered the phrase *"Korry's! In the heart of GreekTown, at Five...Six...Nine.... Danforth Avenue,"* how would he spend it?

"I've *already* spent it," he barks. "In the restaurants!"

Ah yes, the restaurants. Of the many GreekTown attractions he extolls on the airwaves, the restaurants and cafés are the common denominator. When Saul isn't sermonizing the suit at Korry's, he can usually be found holding court at one of the area's many dining establishments, relaxing and conversing with clients, relatives, friends, and passers-by.

His on-air "virtual tours" of GreekTown bring a steady stream of new customers to his door, ensuring the continued growth of his brand. But Korman is the first to acknowledge that existing customers "are your first priority. They're your bread and butter."

"It costs five times as much to acquire a new customer as it does to keep an existing one. The only way to have both is to pay attention to everybody."

The service may be old-school, but everything else about Korry's is ultra-modern. The shop has been renovated many times, and its website has just undergone its second major update.

Korman's father Nathan, who founded the business six decades ago, could scarcely have envisioned the Korry's of today.

If Korman could bring him back to Korry's for a day, what would he say?

"He'd ask me why we have so much merchandise, why I'm spending so much money on the store, and why we have so much staff."

After the initial culture shock had worn off, Papa Nathan would surely be proud of the steady stream of customers trying and buying.

He'd understand why six tailors are needed to handle the volume.

He'd grudgingly acknowledge that the store looks like a million bucks.

And he'd *kvell* over what *hasn't* changed — the commitment to customer care.

"Fashions change but customer service doesn't", says Saul. "Expertise is required to learn and understand fabrics and fit. But being nice to people doesn't cost you a dime. And it doesn't need to be learned if you're service-oriented."

*Saul Korman flanked by sons*

Father Nathan can rest in peace knowing that the customer care on which Korry's was founded 60 years ago remains its cornerstone today.

"Our staff is our lifeblood," says Shawn. "If you backdated our history by combined years of service, we'd have opened in the 1800s. Franco Gagliardi's been with us 38 years. Frank Smith 22 years. Jerry Baker 10 years. And he may have to stick around another 10 before anyone laughs at his jokes."

At Korry's, the veterans still lead by example. Younger salespeople who join its team are duly impressed by their energy and focus.

For the clothing "lifers", it's not just about making a sale. It's in their blood. They may hint at retirement, but they don't retire because they can't. "You'll have to call in the National Guard to get us out of here," laughs Saul.

Nor are the staff contributions limited to the salespeople. "We rely on our tailors and our office staff to keep us running like a well-oiled machine," says

KOR

**569 Danforth Avenu**

**www.kor**

# ps!) secret of 60-year success: customer service

*Shawn (L) and Michael (R)*

Shawn. "They are the unsung heroes of this business. They don't get the glory of the big sale or the pat on the back for picking out the right shirt or tie. But we can't live without them."

Apparently, today's man can't live without the skinny suit. What many pundits thought would be a fad has turned into a trend. "It's not going away until the physical fitness craze does," says Shawn. "But the tapered look doesn't suit everyone. When it doesn't work for you, we'll tell you straight up. If it doesn't look good on you, it doesn't look good on us."

Trying to sneak an ill-fitting garment past Saul Korman is like trying to sneak the sunshine past a rooster. "Can't have any bad ads walking around the Danforth."

The men's suit and jacket palette has shown little variation over the past 12 months. Perennial power colours black and navy remain strong, while dark brown continues its resurgence. In shirts and ties, the purple family's upswing in popularity continues unabated. From lilac to mauve to fuschia to indigo, more men are sporting purple hues now than ever before. "In solids and stripes, they add colour and flair to most blue suits and, in the darker shades, to charcoal and black," says Shawn.

The Hugo Boss, Canali, and Coppley collections anchor Korry's high end, while its own Roberto label dominates the midrange. But taking advantage of the Roberto two for one doesn't mean settling for second best. "Proudly made in Canada from Italian fabrics. That's what you get when you buy Roberto." Its quality, he notes, rivals that of imports costing double the price. "We don't sell a low-grade garment," he says. "It's not in our DNA."

To a young man acquiring his first business attire, dressing up may seem foreign at first, grants Saul. "But the biggest mistake you can make is not having at least one impact suit in your wardrobe."

An impact suit, he notes, is one that elicits "Wow, you look great" compliments. "Tom Cruise may not need that positive reinforcement. But you and I do. We need to *know* we look good, not *hope* we look good. It's one more thing to feel good about and one less thing to worry about. In a business transaction or social situation, that can be a difference-maker."

If you think he's just trying to sell suits, he has a medical alert for you. "Tell me something. "You're going into the hospital for life-saving surgery. Your surgeon is wearing jeans. Are you okay with that?"

Shawn concurs. "You don't always have to wear a suit, but when you do you're prepared for any situation. And turn it around. When *you're* the customer and the person you're seeing is wearing jeans, maybe that says you're not as important to him as you'd like to be. Not exactly a message you'd want to receive, or give."

And no one is better at sending messages than Korry's. With Saul bumping his gums on several stations, son Michael forging his own distinct style on others and Shawn becoming more microphone-friendly with each passing day, the Kormans have achieved greater "air space" than Nik Walenda.

Nor could the wire-walking *wunderkind* have traversed a 60-year span any more adroitly than Saul Korman — or enjoyed a more triumphant diamond jubilee. On May 3, with hundreds present — family, friends, suppliers, visiting dignitaries, and the media — Korman received numerous accolades and a few barbs. In turn, he acknowledged the support of his family, staff, suppliers, fellow merchants, and friends. (Photos of the event can be viewed at hadaball.com). Rarely has a businessperson touched the lives of so many people.

An important component of that connectivity is Korman's unique relationship with, and affinity for, the Greek community in which his business grew. "I've always felt at home here. These people are not just my neighbours, they're my friends. I am truly blessed." He shares the love by relentlessly talking up the street on his airtime dime.

"What's not to love?" he crows. "A hundred good restaurants and cafés. Great neighbours. The Pilaros Taste Of The Danforth, doing so much good for charity. I'm just a kid from Rouyn-Noranda who landed on the Danforth — what did I know? It's almost like G_d handpicked the perfect street for me."

Korry's contributions to the sartorial splendour of Toronto's men are mirrored by its contributions to the community. Its annual golf tournament — hosted again this year by the Scarboro Golf and Country Club — raises significant funds for the Toronto East General Hospital Foundation. On June 11, Korman was presented with an award for outstanding community services by the TEGH Foundation, on whose Board he served for many years before stepping down this year. And Korman's promotional efforts on behalf of the annual Pilaros Taste Of The Danforth — which to date has raised well over $1,000,000 for the Toronto East General Hospital — are tireless.

So after 60 years, having reached the top of the mountain, are there any worlds left for Korry's to conquer?

"Are you kidding me?" blazes Saul. "Have you seen the way mountaineers dress? I'm not coming off that mountain until every one of them is wearing a suit."

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# GreekTown on the Danforth: Canadian heritage in the making

More than a tourist area, GreekTown on the Danforth is a community. In the summer, when the trees reach their full green and Toronto's restauranteurs put out their patio tables, GreekTown puts on its Mediterranean face.

Here, when friends and acquaintances greet, you are as likely to hear *"Kalimera! Ti kanis?"* as "Hi! How are you?" In the restaurants and cafés, you hear patrons converse in every language of the world.

While the music of Greek polysyllables will appeal to your ears, the most important thing is not the language, but the fact that people do greet each other. Bustling and busy as the community is, everyone — not just tourists, but everyone who lives and works here — is as liable to stroll as to hurry.

## Plenty to woo your senses

There is plenty on the Danforth to woo your senses, and make you want to slow your steps: bright colours and exotic décor; the sounds of the bouzouki; the aroma of lamb souvlaki wafting from a grill; and the tastes of exotic foods. It is the restaurants above all — and the atmosphere they help create, at once lively and relaxed — which draw people from all over the city and beyond.

Many restaurants capture, in their décor, the pleasing colours and terraced style associated with the Greek islands and mountainsides. And while souvlaki is everywhere on the Danforth, its dining establishments take pride in offering the full range and flavours of Greek and other Mediterranean cuisines.

But the Danforth boasts many other fine ethnic restaurants as well. It has good old-fashioned diners. And its cafés and dessert houses are unparalleled, both in number and quality. The chains are here, but independent family ownership still predominates.

GreekTown is also home to Toronto's finest natural and specialty food stores and many alternative health practitioners. And it's become a leading fashion destination, with a host of fine specialty boutiques for men, women, and children, as well as European-quality beauty salons and spas.

There is plenty of live entertainment here. At many establishments, audience participation is the rule, though after a fine, full meal, you may feel disinclined to dance on a tabletop.

There are a few other Toronto streets which are wider in actual metres, but the Danforth has an expansive feel about it which you don't find anywhere else. Majestic trees shade well-kept homes; here and there are streetside parks, where you can sit and rest your feet.

*Alexander The Great Parkette at Danforth and Logan: a popular spot to pause, relax, and reflect*

If you look closely, you see there is a solid community here. You see not only the tourists, but also the elderly and the children, as they shop, stroll or sit and chat in the cafés and parks. In the restaurants, waiters and bartenders offer everyone prompt, friendly service; there are plenty of regular guests whom they greet by name.

Nor is it just staff who do this. You will see the owners showing guests to their tables, greeting them warmly; in GreekTown, customers are family.

Also here are the institutions that belong in any healthy city neighborhood: schools, houses of worship, clubs, and community centres. People not only work here, they live here; and it is in great part because they keep GreekTown pleasant to live in, that it is pleasant to visit.

If you really want to get to know the community, chat a little with the staff members of different restaurants; you'll find that everyone knows everyone else. There is plenty of competition here, but it is friendly. To thrive, a restauranteur has to cherish the firm conviction that his or her establishment is the best; but in GreekTown, they do so without knocking the competition. If anything, the reverse is true.

It is from this wealth of restaurants — and a Big Idea — that the "Taste of the Danforth" festival was born. This annual event has become so popular that GreekTown is closed to traffic for its duration. It's a great opportunity to sample the Danforth's culinary delights while enjoying its ambience, all in support of worthy charities like the Toronto East General Hospital Foundation.

While the Danforth is a community, it has never been a closed enclave. Saul Korman of Korry's Clothiers, an active member of the Jewish community, is also an enthusiastic promoter of GreekTown. Having been there for more than half a century — Korry's celebrated its 60th anniversary in May — Korman knows the people of this community, many of whom started as dishwashers and short-order cooks in the '50's and '60's, then opened the first modest Greek restaurants in the '70's. Many of them came here seeking both prosperity and freedom; the late Andreas Papandreou (a recent Prime Minister of Greece) lived in Canada from 1969 to 1974.

## A solid community with solid values

Korman shares with the people who live and work on the Danforth their joy in the prosperity and freedom of Canada. If you come to GreekTown, you are breathing, hearing and tasting Canadian heritage — not in a museum, but as contemporary history in the making.

**GreekTown Toronto Business Improvement Area Board of Management, 2012**

TOP ROW, L to R:
Constantine Voidonicolas, Chair • Angelo Velonis, Treasurer • Kathy Mavrakakis, Secretary • Aris Sideratos
Maria Pavlakos • Savas Leventis • Tom Sgouromitis

BOTTOM ROW, L to R:
Bill Zias • John Hadjis • Len Grammenopoulos • Konstadinos Kolaras
Steve Achefontos • George Charalambous

## Role of a Business Improvement Area (BIA)

As stated on the City of Toronto's website, "A Business Improvement Area (BIA) is an association of commercial property owners and tenants within a defined area who work in partnership with the City to create thriving, competitive, and safe business areas that attract shoppers, diners, tourists, and new businesses. By working collectively as a BIA, local business have the organizational and funding capacity to be catalysts for civic improvement, enhancing the quality of life in their local neighborhood and the City as a whole."

GreekTown Toronto BIA Board Chair Constantine Voidonicolas takes great pride in the fulfillment of this mandate. "It's a team effort. Board members give generously of their time, working in concert with the merchants to make GreekTown as good as it can be. The Pilaros Taste Of The Danforth is the most obvious manifestation of this effort, but the focus on making our area an attractive, safe, and family-oriented destination is year-round."

Per the City Of Toronto's website, it now celebrates a total of 72 BIAs, representing over 32,000 businesses — the largest number of BIAs in North America. Together, they generate over $25 million in funding towards street and sidewalk beautification, marketing and promotional campaigns, street festivals, clean street / graffiti-removal campaigns, and crime prevention strategies. BIAs also acts as a unified voice to address issues on behalf of their membership.

Toronto BIAs are also members of an umbrella organization called the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA). TABIA encourages and facilitates the exchange of information, experiences, and ideas among BIAs; advocates on behalf of BIAs to influence government policy; helps obtain funding for programs and services for BIAs; and offers discount and savings programs for its members.

A BIA is run by a volunteer Board of Management elected from its members. The Board is nominated at an Annual General Meeting and, once approved by City Council, serves a four-year term concurrent with the term of Council. The Board works on behalf of its BIA and meets regularly to develop budgets, set priorities, implement capital improvements, plan festivals, and promote its business area."

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

## Where's GreekTown? At the corner of The Palace and Danforth

The Palace is not only one of kind in GreekTown by virtue of its distinguished Mediterranean cuisine and décor, it's one of the last of the great old family-owned restaurants. With increasing corporate ownership, the post baby boom generation's decreasing adherence to old-school values, the slow erosion of the family unit, and increased career choices, how many Palaces can our future hold?

If a career in the hospitality industry is in your future, you could save a few thousand dollars in tuition fees by simply observing how they treat you here. Forget Hospitality 101, this is postdoctoral work. No spa package complete with meals, mineral baths and therapeutic massage could relax you more than a family dinner at The Palace.

Peter Hadjis, wife Stella, sister Olga and son John don't just operate a family business, they preside over a Danforth institution. They have held court over this Kingdom for almost 30 years.

In this Palace, you'll dine like Kings and Queens, but without the pomp and ceremony. The service is gracious, but you'll be much to busy enjoying yourself to engage in formalities.

The Palace embodies, like no other Danforth establishment, the spirit of GreekTown. Here, time stands still, in the best possible sense.

How will the Danforth look 30 years from now? Will we still see the "all hands on deck" cohesiveness that comes naturally in a family restaurant like The Palace? Without formal training and pep talks — because everyone understands?

We hope so. But the reality of current demographic and social trends suggests otherwise.

In the meantime, enjoy The Palace: easy to find, hard to leave, impossible to forget.

At the corner of The Palace and Danforth.

THE PALACE RESTAURANT
722 Pape Avenue
416.462.1166
www.eatatpalace.com

If you're reading this, chances are you already have a love affair with GreekTown and you don't need a map or a GPS to find it. You know it's at the corner of The Palace and Danforth.

Er, Pape and Danforth.

And if you're a customer of The Palace, you've probably made this verbal faux pas a dozen times.

Yes, there are other fine restaurants in GreekTown. And yes, there are access routes that don't lead directly to The Palace. But there's no other restaurant like this one. And may never be again.

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

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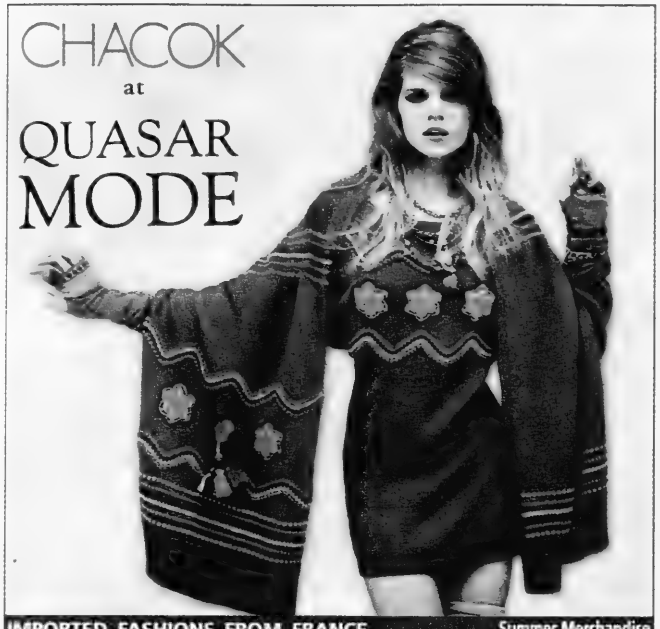

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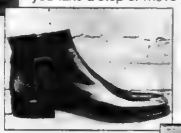
## Fit, quality and style harmonize at Blue Shoe Box

Long. Slender. Elegant. The picture of classicism. A perfect fit.

The *store*, we mean. Fortuitously, the shoes offered here are the aesthetic equal of the shop that sells them. In 2002 proprietor Eliséo (Tony) Staffiere opened **The Blue Shoe Box** at 499 Danforth just east of Logan. Its reputation for quality and a glove-like fit has garnered a devoted clientele and a Jeannie Beker "Toronto's Top 100" ranking.

Staffiere isn't just a shoe salesman; he's a third-generation Italian shoemaker. He designs and fabricates his own lines for women and men under the FAST and Eliséo Staffiere labels, respectively. Made in Italy to his exacting specifications, these seductively stylish shoes and boots offer exquisite quality and style at hundreds of dollars less than comparable designer shoes. If you enjoy wearing the best without the high price tag, check them out. No one will know they're not Bloor Street trophy shoes unless you tell them.

The superior construction and workmanship of these private label shoes is immediately apparent. With soles double stitched inside out and kid lining, the men's shoe is as rugged outside as it is gentle inside. The same is true of the ladies'. You couldn't wear these out even if you wanted to.



In addition to its private label, The Blue Shoe Box carries a number of leading name brands for men and women. For a small store, the selection is amazing.

Today's men and women, notes Staffiere, want it all: quality, style, and comfort at reasonable prices. "You wear a pair of shoes more than any outfit. Most people put more miles on their shoes than on their car," he smiles. "All the more reason to be good to your feet."

Without quality built in, says Staffiere, a shoe that fits perfectly today may not hold its shape tomorrow. And without the perfect fit, "even a shoe made of spun gold won't help you."

"The margin for error in fitting a shoe is zero," he smiles. "It's not like a shirt or a dress where you can get away with a quarter inch. It also bears your weight, which your clothing doesn't. Every time you take a step or move your feet, your shoes are flexing to accommodate you. They're like a personal limousine."

The Blue Shoe Box occupies a diminutive space, but its design is magical. The elongated, reed-thin premises — a metaphor for a long, slender foot perhaps? — house an intricately moulded 120-year-old copper ceiling, cappuccino spaccoed walls, exposed red brick, butterscotch oak shelving and a gleaming hardwood floor. It's a soothing environment in which to test drive a new limo...er, pair of shoes.

If the shoe fits, wear it. More and more of Toronto's fashion-forward shoppers are finding that fit at the right price in an Italian-made Blue Shoe Box.

**The Blue Shoebox**
499 Danforth 416-289-6727
www.blueshoebox.ca

## New digs, same electricity at bob + paige

For stylists who are always on the cusp of modern trends. Frank Calandrino and Violet Volovik have a soft spot for antiquity. How else to explain their migration to turn-of-the-century premises at 239 Danforth from ultra-modern digs two blocks east?

The truth is, the move was based on practicality, not sentiment. They had outgrown their former location. But it's also true that they'd been eyeing 239 for a while. When it became available, they pounced with catlike quickness.

The same team that made the former bob + paige location a stirring design success was hired for the new location, but restoring its vintage magnificence was more touch-up than transformation. A foundation of great character was already in place.

The frontage is a striking example of turn-of-the century storefront architecture. A central recessed door is flanked on either side by display windows, which angle outward towards the street and are raised off the ground by wooden bulkheads. Above the door and the windows are elegantly patterned glass transoms. Inside, the deep, lofty-ceilinged room laps up the sunlight.

The good news is, Calandrino and Volovik now have more space. The bad news is, they can't hire and train new stylists fast enough to keep pace with the ever-growing demand while still maintaining the same level of quality and service. Having flirted briefly with expansion, they're now more firmly resolved than ever not to go that route until they're 100 percent ready.

"To dilute our quality and service is out of the question," says Frank. We've always said we wouldn't become a factory, and we won't. We will grow only as fast as the fully-focused care of each customer will allow us to — not one second and not one client faster."

Hiring new stylists en masse is incompatible with keeping your current crew at the top of their game, says Violet. "Creativity is only part of being a great stylist," says Violet. "Technique and knowledge are equally important. We nurture our stylists towards that end. This requires time and patience. They take courses and other professional upgrades on a regular basis. They all want to spread their wings and fly solo, and we want them to as well. But only when they're ready. Your stylists cannot achieve their full potential in a numbers game."

A competent stylist is a *confident* stylists, says Frank — one capable of working with, and doing justice to, *anyone's* hair — not just their regulars.

bob + paige SALON
239 Danforth Ave.
416.850.9719
bobandpaige.com

In a business where talented employees often leave to start their own shop, Frank and Violet have created a working environment that encourages the good ones to stay on the farm. They generally do — and when a new hire is necessary, there's no shortage of promising candidates to choose from. When you treat your employees well, word gets around.

Over the past year, hairstyling trends have seen a shift towards longer, looser, more textured cuts. (But if you still want a bob or paige cut, bob + paige will happily oblige). Frank and Violet are doing less highlighting and more pastel shading. They also offer *Elumen*, an innovative high-performance colouring treatment from Goldwell. It lasts 10 times as long as conventional hair colour and is doctor-recommended for anyone allergic or sensitive to the latter. It adheres to the hair via an electric charge.

With the electric atmosphere that's followed bob + paige to their new home, it comes with the territory.

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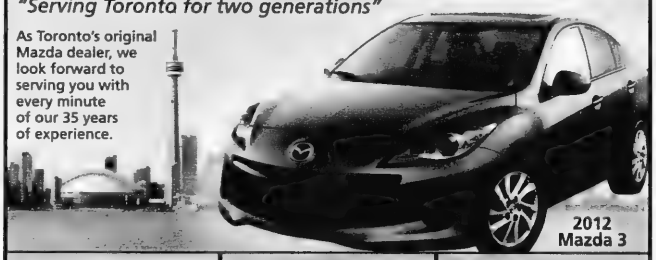

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# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

## What's in a 60-year menswear legacy? Family, loyalty — and sleepless nights

*The original Korry's store, 1478 Danforth at Coxwell, opened in 1962*

Listening to Saul Korman's silky-smooth delivery of a radio commercial is like auditing a course in Self-Affirmation. He's always positive, always upbeat. Poise and self-assurance are where he lives.

It wasn't always so.

It certainly wasn't so in the spring of 1969 — the year Korry's Clothiers decided to move to its current premises at 569 Danforth Avenue.

The story really starts five years previously, in 1964, when Saul decided to leave his father Nathan's business and open his own store.

He'd heard that Tip Top Tailors was closing its street-level locations. *Chutzpadick* even then, Saul convinced Jimmy Kay and Irving Posluns of Posluns Clothing, who owned Tip Top, to lease him the Tip Top location at 613 Danforth for a reduced rate.

Shortly after he took possession, a representative of the Bank Of Nova Scotia walked into the store and introduced himself. "Where do you bank, young man?"

Korman told him he banked at the Danforth and Coxwell branch of CIBC, but that it was his father's account, not his. The banker suggested he should have his own account, and soon thereafter approved a $10,000 loan. Things were looking up for the young entrepreneur.

"So now I had $10,000 and a storefront, but no inventory. A week later, Mom and Dad walked into the store. 'Why are you leaving me,' says Dad. 'Help me sell my inventory and I'll come work for you'."

Saul agreed. With a view to running a closing sale at his father's store, he hired an accountant to take stock. The accountant informed him that his father had $14,000 in inventory and $65,000 in liabilities.

"So I told Dad, let me make a settlement with the suppliers," says Korman. "No!" shouted Nathan. "We're Kormans. We do not make' settlements'."

So much for that idea. Saul took on the debtload of $65,000, ran the sale — and gave Korry's a new lease on life at 613 Danforth Avenue.

Two years later — needing to renovate and unable to renegotiate a favourable lease with the landlord — Korman decided he'd had enough of being a tenant.

Real estate agent George Carayiannis, now with Homelife Vision, recalls his first meeting with Korman like it was yesterday.

"I'm sitting in my office at 505 Danforth Avenue [where he had his own real estate company at the time] and in walks Saul. He got right to the point."

Korman told Carayiannis that he and father Nathan were tired of renting and wanted to buy a building. Did Carayiannis have anything in the area that would be suitable for a large men's clothing store?

Carayiannis suggested 629 Danforth, then occupied by Siberry's Men's Wear (at the current National Bank location). It was on the market for $115,000.

Korman returned a few days later with an entourage: father Nathan, a lawyer and an accountant. All the elements were in place for a deal.

Except the money.

"Didn't have a dime," says Korman. "All I had was debt: the $65,000 on Dad's merchandise, plus a mortgage on my house." Which he shared with wife Myrna and children Jody, age 9; Michael, 6; and Shawn, 5.

On the lawyer's urging — and against his father's wishes — Korman countered the $115,000 asking price with an offer of $110,000. Nathan pulled him aside. "They're asking $115,000, why not just agree to it? You're not dealing from strength. You don't have the financing yet."

But Saul was having none of it. He loved and respected his father, but this was *his* time. It wasn't just about the $5,000. It was about *winning*.

The vendor declined his offer and sold the property two days later to a real estate developer for the asking price of $115,000. That developer flipped it the very next day for $150,000.

A year and a half later, a similar property one block west, then occupied by Byers Dry Goods, sold for $275,000 to an unhappy tenant named...

*Saul Korman.*

"Listening to the lawyer instead of my father was the biggest mistake I ever made," says Korman. "But it wasn't the lawyer's fault, it was mine. In all my wisdom, I outsmarted myself."

Two weeks later, Korman was chatting over coffee with Al Byers, who knew that his former building had just been sold. He just didn't know to whom. "Some idiot just bought it for $275,0000. Can you believe that?" queried Byers. A thin smile creased Korman's lips. "That idiot? You're looking at him."

So at the age of 36, with two mortgages and a young family to support, how did Mr. Self-Assurance respond?

"I didn't sleep for 10 years," says Korman. (No wonder the coffee shops on the Danforth love him). "The day I paid off my mortgage was the first good night's sleep I had in 10 years."

But before the 10 years of sleepless nights, there was financing to secure. Korman had already applied to the Bank of Nova Scotia for a loan of $50,000. The BNS rep was same gentleman who'd approved his initial $10,000 loan three years previously.

But approval for the $50,000 loan was not yet forthcoming because Korman hadn't divulged what he needed the money for. "I was afraid if they knew I was trying to buy a building, I'd overpay."

Shortly thereafter, he was having lunch with a representative of CIBC. He mentioned that he needed a $50,000 loan. The CIBC banker reviewed his books and said, "We can do it. But did you realize you're paying three percent above prime on your current loan [for day-to-day operating expenses]? We can give you one percent above prime."

*Saul Korman today*

"Did I know what prime was?" says Korman. "Didn't have a clue. I didn't even know you could negotiate with a bank. I told him he had a deal."

Saul called Nathan to inform him of the CIBC's generous offer. "It costs money to change banks," said Nathan. "Leave it with me." Before Saul could tell him it was a done deal, Nathan hung up.

The next day, the Scotia banker to whom Saul had originally applied showed up with Nathan, ready to talk turkey. "But Dad, I made a deal," says Saul.

"You made a deal?" boomed Nathan. "Why didn't you say so?" Nathan turned to the Scotia banker. "Sorry, you're out."

"But have you signed with them yet?" persisted the Scotia rep. "If you haven't signed anything, there's no problem. And we'll beat whatever they're offering."

Saul and Nathan differed on many things. But on this issue they were of one mind. "You're out," reiterated Nathan. "My son gave the man his word. Our word is our bond. We don't need a piece of paper."

In that moment, says Saul, he knew everything was going to be all right. "Keep in mind I'd just overpaid by $160,000 I didn't even have. That's over a million in today's money. But Dad stuck by me. His loyalty and conviction meant everything to me."

This kind of loyalty — and accountability — are probably the most important factors in business success and longevity, he says. "They certainly were in mine. That, and loving what I do. We couldn't have survived all these years without attracting and keeping the Franco Gagliardis and the Frank Smiths and the Jerry Bakers and all our other great employees."

"I'm not the smartest retailer ever. I may not be the most lovable. I'm definitely not the best-looking," he smiles. "But people always know where they stand with me. I've always tried to take the blame for my own mistakes, and I've made enough to them to learn from."

Whatever his mistakes, underpromoting certainly isn't one of them. He pioneered the art of reality radio long before there was reality TV. His uniquely spontaneous schtick — talking up the neighbouring businesses along with his own — has earned him the undying love and respect of his fellow GreekTown merchants — especially the restauranteurs.

Chris Christodoulou, owner of Pan On The Danforth, knows Korman from the early days. "He helped me early in my career, and he has never stopped helping. He is a great friend to us all. He promotes the street before himself. He is always there when you need him. As far as I'm concerned, he's Mr. Danforth."

*Saul Korman in Korry's, 1976*

Korman has had the satisfaction of seeing all three of his children follow his footsteps in the clothing business. The loss of daughter Jody in 2006 is something he will never get over, he says, but "it gives me pleasure to see Michael and Shawn making a name for themselves in the business. And it was their choice. Nobody forced them."

From a legacy standpoint, he says, what his children do is less important than *how* they do it. "I always liked the idea of working with my children, but I never had grandiose visions of them carrying on a clothing' legacy'. I've always said that if you love your trade, it will love you back. If you love the business you're in, then it's the right business for you. The best I can wish for Michael and Shawn is that they come to love this business as much as I do."

*Korry's today*

The support of family, says Korman, has been critical to his success. "My family has sustained me through thick and thin. Without their love and support, none of this would have been possible."

When he surveys his incredible 60-year career, Korman is astounded by the sheer span of time and by how his many experiences in the business — the people he's met, the things he's learned — have shaped his life. "Sixty years ago, what did I know? And 40 years ago, when we bought the building, I had no idea what the future held. There was no' legacy.' I was just trying to survive."

And don't let the late-found self-assurance fool you, says Korman. For even today — a clothing icon whose 60-year track record fits like a glove — he still experiences anxiety. After thousands and thousands of suit sales, the one he *doesn't* sell still bothers him.

So if you can't ever feel home and cooled out — if you can't ever bask in the satisfaction of having "made it" — what's the point?

"You *never* make it," he retorts. "That *is* the point. The moment you feel you've got nothing left to accomplish, it's over. The moment a customer walks in and you don't care whether he buys or not, it's over."

"What's 'making it'? When you can look in the mirror and say there's no job you'd rather be doing than the one you're doing right now, you've 'made it'."

The fact he's able to say that now, today, makes it all worth it. "I've loved every minute of it," he says.

Even the 10 years of sleepless nights?

"Even the 10 years" he laughs. "I'm almost caught up."

A first-time customer who's heard him on the radio comes by to introduce himself. Korman, who's promised to fix him up with a suit, excuses himself. He's about to have a Robert Frost moment.

For he has promises to keep,
And miles to go before he sleeps.

*A new store is born. Saul Korman (L) with son Michael and father Nathan at the grand opening of Korry's new 569 Danforth location in 1972.*

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Navagio (Greek for "Shipwreck") Beach is an isolated sandy cove on Zakynthos island and one of the most famous beaches in Greece. It is notable because it is home to the wreck of the alleged smuggler ship Panagiotis; thus, it is often referred to as 'Smugglers' Cove'. At left you can see the metallic wreckage of the ship, half-buried in the sand.

Navagio is located on the north-west shore of the Ionian island of Zakynthos (Zante), in the Municipality of Elation. The area is defined by its sheer limestone cliffs, white sand beaches, and clear blue water. This strip of beach can be accessed only by boat, but you may also see it from above, standing on the high rocks that overlook it.

The half-buried ship is of recent vintage, however. In 1980 the Greek authorities, who suspected it of smuggling cigarettes and liquor, gave chase in foul weather in the open Ionian sea and ran it ashore in the cove, where it has remained ever since.

This beach one of the most photographed sites in Greece, rivalling the Acropolis of Athens and the Parthenon.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navagio

*Thessaloniki, in northern Greece, is the country's second largest city and capital of Macedonia. It retained a Jewish majority for centuries and has rich Sephardic origins.*

# Oasis Foundation helps recovering addicts resume productive lives

Circa 447–432 B.C., the Greeks built the Parthenon. Today, the same tradition of architectural excellence is alive and well in GreekTown, under the watchful eyes of Takis Liris, Adonis Artemakis, and their dedicated crew. The showcase of their efforts is a small, nondescript storefront at 921 Danforth Avenue.

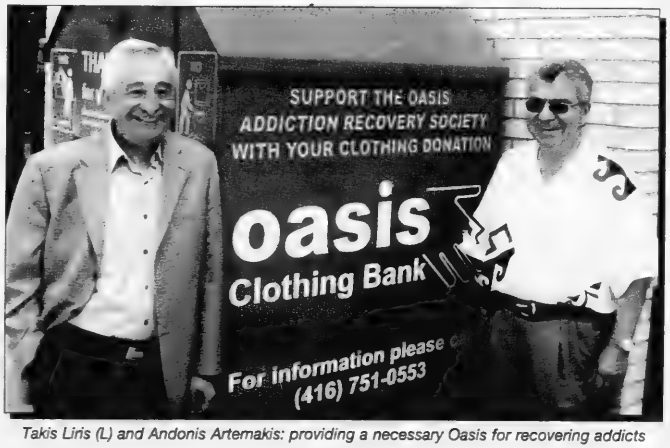
A storefront on Danforth Avenue? A showcase for architectural excellence?

No towering columns? No sculpted statues?

## Helping people rebuild their lives and self-esteem to become functioning members of society

If the venue seems odd, it's because this team of "architects" specializes in historical reconstruction — not of buildings, but of *people*. Under their direction, a team of volunteers helps those laid low by alcohol and drug addiction to rebuild their lives and self-esteem and become functioning members of society.

With financial assistance from Employment Ontario and the City of Toronto — as well as funds generated from the sale of clothing donations to the Oasis green bins located throughout the GTA — the **Oasis Movement** acts as an umbrella organization for a myriad of programs designed to assist addicts every step of the way through the recovery process. There's an Employment Preparation Program, a Pre-Employment Personal Life Management Program, a Volunteer Program including participants from Toronto Social Services and the general public, a Job Development and Employment Placement Services Program, Casual Labour Placements, and the Oasis Employment Resource Centre.




*Takis Liris (L) and Andonis Artemakis: providing a necessary Oasis for recovering addicts*

The mission statement on the home page of the Oasis website (www.oasisfoundation.org) engages the viewer directly:

***"Oasis invites you to be part of a movement that helps individuals who have made the decision to be free of drugs and alcohol and integrate themselves back into society by providing programs and services designed to help them to stabilize their recovery, overcome personal barriers, educate themselves and join the workforce by finding viable employment."***

The website also contains testimonials from former addicts who, through the programs offered at Oasis, have been able to recover and resume leading productive lives. They serve as an inspiration — not only to other addicts, but to anyone with obstacles to overcome.

These programs are also available to family members and friends and to individuals in need — those who have employment barriers and have difficulty finding a job.

Says Liris, who founded the Oasis Movement in 1992, "To assist someone who is already on an upcurve is nice. But to help someone who's down pick himself up — now *there's* an accomplishment. We may think we know what it's like to hit rock bottom, but unless we've experienced it ourselves or seen it first-hand, we really don't know what it's like."

"When we can reach out to someone in that position and help him or her regain the ability to function, be gainfully employed, mend broken relationships, restore their faith — that's a success story for everybody."

## No greater accomplishment than helping someone who's down get back on their feet

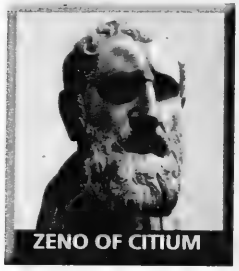
Continues Artemakis, who's been involved with Oasis since 1992 in a supportive and advisory capacity: "There's no stage here, no award presentations, no trophies. Everyone who is here is part of something bigger than themselves. People talk of "relationship building". Here, we are helping people rebuild their relationship with themself. No office tower, theatre or concert hall is a greater monument to a person's accomplishment than helping another human being get back on his feet again."

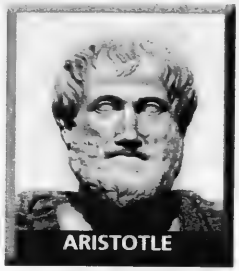
***For more information on the Oasis Movement, call 416-461-7739 or visit www.oasismovement.org***

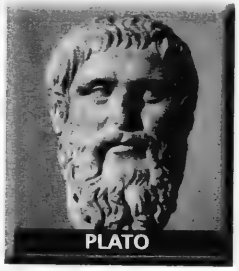
GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

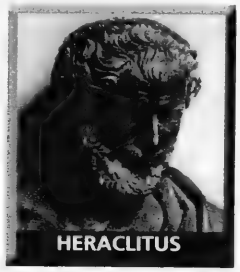
# MATCH THE QUOTE TO THE GREEK PHILOSOPHER

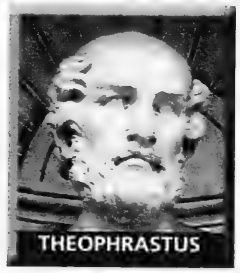
*So you think you know Greek history? Prove it! No Googling or Wikiing. Answers on page B23.*

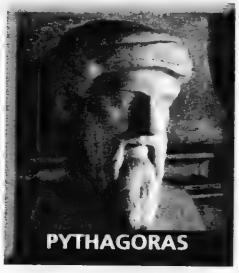


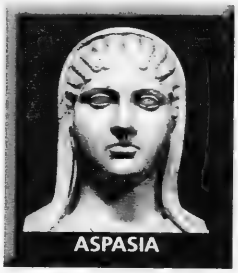



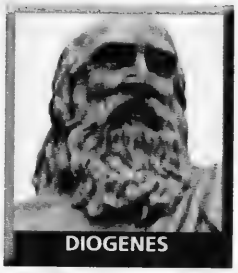



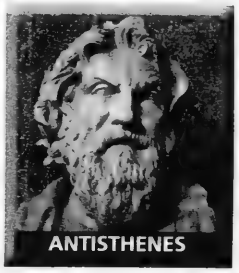



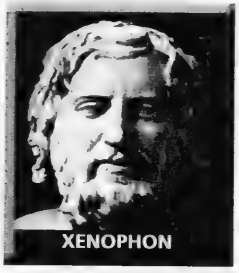



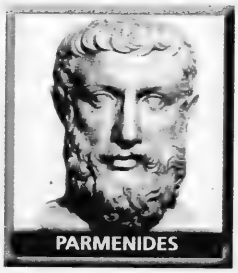



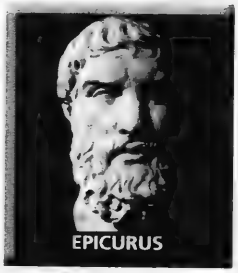



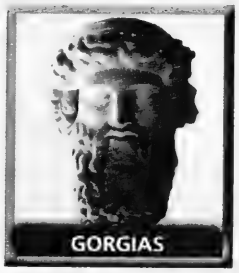



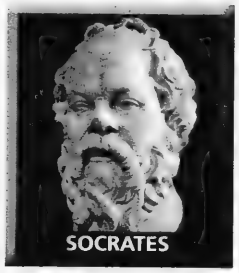






**1**
"There is nothing so easy but that it becomes difficult when you do it reluctantly."

**2**
"As iron is eaten away by rust, so the envious are consumed by their own passion."

**3**
"I don't need a friend who changes when I change and who nods when I nod; my shadow does that much better."

**4**
"Wellbeing is attained by little and little, and nevertheless is no little thing itself."

**5**
"He who eats with most pleasure is he who least requires sauce."

**6**
"The matchmaker should report truthfully on the good characteristics of the man."

**7**
"One may define flattery as a base companionship which is most advantageous to the flatterer."

**8**
"At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst."

**9**
"A man needs good friends or ardent enemies...the former instruct him and the latter take him to task."

**10**
"It is hard to contend against one's heart's desire; for whatever it wishes to have it buys at the cost of soul."

**11**
"You must learn all things, both the unshaken heart of persuasive truth, and the opinions of mortals in which there is no true warranty."

**12**
"Death does not concern us, because as long as we exist, death is not here. And when it does come, we no longer exist."

**13**
"How can anyone communicate the idea of color by means of words since the ear does not hear colors but only sounds?"

**14**
"By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher."

**15**
"Every heart sings a song, incomplete, until another heart whispers back. Those who wish to sing always find a song."

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# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

*Porto Katsiki beach, Lefkada: Ionian Sea on the west coast of Greece*

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Pilaros

# TASTE OF THE DANFORTH
## FRIDAY AUG 10 — SUNDAY AUG 12

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## "THE PARANORMAN" EXPERIENCE

THE "INNER HERO" PARANORMAN PUPPET SHOW
Follow this engaging story about bullying with Aunty B and Tommy. Learn to care, learn to share and let your Inner Hero shine through. PLUS:

- ParaNorman Monster Face Painting. Have a talented artist turn you into a ghost, zombie or witch.
- Dr. Dreadful Edibles ParaNorman Play Lab
- Enjoy the "taste" of ParaNorman with a Tim Horton's Green ParaNorman Ice Cream Sample.

✦

## "THE EXPENDABLES 2" PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AND STUNT SHOW

- When your photo is inserted into a movie standee, which character will you be playing? Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jean-Claude Van Damme, Chuck Norris, Bruce Willis, or Jet Li? Receive your complimentary souvenir photo.
- Don't miss the Iron Dragon Stunt Group as they battle it out on the festival stage! The Expendables are back, and they want vengeance.

✦

## "THE HUNGER GAMES" ARCHERY EXPERIENCE

- "The Hunger Games Archery Show" on the Celebrity Stage
- Test your archery skills at "The Hunger Games 'Bow and Mallow' Archery Challenge".

✦

## "THE RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION" EXPERIENCE

- Be greeted by zombies and receive your free Resident Evil: Retribution Umbrella Corporation tattoo.
- Are you up to the Resident Evil videogame challenge?

✦

## "THE POSSESSION"

- Do you dare open "The Possession" Dibbuk box?
- Don't let the fear of the dark keep you away from guessing what possesses you! Touch objects inside the Dibbuk box in complete darkness. Guess correctly, and you win your own misfortune cookie. Be careful, some of them might just capture your soul.

## OPPORTUNITY TO WIN AN AMAZING TRIP TO GREECE

- Opportunity to win an Aegean Splendour Trip for Two to glorious Greece, courtesy of Transat Holidays.
- Don't forget to stop at our information booths to pick up your festival brochure containing the event schedule and map. It has a secret code that you will need in order to enter the contest.

✦

## BEER GARDEN

Join us at our Miller Genuine Draft Beer Garden for a refreshing drink.

## THE CELEBRITY STAGE

Join Second City for hilarious, interactive comedy
Stage West: a tribute to Elvis and Neil Diamond

- "The Expendables II" Stunt Show
- "The Hunger Games Archery Show"
- Dr. Draw (World Music)
- Coppertones (Pop & Rock)
- Daniel Cannis (Greek Music)
- Eleni Alexandri (Greek Pop)
- eh 440 (Acapella Music) • Galaxy
- Yiannis Kapoulas (World Music)
- Sol de Cuba (Cuban Music) • Frank D'Angelo Band

✦

## BROADVIEW WORLD STAGE

Performances & programs from around the globe

✦

## ASTRO ORIGINAL GREEK STAGE

Traditional Greek dancers, singers and musicians, plus Astro Original Greek Yogurt cooking demonstrations presented by "The Three Greek Sisters"

The audience will also have a chance to learn Greek dancing.

✦

## THE SPORTS ZONE

Including challenges created by Toronto's professional sports teams. Lots of chances to test your skills and win prizes:

- Toronto Maple Leafs: visit the Leafs' Mobile Dressing Room
- Toronto Raptors - test your basketball skills
- Toronto Argonauts - get a photo with the Toronto Argos Cheerleaders and see if you are up to the Arm Chair Quarterback Challenge
- Toronto FC – Enjoy TFC soccer and see the Canadian Championship Trophy
- Toronto Rock – meet the Rock cheerleaders and enjoy lacrosse challenges at its best.

✦

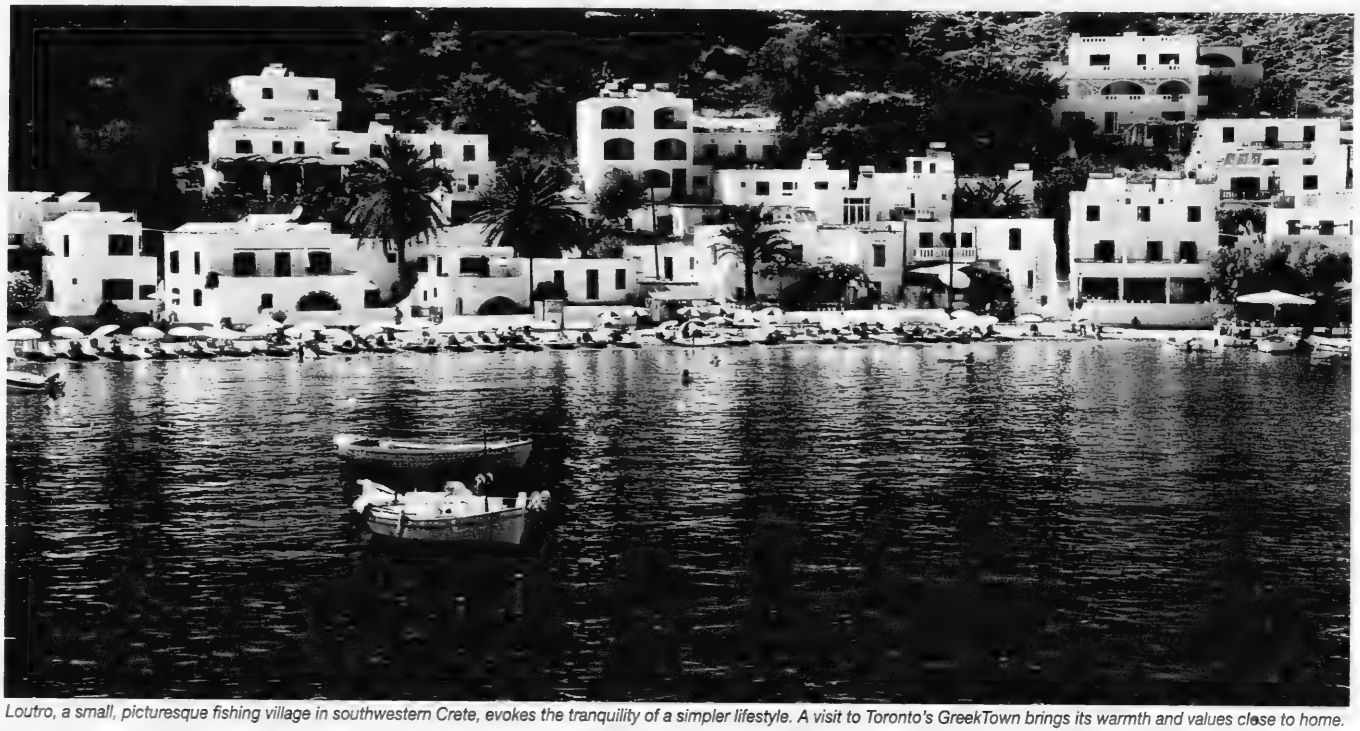
## CONTESTS, PRIZES & FREE SAMPLES

- Free samples from Sunny D, Astro Original Greek Yogurt, Dr. Oetker, and Sabra
- Win prizes from Cheetah Power Surge, GoodLife Fitness, President's Choice Financial, Bell, Public Mobile

**For a complete list of events, performers and showtimes visit**

**www.tasteofthedanforth.com**

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH



*Loutro, a small, picturesque fishing village in southwestern Crete, evokes the tranquility of a simpler lifestyle. A visit to Toronto's GreekTown brings its warmth and values close to home.*

## Why good things happen in GreekTown

It's around this time, leading up to the Pilaros Taste of the Danforth, that some Toronto neighbourhoods not named GreekTown start exhibiting symptoms of mild discomfort. This malaise, first observed in 1994 — the year of the inaugural Taste of the Danforth — could best be termed *GreekTown Envy*.

If you're in business, it's only natural to admire the success of your competitors and attempt to emulate it. And make no mistake about it — neighbourhoods *do* compete for your shopping, dining and entertainment dollar. There are BIAs (Business Improvement Areas) all over Toronto racking their brains at this very moment in an attempt to attract you to their neighbourhood and secure your patronage.

*From the Taste to* ***My Big Fat Greek Wedding****, GreekTown's good mojo casts a welcoming net*

The resounding annual success of the Taste — Canada's largest street festival — speaks to GreekTown's penchant for making good things happen. It took a few big thinkers to get the ball rolling back in 1994, and it's taken plenty of sponsorship and grassroots support since then to sustain the momentum. Without the collective will of everyone involved, even the biggest of ideas goes nowhere.

Most other neighbourhoods give GreekTown its due. Those that don't — the GreekTown wannabees — will tell you that the Taste Of The Danforth could have happened anywhere.

That's not the point. The point is, it happened in GreekTown. It happened in GreekTown not only because of the energetic forward thinkers who conceived it, but also because of the fertile soil in which they planted their seed. It happened in GreekTown because the welcoming spirit of the restaurants and shops from Broadview to Jones is precisely the kind of environment that allows such an undertaking to flourish.

Street festivals are a source of food, fun, and family entertainment. When you can parlay all that into significant financial support for a community hospital (Toronto East General), you're accomplishing something special.

So, it's no accident that the Taste of the Danforth originated here. Nor is it surprising that the exuberant 2002 hit movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* chose to shoot some scenes here. The festive spirit of a community capable of lavishing affection on its guests — and laughing at itself — attracts positive energy. The area's increasing ethnocultural diversity and cosmopolitan flavour merely enhance its appeal.

It's a big world we live in. Whether you're five or 55, if you dropped everything right now and spent the rest of your days travelling this planet, you'd barely begin to cover it. Even if you confined your travels to a much smaller area — like Greece — you would experience a small part, at best, of its wonders.

You can't know the entire planet, but a visit to GreekTown will get you off to a running start.

## In this *thouliamou*, they don't count the hours

*Thouliamou*. Parnosse. Livelihood. It's what most of us are lucky to have. And what most of us still complain about in our weaker moments.

The most common complaint is long hours. For many of us, 12- or 15-hour days mean overtime. For the average GreekTown restauranteur, they're standard time.

For most of us, one a.m. and unable to sleep means it's time to take a sedative. For the GreekTown restauranteur, it means it's time to serve another customer.

Long hours? Long days? These people eat long days for breakfast.

In fact, some of their days are so long, they finish up just in time to see their *children* eat breakfast.

Passing the torch is a metaphor frequently used in GreekTown. Mom and Dad or Dad and Uncle start a business, build it up, and pass the torch to their children. Here, the metaphor's doubly apt because with the hours some restauranteurs keep, that torch could well be a flashlight.

Time was, it was almost automatic for children to take up that torch. Today, less so. Times have changed. Children can now count their options because Mom and Dad didn't count their hours.

Good thing they didn't. How could they? In this business, serving food is just the tip of the iceberg. In order to be able to serve it, you have to first take inventory, buy supplies, bring them to the restaurant, and prepare them. As well as do a few other things like cleaning, washing, maintenance, linens, laundry, cutlery, payroll, hiring, paying bill after bill after bill — a triplication of your bills at home — the list goes on.

Unless you're so successful you can afford hired help for everything, you won't get it all done in eight hours. You might not get it done in ten hours. But in 12 or 15 hours, slowly slowly, you get it all done. Or enough of it to enjoy the few hours of sleep that remain — far more than the eight hours you *wouldn't* enjoy if you left all those loose ends hanging.

Times change, but values don't. Of the restaurants featured in this section, the vast majority are family businesses. Some have been passed on from parents to children, but in many of them, the parents are still active.

The inability to count can be habit-forming; many of these people don't count the *years*, let alone hours. Why should they? Why pass the torch when you're having so much fun carrying it yourself?

The children who do take up that torch — because the restaurant business is locked into their DNA — inherit not only a lifestyle but a lesson.

They learn that in this *thouliamou*, time is a relative concept. It's easier to work the hours than to count them. And it's relatively easier to work them with a relative or two working alongside you.

They learn that the 12- or 15-hour days that Mom and Dad worked — those long hours that might have deprived them of their favourite audience for a hockey game or soccer game or dance class — weren't really too many hours all. Turns out they were just the right number of hours needed to put bread on the table.

They learn that even though it's impossible not to feel enslaved by the business occasionally, it's more often liberating to discover just how much you can accomplish when you push your limits. And how much more time you had than you thought you had when less time is spent sleeping.

Most importantly, they learn that — in this *thouliamou* at least — long hours aren't the problem.

They're the *solution*.

*Sholom Wargon*
*sholomcjn@gmail.com*

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## This Week

### National

**Groups call** on province to ban anti-Israel rally. *Page 3*

**Israeli orphans** visit Toronto during North American vacation. *Page 6*

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**Young author** takes a dark look at life in the IDF. *Page 31*

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# U.S. increases pressure on Iran

## *Obama announces tougher sanctions*

JTA

**WASHINGTON** — U.S. President Barack Obama announced tougher sanctions on Iran's energy sector and banks July 31, on the eve of U.S. Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta's arrival in Israel.

Panetta was in Israel for a short working visit with Israeli officials to discuss U.S.-Israel defence ties and the potential threat of a nuclear-armed Iran.

Panetta met with Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Shimon Peres.

Before his meeting with Barak, Panetta told reporters, "We are a friend, we are a partner, we have – as the defence minister has pointed out – probably the strongest U.S.-Israel defence relationship that we have had in history.

"What we are doing, working together, is an indication not only of our friendship but of our alliance to work together to try to preserve peace in the future."

After Panetta's meeting with Netanyahu, the Prime Minister's Office released a text of the two men's statements.

In his remarks, Netanyahu said that more forceful steps are urgently needed to deter the Iranian nuclear project. "Unfortunately... neither sanctions nor diplomacy have yet had any impact on Iran's nuclear weapons program. America and Israel have also made clear that all options are on the table. You yourself said a few months ago that when all else fails, America will act.

"But these declarations have also not yet convinced the Iranians to stop their program.

**Continued on page 28**

**U.S. Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta, left, and Israeli Minister of Defence Ehud Barak stand before an Iron Dome anti-missile installation near Ashkelon. During a visit to Israel last week to discuss the ongoing crisis with Iran, Panetta reconfirmed his country's support for the continued development of the anti-missile defence system.** ***[Flash90 photo]***

**Eikev**
**Candlelighting: 8:10**
**Havdalah: 9:12**
*Greater Toronto Area*

**This edition of The CJN went to press on August 3.**

## CANADA

### Family Deported

**TORONTO** — Members of a Russian family who said they'd be persecuted if deported to Israel because they have a Jewish-sounding surname but aren't Jewish were arrested and put on a flight to Tel Aviv July 27 after seeking refuge in a Scarborough church for a year. Ilan and Irit Brovman and their two children, 8 and 5, had been living in the basement of West Hill United Church, the *Toronto Sun* reported. The failed refugee claimants had been sought on warrants after they didn't show up for removal in July 2011. The family arrived in Canada in 2007 and claimed refugee status. The parents came to Israel from Russia in 1992. They said they were insulted and assaulted in Israel because of their name.

### Cemetery Damaged

**VANCOUVER** — Police were looking for leads last week after a group of youths apparently vandalized dozens of headstones and memorials in the mainly Jewish and Asian section of Vancouver's oldest cemetery. Police were called shortly before 7 a.m. on July 28 when someone out for a walk through the southeast part of Mountain View Cemetery noticed damage to some headstones. Nearby residents reported that a group of youths were heard partying in the area between 1:30 and 2 a.m., but police weren't called. There were no graffiti, and police found empty beer bottles and cans in the area with the damage.

## WORLD

### Siyum Celebration

**NEW YORK** — Some 90,000 people packed MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., to celebrate the completion of the page-a-day Talmud cycle in the largest-ever Siyum Hashas. The Aug. 1 gathering, which was simulcast to some 60 U.S. cities and more than 20 countries, marked the end of the 7-1/2-year cycle it takes to complete the Talmud at the rate of two sides of a page per day. The program, known as Daf Yomi, was begun by Rabbi Meir Shapiro in 1923, and the first siyum, or completion, was celebrated in Lublin, Poland, in 1930. This year's siyum marked the end of the 12th cycle since then. The stadium event consisted mostly of speeches in English and Yiddish and short video tributes. Rabbi Malkiel Kotler of the Beth Medrash Govoha in Lakewood, N.J., taught the final section of the Talmud to the crowd. Once the ceremony was complete, the crowd erupted in thunderous singing and dancing.

### Munich Victim's Sister Criticizes Romney

David Berger

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The sister of one of the Israeli athletes murdered at the Munich Olympics said U.S. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's failure to press for a moment of silence in Salt Lake City in 2002 on the 30th anniversary of the killings was painful.

Barbara Berger, whose brother, David, a U.S. native, was an Israeli weightlifter in 1972, wrote in *Ha'aretz* Aug. 1 that families of the 11 victims of a Palestinian terrorist attack at the Munich Olympics would continue to advocate for a formal moment of silence at the Olympic opening ceremony, despite the refusal of the International Olympic Committee to allow such a moment this year, the massacre's 40th anniversary.

Berger said the families were heartened by growing international support for such a moment, in particular praising U.S. President Barack Obama.

Berger noted that Romney subsequently added his support, and the families were grateful. But she faulted him for his silence when he attended the opening ceremonies in London on July 27 and when he headed the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics.

She said Romney was also "painfully silent" during his trip to Israel after attending the London Games. Romney's campaign will not comment on his 2002 silence.

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# Groups want Queen's Park rally cancelled

## *2011 anti-Israel event marked by 'vicious antisemitism'*

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

With its Hezbollah flags, near hysterical tone and slogans that accused Zionists of being racists, inhuman and barbarians, last year's "Al-Quds" rally at Queen's Park shocked many observers.

This year, two major Jewish organizations are calling on the province to refuse permission for a similar "antisemitic hate rally."

In a letter to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) urged the government to "not sanction organizations calling for war, death and hate towards Jews by permitting the use of public property for such a purpose."

Meanwhile, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) has called on Queen's Park's sergeant-at-arms to decline to give permission for the demonstration.

CIJA, which taped last year's rally and posted it on the Internet, said video of the event demonstrates "the kind of vicious antisemitism being preached" on Queen's Park grounds and which violate the legislature's own terms of use.

CIJA spokesperson Steve McDonald said last year's rally was organized by a radical Shiite group originally founded by Iran's late leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Participants openly flew flags of Hezbollah – a terrorist group – while speakers repeated antisemitic canards, including those that compared Zionists to a growing cancer.

"We have every reason to believe the same thing will recur," McDonald said.

This year's proposed Queen's Park rally is scheduled for Aug. 18 and is part of a larger campaign to protest "the usurpation of the Holy Land by the Zionist regime."

According to freealquds.org, rallies will be held in Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal and Ottawa, as well as in a number of American cities.

Last year's Toronto rally was sponsored by the Canadian Shia Muslims Organization (CASMO), which in the past has posted videos by former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke on its website.

The Al-Quds Rally was originally created by Khomeini. According to one of his contacts in the Iranian expatriate community, "this is a direct extension of the regime abroad and not just a threat to the Jewish community, but the Iranian expatriate community," McDonald said.

Ontario taxpayers have the right to know their legislature will not be used as a platform for antisemitism, he added.

In his letter to McGuinty, FSWC president and CEO Avi Benlolo said, "Ontarians were shocked and embarrassed that a blatantly antisemitic event was held [last year] at the seat of the provincial government."

**Continued on page 18**

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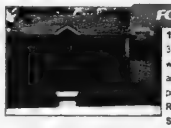
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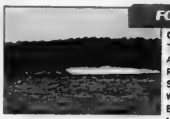
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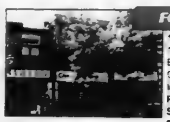
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# A rare moment

The impishly smiling man in the middle of the photo, inset, is of course, Natan Sharansky, the 64-year-old chair of the Jewish Agency for Israel. Most of the Jewish and wider world born at least into the 1960s, know him very well. In the late '70s and through the next decade, he became the avatar of the struggle for freedom by the Jews of the Soviet Union. In those days he was known as Anatoly.

After he stepped onto the soil of Israel, finally after a cruel incarceration of some nine years, he became Natan. His life is well chronicled, including by his own hand in an autobiography called *Fear No Evil* and by the incomparable historian Sir Martin Gilbert in a book called *Sharansky: Hero of Our Time.*

*From the editor's desk...*

The very mention of the name Anatoly (Natan) Sharansky was synonymous with bravery, resolve, resilience and true audacity of spirit. His parting speech to his judges and imprisoners at the kangaroo Soviet Court before heading back to jail in 1978 on the contrived, phoney charges of espionage is a modern classic of soaring inspiration, to the point, unrepentant, elegantly defiant to the very last against the sadistic, brutal system of totalitarian KGB government.

The man in the photo to Sharansky's left is Joel Sussman.

A poet, songwriter, musician and composer, Sussman was born and raised in Edmonton many years before the NHL and Wayne Gretzky came to play there. His parents, Max and Helene, of blessed memory, were exemplars of hospitality, kindness and goodness. Despite the relatively small number of Jews in their community and the rather large distances between Edmonton and other Jewish communities in Western Canada and in the western United States, they ensured that Joel was raised knowing who he was. They ensured he would have sufficient knowledge about his people's history and traditions to be able, years later, to make reasoned decisions about the extent of the Jewish life he might lead and the destiny he would fashion for himself.

The three other men in the photo are, from left, Dan Funk, Alan Nelson and Robbie Solomon. Together, in 1974 in Boston, the four men dressed in black formed the group Safam.

The group was "the" voice and amplifier to the world for the awakening and uniquely stirring sounds of specifically Jewish social activism that flowed across campuses like surging rivers lifting unseen treasure that shone in the sun on the cluttered, muddy riverbanks of anti-Israel polemics. Through their music, Safam invited young Jews to a new place of identity and belonging that many had not visited before. How many lives they changed with a lyric that opened a closed heart or a melody that evoked memories and perhaps, a tear.

One of the songs for which Safam became widely known and sought out by Jewish community organizers around the continent was *Leaving Mother Russia.*

Written by Solomon in 1977, it sings the unimaginable burden of Sharansky's imprisonment and of the hope he carried his freedom. It begins as a lament, a solitary, piercingly beautiful narrative voice, and finishes as a rallying cry, a chorus of voices, marching forward in broad, resolute harmonies, emboldened by the strength that comes from others who joined the cause.

Just as Sharansky became the human face of the Jews imprisoned or oppressed in the Soviet gulag for wanting to emigrate, *Leaving Mother Russia* became the anthem of the worldwide struggle on behalf of Soviet Jewry.

Though they sing less frequently today than in decades past and though more "mature" in their appearance than some 40 years ago, the group still makes profoundly precious music.

This photo of Safam and Sharansky actually captures a rare moment of modern Jewish history. It depicts the only time the band performed *Leaving Mother Russia* in the presence of the man who inspired it and for whom it was written in 1977. It was an emotionally electric embrace among singers and Sharansky at a recent concert at Temple Mishkan Tefila in Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Sussman described the feelings in an email: "The high drama built to a crescendo towards the end of the final choruses on the song when, all of a sudden, Mr. Sharansky appeared at the rear of the synagogue and began the long walk down the aisle with 1,100 people standing and clapping in rhythm to the chant of 'we are leaving Mother Russia, we have waited far too long.'

"As he approached the bimah where the band was playing the song, we all got the chills at the realization of what was happening... What a triumphant moment!

Viewing the video of the performance was a trip back in time. The contrast between our wholehearted embrace of Israel and of Jewish causes in "those" formative Safam days and the increasing disengagement by so many of our youth from Israel and from Jewish causes today warrants serious study and reflection. Perhaps for another column.

The video can be seen on the Safam website.

*–MBD*

SeeJN

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**From left, Erik Kozy, Danielle Zak, and Liviya Hara cool off on an outing from Camp Chabad, the only Jewish day camp in the Mississauga area.**

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From left, camp director Jeff Rose, Niki Tarablus and Stav Karmel

# Young emissaries bring Israel to life for campers

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

URJ Camp George is one of 14 Canadian summer camps – from Camp Hatikvah in British Columbia to Camp Kadimah in Nova Scotia – to use young emissaries as a way of educating campers about Israel.

This summer, Camp George has eight Israeli staff members who have completed their IDF service and are part of the Jewish Agency for Israel's summer shlichim program. They are among 1,054 emissaries sent to North American camps as part of the 45-year-old program. Of the group, more than 50 young Israelis are at Canadian camps.

As well, Camp George has two Israeli staff members who have spent the past year in Toronto working at Leo Baeck Day School and two Reform congregations as part of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's shinshinim program. The program, which has a dozen shinshinim working at summer camps, derives its name from the first letters of the Hebrew words "*Shnat Sherut*," denoting a year of service after high school.

Rabbi Noam Katz, Camp George's supervisor of educational programming, said that ever since the camp started in 1999, there has been an Israeli delegation.

Israel education is part of the culture of the Reform movement camps, he said, adding that there's no better opportunity than having young Israelis "bring Israel to life."

The shlichim serve as counsellors and specialists, and lead formal programs about Israel including a "Yom Yisrael" (Israel Day), which they run with North American staff.

As well, Rabbi Katz added, informal conversations between campers and staff are part of the experience. "At its best, we create a space where they can have deep and nurturing relationships and friendships that extend beyond the summer."

Stav Karmel, a 22-year-old shlichah from a Reform community in the Galilee, stressed the importance of the personal connections made at camp.

Karmel, whose father made aliyah from Vancouver at age 15, said that Israel doesn't offer the same type of summer camp experience.

Niki Tarablus, 20, a native of Kfar Saba who is working at Camp George this summer, said she hopes campers will learn more about Israel and want to visit there as well.

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# Israeli orphans visit Toronto during unique trip

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Forty-five Israeli children who have lost a parent in the service of the State of Israel recently returned home from a fully subsidized three-week vacation that began in Illinois and ended in Toronto.

The trip is offered annually by an organization called Israel Defence Forces Widows and Orphans (IDFWO), a non-profit association that provides social, emotional and financial support to 8,000 widows and orphans of Israel's fallen soldiers.

Some of the programs offered by the organization include education scholarships for orphans, a special event honouring IDF orphans enlisting in the army, medical assistance and financial aid.

The trip, which provides the children with a break from reality and an opportunity to meet with other kids who have experienced the loss of a parent, began on July 12 with a two-week stay at Camp Chi in the Chicago area. The group then travelled to New York City, and spent a weekend in Connecticut before arriving in Toronto on July 30, where they stayed until last Thursday.

In Toronto, volunteers, most of them members of Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, hosted the participants in their homes, and a committee, headed by Esti Cohen and Amy Bitton, organized activities including a bowling night at Bathurst Bowlarama, a day at Canada's Wonderland, a tour of Niagara Falls and an afternoon at Debbie and Warren Kimel's family cottage.

This was the second time the trip included Toronto in its itinerary.

During their stay in Toronto, two participants, both young girls who had lost their fathers when they were toddlers, spoke to *The CJN* about what the IDFWO trip has meant to them.

Shira Begin, 13, the great-granddaughter of former Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin, said she first became involved with the organization last year, when she took part in the bar and bat mitzvah program – which includes a visit with Israeli President Shimon Peres, a ceremony at the Kotel (Western Wall) in Jerusalem and a reception attended by the minister of defence and the chief of staff.

Shira lost her father, Maj. Yonatan Begin, when the F-16 fighter plane he was flying crashed into the Mediterranean during a training flight in 2000.

She said meeting other children who have lost a parent has been very meaningful for her.

**Shira Begin, left, and Emily Nesterenko, two of the 45 participants on the Israel Defence Forces Widows and Orphans' annual North American trip, enjoy a night out at Toronto's Bathurst Bowlarama.**

"It's nice to know that someone 'gets you' and helps you because you know that they went through what you went through," Shira said, switching back and forth between English and Hebrew.

Emily Nesterenko, 12, was two years old, when her father, Alexander Nesterenko, an IDF reservist with the border police, was killed in a Palestinian ambush while on patrol near Kibbutz Nir Oz.

Speaking in Hebrew, Emily said this experience has allowed her to "meet new people, kids that you can trust, and it's much easier to speak with them about what happened to you than it is to speak to other kids."

"Other kids can tell you that they understand, but they can't really," Shira added.

But Emily insisted that it's not hard for her to talk about her father's death "because I approach it in a way that my father was a hero in the army and I like to tell the story to let people know what a hero he was."

IDFWO resource development director Daniel Tuksar, who travelled with the group, said he was "absolutely overwhelmed" by the experience.

"First of all, I'm so proud of them because these are 12- and 13-year-old kids, away from home, and they are acting so nice, so polite, so mature and bringing so much *kavod* for us Israelis."

He added that he gets goosebumps thinking about how welcoming and loving all the volunteers and hosts have been.

"The amount of love [the kids] are receiving and how they're being embraced by every person who has been in touch with them – the hairs are standing up on my arms," Tuksar said.

He said when it comes to families volunteering as hosts for the kids, "people are fighting for a chance to get involved."

In addition to providing an unforgettable experience for the children, he said, a program such as this helps to build bridges between Israel and the Diaspora.

Although some of the funding for the organization comes from the Israeli government, IDFWO relies mostly on donations from Jewish communities in North America. In June, Toronto residents Stella and Peter Ekstein hosted a fundraiser in their home to help IDFWO pay for its programming.

For more information, contact Tuksar at Daniel@idfwo.org.

**From left are IDFWO chair Nava Shoham-Solan, volunteer Esti Cohen, Shira Begin, IDFWO resource development director Daniel Tuksar, Emily Nesterenko, and Stella and Peter Ekstein.** ***[Sheri Shefa photos]***

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# The Iran question

No sooner had the airplane carrying U.S. Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney lifted off last week from Ben-Gurion Airport than the airplane carrying U.S. Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta touched down.

Romney's visit was cosmetic, a photo and fundraising opportunity in his campaign for the White House. Panetta's visit, on the other hand, was a working trip, with messages in hand from the White House.

Panetta met with President Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Minister of Defence Ehud Barak. When the video cameras were not rolling and the photographers had left, the pressing subject on the table was Iran.

The calendar is closing in on the West's efforts to stop the Iranians from actually building a nuclear weapon and on Israel's narrower, shorter-term focus of stopping the Iranians from acquiring the capability to build a nuclear weapon. Iranian scientists and their political and military overseers are working without relent to get to their nuclear platform even as the U.S. presidential elections, now less than three months away, inexorably approach.

Weighty, horrible decisions must soon be made.

American legislators commendably agreed last month to impose further sanctions upon Tehran. Yet there is an increasingly uneasy sense among western governments that sanctions and diplomacy are failing to convince the Iranian leaders to stop their nuclear weapons program. Even former Mossad head Efraim Halevy, a proponent of restraint against Iran, has publicly acknowledged that sanctions have thus far been futile and that Israel's critical moment of decision is quickly approaching.

The American administration is well aware of the shortening horizon on the Iran file. Panetta spoke forcefully and unambiguously on the subject during his visit in Jerusalem. "I want to reassert again the position of the United States that with regards to Iran, we will not allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon, period. We will not allow them to develop a nuclear weapon, and we will exert all options in the effort to ensure that that does not happen."

But as some Israeli commentators pointed out, the West must act before an Iranian nuclear weapon appears. The Jewish state, however, must act to prevent current Iranian leaders from having the capability of building the weapon. And if there is still any doubt why this is so, one need only refer to the remarks last week by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to a group of visiting ambassadors from Islamic countries.

"Any freedom lover and justice seeker in the world must do its best *for the annihilation of the Zionist regime* [our emphasis] in order to pave the path for the establishment of justice and freedom in the world."

Now more than ever, countries that revere peace and world stability must act immediately to prevent Iran from attaining nuclear weapons capability. There is little time left.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Lawyer Abraham Foxman, 47, was appointed national director of B'nai Brith's Anti-Defamation League. He succeeded longtime director Nathan Perlmutter, who had died earlier in the year of cancer at age 64.

*Editorial Advisory Board:* **Maurice Benzacar, Michael Brown, Donald Carr, Rabbi Michael Dolgin, Jake Goldstein, Jeffrey Kopstein, Keith Landy, Lou Ronson, Alan Sandler, Rabbi Philip Scheim, Mike Shriqui, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, Ehud Telem, Nelson Wiseman.**

## Roundup of Jews was 100% French

In the article "Dr. Seuss and the Holocaust in France" (July 26), there is what I prefer to consider as a factual error. It states that "over the next two days, more than 13,000 Jews were rounded up in Paris by the Germans, with the active collaboration of the Vichy government headed by Nazi supporter Pierre Laval." It is not true that the roundup was done by the Germans. Everything about it was 100 per cent French. The only part taken by the Germans was to ask for it. Vichy's secretary of police, René Bousquet, ordered it, organized it and the French police of Paris carried it out. I am of French Jewish background and was not taken because my parents were wise enough to send me to the country several months before the roundup. As for them, they escaped arrest by a miracle, as the janitor of the building they lived in warned them.

**François Lustman**
**Montreal**

* * *

## Remembers Italian cyclist

I am writing about the article "Cycling legend saved Italian Jews," (July 12), regarding Italian cyclist Gino Bartali, whose story has been, until recently, unheralded. As a 12-year-old in Paris, I remember his name for his 1938 Tour de France victory. This story put a new face on this bicycle rider, and it allows me and your readers to grasp again the enormity of what happened in World War II.

**Albert L. Stal**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Genocides should be treated equally

The article "Feds, province rescue human rights museum" (Aug. 2) is factually incorrect and misleading in claiming that the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association or the undersigned have ever asked for the Holodomor to "be given equal space with the Holocaust in the museum." Our position was, and remains, that all of the galleries in this taxpayer-funded national institution should be thematic, comparative and inclusive; obviously the Shoah must be included in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR), most fittingly in a gallery dedicated to exploring the many incidents of genocide that have befouled human history, before, during and since the World War II. What we have objected to is the elevation of any community's suffering (including our own) above all others in a publicly funded national museum. In taking this position we find ourselves in agreement with the majority of Canadians who oppose preferential treatment for any group at the CMHR.

**Lubomyr Luciuk**
**Director of Research**
**Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Questions reasons for choosing Jewish education

I admire Rabbi Jay Kelman's financial acumen in devising a scheme to reduce the cost of private Hebrew day school tuition ("How my tuition plan would work," July 12). Having seen some large families enrolled in these schools, however, I am not convinced that the costs constitute an effective method of birth control. But perhaps the same principle could be applied to financing the future costs of bar/bat mitzvahs, lavish weddings, summer camp, humanitarian trips to Africa, first cars, university and down payments on childrens' homes and long-term care facilities. However, I do take offence with his implication, or my inference, that making Hebrew day schools more financially accessible might also reduce the "evils" (my word) of intermarriage. I am the father-in-law of two lovely children, neither of whom was born Jewish, one of whom teaches and enriches the lives of children at one of our Hebrew schools and the other who would not accept a Chicago salami even under duress. Surely this should not be one of the motivations for choosing a private Jewish education, in spite of what I agree are the unfair and exorbitant costs.

**Mark Wise**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

* * *

## Clarifying clarification

I would like to clarify Rabbi Howard Morrison's clarification ("Refugees' health care, letters, Aug. 29). Although there might be some Orthodox communal rabbis who are members of the Toronto Board of Rabbis, nevertheless the TBR does not in any way represent the Orthodox rabbinate in Toronto. For many years, the Orthodox Torah view has been represented by the Toronto Vaad Harabonim, and any suggestion otherwise is a misrepresentation.

**Rabbi Moshe Stern**
**Shaarei Tefillah Cong.**
**Past President, Vaad Harabonim of Toronto**

*For more letters, visit cjnews.com.*

### *LET THEM GO...*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

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# Church should not take adopt anti-Israel policy

*The following is an open letter to Rev. David Allen, executive secretary of the Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada, from Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, in advance of the church's 41st General Council, Aug. 11-18 in Ottawa.*

I am writing you as a neighbour and colleague to express my concern about the *Report of the Working Group on Israel/Palestine Policy*, which will be considered by the 41st General Council of the United Church of Canada this month. I write out of great respect for the United Church and many years of cordial relationships with various ministers and churches.

I write as someone who has lived in Jerusalem during the days of the intifadah when I witnessed horrific bombings initiated by Hamas and Hezbollah. I also have seen the remnants of missiles showered upon kindergartens in communities near Gaza. I have been fired upon by guns shot from Palestinian communities in neighbouring Bethlehem.

I write as an advocate of citizen-diplomacy. I have spent time in Christian homes and institutions in Bethlehem. Last year, I was the first Canadian rabbi to meet with Palestinian political and entrepreneurial leadership in Ramallah at the invitation of the prime minister, Mr. Salam Fayyad. I have listened carefully to Palestinians describe the challenges of living with checkpoints and discrimination.

I write as a believer in the possibility of public reconciliation of the Abrahamic religions. Last year, Imam Abdul Hai Patel, Rev. Karen Hamilton, Rev. Damien MacPherson and I led the first Canadian-based Muslim-Christian-Jewish study mission – "In the Path of Abraham" – to Israel and Palestine, to explore the complexities of religious, historical and political issues in the Holy Land. There were approximately 60 people, evenly divided between the three religious traditions, among our group, which also included Rev. John Joseph Mastrandea.

I write after having carefully read the report that will be presented to the General Council and call upon you to encourage friends, colleagues and delegates to reject proposals that I consider to be

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl

negative for the following reasons:

• During our Path of Abraham mission, we saw that the challenges of three religions, two peoples and one land make it exceedingly difficult for outsiders to dictate terms to the active and engaged participants. We clearly saw elements of Israeli control that were troubling. We also witnessed instances of Israeli-Palestinian co-operation. On another occasion, I also have eaten dairy products produced by settler communities in Christian homes in Bethlehem.

• In my meetings with Mr. Fayyad's representatives and Palestinian business leaders, they stressed frustration with Jewish settlements as well as an awareness that any resolution would ultimately depend on mutual negotiations between the two parties. Palestinian businesspeople asked us to encourage investment in the Palestinian economy (construction, auto sales, service areas). They did not suggest boycotts, they spoke of the ways they already quietly co-operate for the economic stability and improvement of all the parties.

• As I read the report, I was deeply troubled by what I took to be a Christian call for a boycott of Jewish products. There was no suggestion that restrictions be placed on *all* products from the Palestinian territories, just those produced by Jews.

• I feel that the report is influenced by internal Christian conflicts about messianic redemption and current political realities, as well as by different Jewish and Christian perceptions of the best pathway to a peaceful and just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It ignores the role that Hamas and Hezbollah have played in contributing to the problems of Israelis and Palestinians. It fails to recognize that the intifadah (in the words of a Palestinian official to me) "led to a tragedy that we brought upon ourselves."

• The proposed boycott would be understood by many as a call by the church to refrain from the purchase of all Israeli products. This will contribute to a deterioration of trust by Jews in Christian efforts to combat antisemitism, negatively affect relations between the United Church and Jewish communities in Canada, and damage the reputation of the church as a respected voice for peace, moderation, and fairness in Canadian civil society.

In place of those elements that attempt to impose negative measures upon the Jewish state through economic coercion, which – notwithstanding the language – amounts to nothing less than a boycott, I suggest that the General Council should:

• Focus on those elements of the report that encourage investments for peace and to support the growth of the Palestinian economy.

• Recognize that Palestinian terrorism and anti-Jewish incitement play a role in the current impasse. The report identifies the occupation as the primary source of the conflict; not a single expectation or obligation is asked of the Palestinian leadership. Israel has made serious compromises on the ground in pursuit of peace and I have been part of many demonstrations by Israeli Jews in support of compromise and peace. But my Israeli friends also want to see significant efforts made by Palestinians in the direction of peace.

• Call upon Israelis and Palestinians to work together to create an atmosphere conducive to reconciliation and peace. The United Church could work with the Canadian Jewish community to identify projects that we could mutually support through the government of Canada.

*I was deeply troubled by what I took to be a Christian call for a boycott of Jewish products*

The United Church should not take an anti-Israel policy stance in order to be pro-Palestinian. The church should strive to be pro-Palestinian, pro-Israel and pro-peace.

From Jerusalem, where I am visiting my 11-month-old granddaughter, my most sincere and personal investment for peace, I remain,

Sincerely,
Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl

*Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl is the spiritual leader of Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto.*

## United Church comments on boycott stance

"During my term as moderator, I've found it difficult to get the attention of the so-called mainstream media on any of the urgent spiritual and moral matters of our day – other than Israel/Palestine, on which the media come to us."
**– Mardi Tindal, moderator of the United Church of Canada, July 30, 2012.**

"What we're calling for is a focused boycott of products that are being created illegally. To buy settlement products is the same as buying stolen goods – in other words, benefiting from the crime. [However], this is not a call for a boycott of Israel or Israeli products."
**- The Very Rev. David Giuliano, chair of the United Church's working group on Israel/Palestine policy and a former United Church moderator, May 1, 2012.**

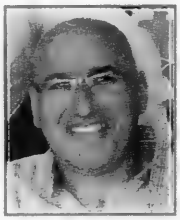
"Our decision to continue to recognize Israel as a Jewish state is highly controversial among [our] Christian Palestinian partners. Their concern is that if Palestinians recognize Israel as a Jewish state, it will then provide support to those who wish to have Palestine become an Islamic state. Palestinian Christians strongly desire Palestine to be a secular democratic state, something they believe is only likely if Israel remains that as well."
**– Bruce Gregersen, member of the United Church's working group on Israel/Palestine Policy, in a June 3, 2012, letter to Canadian Senator Nancy Ruth.**

"It is unacceptable to insist that Palestinians accept Israel as a Jewish state as a precondition of continuing negotiations."
**– From the United Church's report on Israel/Palestine, released May 1, 2012.**

# How air conditioning cooled off my prejudices

We Israelis too often judge our fellow countrymen superficially – by the way they dress, their accents, their kippot, their complexions. I, too, suffer from this malady and recently had a refreshing opportunity to revisit some of my own preconceived notions.

It's been boiling this summer in Israel. In Jerusalem, we endured 10 days in mid-July when the mercury reached the upper 30s Celsius, peaking at 41 for two blistering days.



*Yair Lootsteen in Jerusalem*

Being the Jerusalemite that I am, over the years, I've been adamant about not needing air conditioning. While it gets hot, sometimes very hot, we live in the arid Judean Hills, well away from the atrocious humidity of the coastal plain. And come sundown, temperatures drop, and we enjoy cool evening breezes. In short, the heat has been bearable.

So I don't quite know what got into me. Maybe it's global warming and the undeniable fact that Jerusalem is no longer immune to humidity, or perhaps I'm getting a bit older (just a bit, mind you) and want more creature comforts, or possibly it has something to do with living on the top floor of an apartment building and suffering from the sun's inexorable seasonal onslaught upon our roof. Whatever the reason, late this spring, just as prices jumped exponentially because of the weather, my wife and I finally surrendered to the elements and ordered air conditioning for our home, albeit energy sufficient and sufficiently green.

Miraculously, just a few days before that horrible heat wave, three skillful technicians descended upon our home. And while in the six hours they spent with us, they left a much-larger-than-expected mark on some of the walls and ceilings, with concrete and dust flying in all directions, at the end of the day, we could feel the fruits of their labour – a wondrous stream of arid 25-degree air flowing into our rooms.

But spending that half-day with adroit professionals gave me something else that I didn't pay for.

Uncharacteristically, the technicians were early. The first one I met was Noam, a black-kippah-clad man lying on the grass at the entrance to our building with crates all around him, listening to a Talmud class on his iPhone. He was soon joined by Yossi and Yussuf.

They started working – shlepping, drilling, climbing, measuring, connecting and more. Labouring in the heat, it was clear this wasn't their first time working together.

Turns out it was the 17th day of the Hebrew month of Tammuz, a fast day commemorating the breach of the walls of Jerusalem before the destruction of the Second Temple and Noam, a 28-year-old modern haredi father of two from one of Jerusalem's northern neighbourhoods, was getting a lighter load this day because he was fasting. When conversation turned to one of the country's most topical issues – mandatory conscription for haredi men – he was quick to mention he'd served for three years in the elite Nahal Brigade.

If Yossi, the foreman, hadn't occasionally called out to Yussuf, I doubt I'd have noticed the latter was an Arab. He spoke Hebrew and looked like your average sabra. A 20ish Muslim resident of Atur, an east Jerusalem neighbourhood on the Mount of Olives, he studied air-conditioning at a vocational school in Rishon Lezion. With Ramadan just around the corner, I noted that it must be difficult doing this kind of physical labour while fasting day in and day out for an entire month. Yussuf agreed, but added that for him it was simple because he doesn't fast.

Yossi, the oldest of the three, has been installing air conditioning for over 25 years. A divorced father of four, he lives in Anatot, a West Bank settlement just over the Green Line, northeast of Jerusalem, close enough to be considered a suburb by some. Yossi grew up in a traditional home, but no longer practises much religion. He chose Anatot because it's beautifully situated on the edge of the desert, overlooking Wadi Qelt, but mostly because he could buy a nice home there for a reasonable price. And by the way, many years ago he stopped fasting on Yom Kippur.

At the end of the day I came away rejuvenated not only because of the air conditioning. My stereotypes of haredim, Arabs and settlers had been disturbed, and it was inspiring.

I hope to remember the experience next time I'm about to pigeonhole someone.

# *Please stop dumbing down Israel's realities*

Israel is an incredibly difficult country to understand – historically, politically, religiously, socially, geographically and in every other way. What we lack in physical space, we make up for by layers of complexity deposited over almost 4,000 years, through cycles of destruction and restoration, including the Zionist miracle.

While Israelis live with and debate this complex reality every day, many pundits and Jewish advice-givers simplify our difficult situation into a few sound bites followed by very simplistic and unrealistic solutions. They also apply analogies taken from other places and contexts, (such as the American civil rights movement and South African apartheid) and try to force-fit them to Israel's unique situation.

But there is no other case of a people exiled from its homeland in ancient times, dispersed to the four corners of the earth while maintaining its identity and coherence, and then returning to re-establish a sovereign modern nation as its neighbours try to wipe it out.

For example, when I hear or read Tom Friedman, the *New York Times* columnist, and Peter Beinart, another U.S.-based Jewish journalist, I'm struck by the confidence with which they present their solutions, as seen from half a world away.

Beinart, the author of *The Crisis of Zionism*, is a particularly harsh critic whose influence is reflected in columns in the *New York Times* and as a speaker in many Jewish community events.

In his book, Beinart, like others only more so, describes the settlements that began after the 1967 war as the source of the "crisis," and fervently believes that Israel alone has the power to bring peace by ending the "occupation." For him, the West Bank is not part of a disputed homeland (Judea and Samaria), or a base for mass terror if the peace process goes bad again, but "a territory where Jewish power runs wild."

Beinart couches his argument in the idealistic language of human rights, harshly attacking Israelis and American Jewish leaders for ignoring "accounts of Palestinian suffering." In this patronizing vision, Palestinians are portrayed as passive victims, incapable of moral judgment or reaching an equitable agreement with Israel. To buttress his arguments, he quotes from political NGOs whose credibility is problematic, at best.

Many complications, such as the 1948 Arab invasion, then-Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser's 1967 threat to "drive the Jews into the sea," the "three nos" of the Arab League in Khartoum, numerous Israeli peace proposals that were rejected, the refugee myths, and daily incitement are glossed over as, at best, footnotes of no significance. Instead, on behalf of the "younger Americans" and Jewish students who are Beinart's primary target audience, the reference point is that for "44 years, twice a college student's life span, they have seen Israel control territory in which millions of Palestinians lack citizenship."

*Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem*

These easy-to-digest versions of Israel's situation and history aren't the exception. They're the norm for many journalists and academics, a large number of them Jewish. In this manner, the complex issues related to the 20 per cent Israeli-Arab minority are reduced to entirely misleading concepts such as "discrimination" and "racism," and ignore the central impact of the wider Arab-Israel conflict. The clearly stated and repeated calls by many Israeli Arab leaders for the replacement of Israel with a so-called "state of all its citizens," which would mark the end of Zionism, are also missing from the easy-reader versions of history.

The dumbing down of Israel's complex realities extends to the treatment of efforts to create a somewhat unified Jewish framework in a society composed of dozens of groups with their own traditions and sense of right and wrong. It's far too easy for Diaspora Jews, whose understanding of these issues is limited, to criticize Israel for not being like them and continuing to grapple with issues such as the role of rabbis in politics, or army exemptions granted 64 years ago to 400 yeshiva students that have expanded to more than 100,000.

It's one thing to engage with Israel, including offering constructive criticism, but first, a little humility and some more complexity, please.

Young Jews, particularly in North America, shouldn't be deprived of the right to learn about Israeli realities beyond the sound bites and simplistic formulae.

# Kohen blazed a path in Turkish journalism

Amid a profusion of newspaper stories bearing typical Turkish bylines, Sami Kohen's Jewish-sounding name stands out as a tacit triumph of merit over small-mindedness in contemporary Turkish journalism.

A foreign affairs columnist for the Istanbul daily *Milliyet*, Kohen is a member of a select club, being one of the rare Turkish Jews writing for a general interest Turkish-language newspaper.

When he joined *Milliyet*, which has a circulation of about 250,000 and is one of Turkey's biggest dailies, he quietly made history by becoming the first known Jew in modern Turkey to work for such a publication.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Istanbul*

Yet his claim to fame does not solely rest on his status as a Jewish journalist in a Muslim land.

Kohen, *Millyet*'s foreign editor from 1955 to 1992, left an indelible mark by chalking up a series of "firsts" as a journalist.

A freelance contributor to major western newspapers, he was the first Turkish reporter to cover Albania when it was still a Stalinist hermit state, the first to report from China during the Cultural Revolution, and the first to visit North Korea.

At 83, he is long past retirement age, yet he is as active as ever, contributing four columns a week to *Milliyet* on Turkey's foreign policy and international relations.

A slight, unassuming figure who has been on its staff since 1954, he is one of its longest-serving employees. "It's unusual for a journalist to be attached to a newspaper so long," he acknowledged.

Fluent in English, French and Ladino, the lingua franca of Jews in the Ottoman Empire until the 19th century, Kohen was raised in a journalistic milieu. His father, Albert, was founder, editor and publisher of *Turkey's Voice*, which he established in 1936 and was printed in Ladino and Turkish.

Kohen's first stories appeared in his father's newspaper, and after his death in 1949, he succeeded him, becoming Turkey's youngest publisher.

Since Ladino was a dying language, he converted *Turkey's Voice* into an-all Turkish language periodical. The tactic did not work. The paper, read by 5,000 elderly subscribers, could not meet its overhead, and Kohen closed it in 1950.While studying journalism at Istanbul University, he applied for a reporter's job, but his applications were ignored. During this era, when xenophobia and racism were common, general-interest Turkish newspapers did not hire Jews or members of Christian minorities, he noted.

Having been rejected once too often, Kohen began submitting pieces to *Yeni Istanbul* – a scrappy Turkish newspaper specializing in local news – while completing his university studies.

Duly impressed by his articles, the editor hired Kohen as a night editor on the foreign desk. Apart from being the sole Jew on staff, he was the first known Jewish journalist ever to work on a mainstream newspaper in Turkey since the creation of the secular Turkish republic in 1923.

Shortly after joining *Yeni Istanbul*, Kohen was called into the publisher's office and congratulated on his industriousness. Having buttered him up, the publisher asked Kohen whether he would adopt a Turkish pen name. To some ethnocentric readers, the byline Kohen stuck in their craw.

"I was furious," he recalled. "I almost stormed out of his office. I told him my surname is an integral component of my heritage, and I would not give it up."

The publisher relented, letting him keep his cherished Kohen byline.

"After that, I never had a problem with my name, identity or religion," said Kohen, a secular Jew who regards himself as a loyal, patriotic Turk of Jewish origin. "My colleagues have been very respectful of my Jewish identity. I've had no problems."

After joining *Milliyet*, a newspaper with social democratic leanings, he covered major events abroad, primarily in Europe.

In 1963, Kohen was assigned to report on an upcoming soccer match between Turkey and Albania. Since Albania did not usually admit reporters, he went officially as the team's masseur. Turkey was then one of the few countries maintaining diplomatic ties with Albania.

In 1971, following Turkey's recognition of mainland China, Kohen became the first Turkish journalist to visit China, three months before Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger set foot on Chinese soil.

Three years later, relatively fresh from reporting on the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, he covered Turkey's invasion and occupation of northern Cypress.

While on assignment in Washington, D.C., in the early 1980s, he dropped everything to fly to Ottawa to file stories on the attempted assassination of Turkey's ambassador to Canada.

He visited North Korea in 1985, notching up another "first" in the annals of journalism in Turkey.

Always something of a workaholic, Kohen started freelancing for the Tel Aviv-based daily *Maariv* in the 1950s, a gig that lasted until 2000. He wrote on Israel's evolving relations with Turkey and internal Turkish affairs.

Kohen began reporting from Israel in 1950, when he wrote a seven-part series focusing on kibbutzim and the role of women in the armed forces.

"I was very impressed with all the developments in Israel and with the spirit of the people," he said, noting that Turkish newspaper coverage of Israel was usually favourable in those years. "It was such a dynamic, free society."

He returned to Israel many more times on assignments, covering, among other events, the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

**Sami Kohen in Istanbul** *[Sheldon Kirshner photo]*

Kohen is less than sanguine that Israel's strained relations with Turkey, exacerbated by the 2010 Mavi Marmara affair, will improve any time soon. Asked whether Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is anti-Israel, he replied, "He might be. He opposes [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's policies, but not the Israeli people."

Kohen launched his career as a freelancer in the 1960s as a succession of American and British newspapers and magazines – notably the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, the *Guardian* and the *Economist* – tapped his expertise on Turkish and Middle Eastern affairs.

To the best of his knowledge, there are only two other Jewish journalists working in Turkey today for general-interest newspapers: Gila Benmayor, a reporter on the staff of *Hurriyet*, and Soli Uzel, a professor of international relations at Kadir Has University who writes a column for *Haber Turk*.

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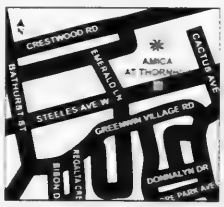


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# Israeli-Canadian to lead TSO

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra announced earlier this summer that it had chosen Shalom Bard as its new resident conductor to work along with the TSO's music director, the conductor Peter Oundjian.

Bard, 38, who was born in Haifa and moved to Toronto with his family in June 1990, is the first Israeli-Canadian to lead the orchestra.

He'll also assume the mantle of conductor of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra (TSYO).

He applied to the orchestra through a program set up by the RBC Foundation's Emerging Artists Project, which decided to invest $400,000 in Canadian arts programs, including setting up a new, two-year resident-conductor position with the TSO.

The bank also sponsored an affiliate-composer position with the orchestra, which was filled by local composer Kevin Lau, who will also work with Bard.

The Israeli-Canadian, who is a clarinettist, comes from a family of musicians. His father is a cantor, his mother is a pianist and his brother is a violinist.

**Shalom Bard**

Bard sat down with *The CJN* at Massey Hall to discuss his new job, a smile etched on his face throughout the interview.

"This is literally a dream come true. I've daydreamed about this. I've sat as a clarinettist in the symphony. It seems like only yesterday that I used to think, 'Wouldn't it be great [to be a conductor], and now I'm here. It's amazing," he said.

The bonus, he said, is that he's conducting the TSO, an orchestra whose system he learned while guest-conducting for the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra (TSYO) and through performances as a soloist with the main orchestra over the last 15 years.

Like many artists, his life has been a journey of musical discoveries and creative growth, he said.

He started studying and playing clarinet at age 12, and within months of coming to Canada, had joined the TSYO.

By 1992, he'd graduated from the University of Toronto; then he obtained his master's degrees in orchestral conducting and clarinet performance from McGill University and the University of Southern California respectively.

After a year as second clarinettist with the TSO, Bard freelanced for various orchestras, including the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Orchestra and the National Ballet of Canada Orchestra.

Up to this point though, one of the highlights of his career was an invitation by Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra conductor Zubin Mehta to be his acting principal clarinettist for the 2001-02 season.

Prior to his new position with the TSO, last year, Bard honed his conducting chops with various organizations, including as resident conductor of Symphony Nova Scotia, assistant conductor for Educational Concerts with the Herbert Zipper Orchestra of Los Angeles, and one season as conductor of Toronto's Mooredale Youth Orchestra.

He said he doesn't know why the conducting bug bit him, but he knows it bit him hard.

"I do it because I must," Bard said, echoing a quote from one of his favourite poets, Rainer Maria Rilke.

Though the prep-work of a conductor is often a solitary thing – Bard said he often sits alone in his home, in silence, envisioning the composition he is about to perform in order to "get behind the notes" – the great enjoyment is then having an orchestra to use as an outlet for his vision of the score.

"An orchestra is the most magnificent palette and instrument to play with," he said. "The possibilities are endless, which is where things get complicated. It can change with the acoustics [of a venue] or with the makeup of a particular orchestra."

Bard is scheduled to conduct more than 20 concerts during the TSO's 2012-13 season.

His TSO debut will come on Oct. 20, when he conducts the orchestra and guest violinist Maxim Vengerov for performances of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*.

Asked if his conducting is informed by his Jewish and dual Israeli-Canadian heritage, he said he hoped so.

"I've been conducting now for four years and you draw into your music from your life. And being Jewish, and a proud Israeli, there's a rich culture and history full of wisdom and suffering, and music describes all those things. It's an art that points to the past as well as the future.

"The reason Beethoven's Fifth will forever be played is because… it's the rattling of change. In today's world, you see social upheaval, especially in my neighbourhood, the Middle East. So there are very contemporary ideas in those [classical] compositions. Being born in Israel makes one really wish for peace and all music has yearning. So it's easy for me to [channel] that into my work."

Bard said he hopes to be an ambassador for "all the beautiful things that are happening in Israel, and not the bad things that the media reports" from the Holy Land.

# *Memoir a way to 'avenge my people,' survivor says*

**Cynthia Gasner**
Special to The CJN

Max Bornstein's memoir reaches far beyond his horrific experiences during the Holocaust.

The 90-year-old's book, *If Home Is Not Here*, covers more than 20 years, from his birth in Warsaw in 1922 through displacement, poverty, institutionalization, antisemitism and state violence.

In an interview at the Baycrest Apotex Centre, where he has been a resident for four years, the sprightly and articulate survivor exudes joie de vivre and optimism.

Despite the disastrous odyssey of his early years, Bornstein speaks of the positive restructuring of his life in Canada – meeting his wife Minnie in Toronto, who died three years ago after 61 years of marriage, and the joy of his family, daughter Linda Warman, son Jeffrey Bornstein, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

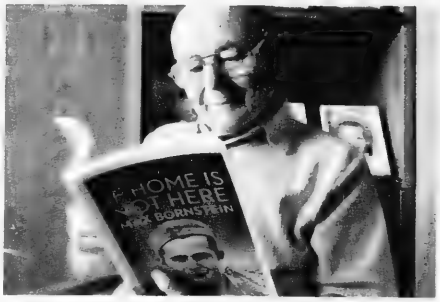
When he was three months old, his family fled Poland to Berlin and then Paris so that his father could avoid the Polish army.

Two years later, Max and his pregnant mother left for Canada to be with their family in Winnipeg. As an undocumented person, his father could not legally travel to Canada.

Engulfed in poverty, Max and his sister, who was born in Winnipeg, were placed in an orphanage, where he said he was plagued by loneliness.

Disregarding all advice, his mother and the children returned to Paris in 1933 when Max was 12 years old, just as Adolf Hitler was coming to power in Europe.

When his family realized what was happening in Europe, they applied to return to Canada, but Canada had closed its doors to Jewish immigration.



**Max Bornstein**

Argentina accepted immigrants. His parents and sister left for Argentina, but Max was unable to leave, as he was of draft age. He was a teenager living in fear under Nazi occupation.

In his detailed memoir, he recounts his hardships and trepidations, including his mental breakdowns, unemployment and homelessness.

He also writes with humour about his episodes as a teenager developing sexual awareness and his many friendships that often gave him the strength to survive.

As the persecution of Jews increased in France, he crossed rivers and climbed mountains, finally reaching Spain. He was imprisoned by the Spanish police in three different appalling prisons and then sent to Miranda del Ebro concentration and labour camp.

In 1947, Bornstein, sponsored by his Canadian-born sister, came to Toronto. A year later, the family sponsored his parents and they were finally reunited.

"That was the most treasured reunion that I could ever recall," he said.

Bornstein began writing his memoir in 1979 when he retired as a footwear importer. He completed his book in 1990, but had difficulty finding a publisher. He was told that there were too many books about the Holocaust.

Recently, the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program of the Azrieli Foundation, which supports a wide spectrum of initiatives, published *If Home Is Not Here*.

The Azrieli Foundation collects, publishes and distributes memoirs of Holocaust survivors.

Looking back, Bornstein said, "My childhood was completely overturned when my family escaped Poland to France.

"Nothing could have given me greater satisfaction than knowing that I am passing on the historical events and private challenges that a Jewish boy experiences and what it meant to live through such trauma.

"In passing on my knowledge to future generations," he stressed, "what is of utmost importance is the State of Israel and what it implies to the future of maintaining our independent state.

"What other way can I avenge my people except in presenting what happened to them?"

*If Home Is Not Here* is available at major book stores, universities and libraries. The proceeds from the book go back to fund the programs of the Azrieli Foundation.

For more information, visit http://www.azrielifoundation.org.

# Levy report affirms Israel's rights to territories

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

Two years ago when U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden visited Israel, plans were announced to add 1,600 housing units to Jewish communities in East Jerusalem.

The announcement prompted a diplomatic flap, with some critics of the move arguing it needlessly embarrassed Biden during his visit. The vice-president himself said the move "undermines trust."

The imbroglio was diplomatic and political in nature, but critics of the settlements have long argued they're much more than just bad policy – they're illegal.

Israel has consistently rejected that position, and recently, a blue-ribbon panel headed by former Israeli Supreme Court justice Edmund Levy came to the same conclusion. The Commission to Examine the Status of Building In Judea and Samaria issued a report that rejected critiques of the legality of the settlements and set out a series of recommendations to regulate construction and expansion in accordance with relevant law.

"According to international law, Israelis have the legal right to settle in Judea and Samaria and that establishment of settlements cannot, in and of itself, be considered illegal," the commission concluded.

The commission, however, called on the government of Israel to clarify its settlement policy, streamline the legal process of approvals, set out a consistent set of bylaws to regulate construction and it urged establishment of a special court to adjudicate disputes.

The commission's report prompted a letter from 41 American Jews to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, urging him to reject the commission's recommendations.

"We fear that if approved, this report will place the two-state solution, and the prestige of Israel as a democratic member of the international community, in peril," the letter states.

The U.S. administration was also critical of the report. State Department spokesperson Patrick Ventrell was quoted as saying, "Obviously, we've seen the reports that an Israeli government appointed panel has recommended legalizing dozens of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, but we do not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlement activity and we oppose any effort to legalize settlement outposts."

Alan Baker

Alan Baker, a member of the commission and the former Israeli ambassador to Canada, said the commission was set up to clear "the confusion with regard to building in the territories" and to find "how to put things in order."

Over a five-month period, the three-person panel heard from hundreds of witnesses spanning the political spectrum. Among them were representatives of Israel's extreme left and right wings – "the more left-wing organizations that appeared said the concept of settlements in the territories was illegal under international law," Baker stated.

That led the panel to look into the historical rights pertaining to the West Bank, while considering international law and conventions. The group investigated whether Israel "occupied" the territories, whether it had violated the Fourth Geneva Convention by "transferring" a population there and whether Israelis could legally reside in the area.

The commission found that prior to 1967, there was no legitimate sovereign in control of the territories. Jordan exercised control, but it had no right to do so, and at any rate, it voluntarily relinquished any rights it possessed in 1988. Since there was no sovereign from which Israel seized the land, it did not meet the international definition of an occupying power, Baker said.

Furthermore, there was no transfer of populations by the government of Israel into the territories that met the Geneva Convention definition, which was meant to address forced transfers into others' sovereign territory, Baker said.

The commission examined claims to the territories and found that Israel's derived from the 1917 Balfour Declaration, which after World War I, was enshrined into international law at the San Remo Conference and adopted by the League of Nations and later by the United Nations.

"We concluded that Israel has very solid, well-based rights," he said.

"That does not mean that Palestinians don't have rights. They claim self-determination, and for that reason, Israel has not annexed the territories," Baker said.

Israel has the legal right to the territories, he continued, but it is willing to negotiate with the Palestinians to establish a final determination of rights.

"In the meantime, there is nothing to prevent Israelis from living in the territories, as long as its done legally and no Palestinian private property is taken."

In their letter to Netanyahu, the American Jewish writers state, "Securing Israel's future as a Jewish and democratic state requires diplomatic and political leadership, not legal manoeuvrings. We recognize and regret that the Palestinian Authority has abdicated leadership by not returning to the negotiating table. Nonetheless, our great fear is that the Levy Report will not strengthen Israel's position in this conflict, but rather add fuel to those who seek to delegitimize Israel's right to exist. At this moment, it is more critical than ever that Israel strengthen its claim in the international community that it is committed to a two-state vision, which is, in turn, central to Israel's future as a Jewish and democratic state."

The letter is signed by, among others, several members of the Israel Policy Forum (IPF), which describes itself as "an American non-profit, non-partisan organization that provides resources and advocacy for a strong, Jewish and democratic state at peace with its neighbours."

One of the signatories is Rabbi Daniel Gordis, senior vice-president and the Koret Distinguished Fellow at the Shalem Centre in Jerusalem

He writes on the IPC website, "I'm seen as slightly right of centre on Israel, and so people were shocked that I signed the letter."

He said that he added his name to the letter because "I felt then, and still believe, that adopting the report would alienate many American Jews struggling to feel and express support for Israel; I feared it would unleash an international backlash that Israel does not need, particularly now, and I worried that it would harden even further the sense among some Israelis that we can continue to progress without a serious strategic conversation about Israel's borders and their relationship to our democracy.

"As I made clear in a subsequent oped, I'm no attorney, so I'm not an expert on the legal conclusions of the Levy Commission. But I do spend a great deal of time with young American Jews. Increasingly, I see them struggling to maintain feelings of loyalty to Israel as they grapple with what they believe is Israel's failure to move the peace process forward… I saw no reason to breed further hemorrhaging of American Jewish support for Israel or an international outcry by adopting a report that many would see as cementing the current status quo, leading to rampant accusations that Israel is becoming an apartheid society. Israel does not need that."

A different perspective was offered by Avi Bell of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies (BESA). He notes that "the report's argument is surprisingly modest in substance. It does little more than endorse the traditional official Israeli position that the Fourth Geneva Convention does not apply de jure to the West Bank and in any event does not bar Israeli settlements.

"Some have argued that the Levy report is foolish politically, arguing that by asserting its legal rights, Israel will signal it is unwilling to entertain 'land for peace' compromises. This seems a doubtful thesis. Israel has asserted its legal rights to Jerusalem for decades, but yet repeatedly offered compromises on its rights in the city.

"What the Levy report has done is to reinvigorate the discussion of the legitimacy of Israel's position under international law after many years in which Israel has been silent about its legal rights. This is a welcome development."

In a written response to the IPF, Baker states, "There is nothing in the report that could in any way be interpreted as placing the 'two-state solution' in peril. The opposite is in fact the case. The report reiterates… that despite Israel's well-based and solid legal and historic claims to sovereignty over the area, and the right of Israelis to settle therein in accordance with the requisite legal norms and requirements, as set out in the body of the report, consecutive Israeli governments have chosen to opt, and continue to opt in favour of conducting *bone fide* and pragmatic negotiations with the representatives of the Palestinian people and the Arab states, with a view to determine the fate of the area."

Baker told *The CJN* that the letter to Netanyahu "is a political statement and has nothing to do with our recommendations, which ensures that whoever builds in the territories does it according to law."

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# Author pessimistic about Israeli-Palestinian peace

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

A retired sociology professor says it's time Israel gives up on the delusion that the Palestinians will be their partner in peace, and do what it must to ensure the safety and security of the people who live in the Holy Land.

Stephen Schecter, who taught at the Université du Québec à Montréal for more than three decades and authored six books, as well as short stories and poetry in both English and French will be in Toronto Aug. 9 to promote his latest book, *Grasshoppers in Zion: Israel and the Paradox of Modernity.*

Stephen Schecter

He takes a hardline approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, suggesting that Israel needs to take its fate into its own hands by flexing its political and military muscle.

Schecter, who will be coming from his home in Vancouver for a book signing at Israel's Judaica store in Thornhill, Ont., shared his controversial views about Israel and the Arab world.

He said societies like ours, which thrive on liberalism, pluralism and tolerance, often misread the situation in the Middle East because they fail to realize that Palestinian society is organized on totally different principles.

He said because academics, journalists and foreign policy experts try to understand the conflict based on expectations they have for the way western democratic societies would behave, "they keep indulging [Palestinians] in their murderous, genocidal, racist, Jew-hating behaviour, and they keep insisting on seeing them as potential peace partners – and they will look for moderates where there are none."

Schecter, who said he has often been accused of holding racist views, insisted that he considers Palestinians "no different than anyone else when it comes to the passions that tear them apart, when it comes to the blood that flows in their veins."

But, he added, people on either side of the political spectrum should realize that Israel doesn't have a partner for peace.

"If you look at the Israeli governments from left to right, they have continued to espouse the idea of a peace process when any intelligent analysis of the situation would indicate that this is not in the cards and will not be for a couple of hundred years," Schecter said.

"How many times do you need to be disappointed before you change your tune?"

He said Israel's biggest mistake is to expect that it has the power to change the Palestinians' behaviour if they're not receptive to change.

"You can't even do that in a modern society... The Israeli government, in my opinion, should base its policy on things that it can control, rather than trying to modify Palestinian behaviour, when it's not going to be modified," he said.

Schecter suggested that Israel annex Judea and Samaria, also known as the West Bank.

"What they do with the Arabs there is a different story – my preference would be to let them leave... They've been so indoctrinated now into Jew-hatred and bloodlust that I don't think it's good to have them inside the country."

He added that he can't comprehend why Jews allow the world to think it's OK for Jews to be murdered simply for living in their own country and said Israel needs to "take initiative, defend itself, create the borders that are necessary for your security... Learn to assert national sovereignty. But Jews don't operate like that."

He said Israelis should not apologize for the existence of Israel.

"They should say this is our land. This is ours. It was given to us by God, it was given to us by international law, it was given to us by our enterprising and pioneering spirits, it was given to us by sacrifice and countless wars and we're here and we're keeping it," Schecter said.

"The Arab Muslim world reacts when you exert authority – firm authority that's in line with what the situation warrants."

**Continued on page 37**

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10:00 AM - WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

10:15 AM SESSION 1
PROFESSOR ELIE PODEH
PROFESSOR SHALOM SABAR
PROFESSOR HAYA LORBERBOUM-GALSKI

11:30 AM SESSION 2
DR. MARGIT COHN
PROFESSOR HAYA LORBERBOUM-GALSKI
DR. YEHUDA GOODMAN

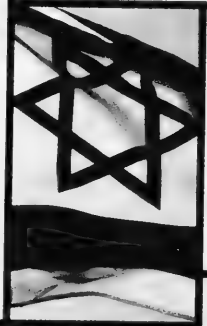
12:30 PM - 1:15 PM LUNCH

1:30 PM SESSION 3
DR. YEHUDA GOODMAN
PROFESSOR SHALOM SABAR
DR. MARGIT COHN

2:45 PM WRAP UP

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 6, 2012**
Tamari Hall, Lipa Green Centre & Prosserman JCC Sherman Campus / 4588 Bathurst Street
7:00 pm Registration / 7:30 pm Keynote Presentation / 8:30 pm Reception Following

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER** PROFESSOR ELIE PODEH
**The Arab Revolutions: Between Spring and Winter**
This lecture will assess the implications of the Arab Spring on the Arab world, with particular emphasis on the changes in Egypt following the January 2011 Revolution.



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**ELIE PODEH** is a professor at the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies. Areas of interest are inter-Arab relations, Arab-Israeli relations, Egypt, culture and education in the Arab world.

**SHALOM SABAR** is a professor of the History of Art and Jewish Folklore. His interests include Jewish folk art, ketubot, objects and customs related to Jewish life and Jewish ceremonial art at home and synagogue.

**MARGIT COHN** is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law. Her interests include human rights within Israel, the Israeli High Court of Justice, and application of the law to various religious communities.

**YEHUDA GOODMAN** is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology; areas of interest include psychological anthropology and the anthropology of religion, in particular religious conversion and the religious/secular interface in the Jewish world.

**HAYA LORBERBOUM-GALSKI** is an Associate Professor of Cellular Biochemistry and head of the research committee for the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada (IMRIC). Her research involves cancer mechanisms and treatments and the body's immune responses.

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and Members of
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extend our deepest
condolences to

**Lorraine Levene**

past Executive Director
of Na'amat Canada Toronto

on the loss her husband

**Stanley Levene** ז"ל

May his memory be for a blessing

Na'amat Canada Toronto

# Confronting history in Berlin

*My View*

*Lawrence Hart*

For many Jews, and more especially those in the older demographic, the very prospect of going to Germany arouses feelings of ambivalence, if not consternation. For some, even setting foot in the land that spawned Hitler's Reich and the near total annihilation of European Jewry would be unthinkable. There is, of course, the competing viewpoint that encourages Jews to visit the country, if only to see how a new generation has grappled with its past, to listen, to learn, and, above all, to remember not only those who went to their deaths but also those who heroically risked their own lives to save the precious few who were able to evade the Nazi onslaught.

I recently had an opportunity to spend some time in Berlin, primarily to attend a conference. I was there for just a few days, but they were a days filled with overwhelmingly mixed emotions. At first glance, the city is like many others in Europe, with a distinctive architecture, tree-lined boulevards, efficient transportation, eclectic eateries and bustling commercial districts. Since 1990, when the infamous wall that cut through its core was demolished, there has been extensive construction and development to make its reunification as seamless as possible and, at least in the eyes of the visitor, it's apparent that such efforts have been successful.

Yet despite its urban makeover, Berlin has also been referred to as a city of ghosts. Germany's wartime past, and perhaps most particularly the decimation of its Jewish community, has cast an eternal shadow on its capital city. So much so that it's difficult to pass one or another train station or open square without seeing reference to, or sometimes just imagining, such locations as assembly points for those who were deported to the Nazi extermination camps.

Several Holocaust memorials dot the city. Most notable among them is the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, located just a block from the Brandenburg Gate, and the nearby Jewish Museum, with its distinctive shape, "reminiscent of a warped Star of David."

But aside from these more prominent structures, there are, in both East and West Berlin, a multitude of smaller landmarks that poignantly memorialize victims of the Holocaust. So whether you choose to explore the Jewish cemetery where philosopher Moses Mendelssohn is buried (and which was desecrated by the Nazis), or wander through the restored workshop of Righteous among the Nations, Otto Weidt, who protected many physically disabled Jews from the Gestapo, or spend some time at the sites of destroyed synagogues or community centres, you'll find solemn tributes to those who perished.

It's recognized that, unlike most other countries where Jews were persecuted during the war, Germany, in principle and policy, has chosen to confront, rather than dismiss or rationalize, its role in the Holocaust. In fact, what struck me most powerfully when visiting the various memorials in Berlin was the presence not so much of tourists, but much more so of groups of young Germans, particularly of school age, who were obviously there to be educated, to reflect and, I suspect, to somehow try to come to terms with that dark and ignominious page in their history.

## Reena in the News

Reena

The Board of Directors of Reena is happy to announce the appointment of
**Joan Glick Gold**
as Chair of the Board for 2012-2014.

Joan has served on many board committees at Reena and is presently Chair for "Community @ Work" a program which she initiated at Reena to provide Summer Employment Transitions for students with disabilities with Summer Employment.

Her career in business has spanned 45 years in Property Management, Building and Land Development and is ranked in Stanford Who's Who as a premier professional in the construction industry. For the past 26 years Joan served as the Controller and CFO and recently has been a certified Administration and Human Resource Director (over 100 employees) for Fieldgate Building and Development Company, which provides the building of private real estate communities and commercial properties, including golf courses throughout the Greater Toronto Area, including Kleinberg, Oshawa, Milton, Stouffville and Oakville.

In addition to her interest and support of Reena, Joan is past president of The Rotary Club of Willowdale and North York and currently an Active Rotarian, Rotary Club of North York. As team captain from 2008-2012 for The Weekend to End Women's Breast Cancer Joan has won awards from Princess Margaret Cancer Research for the team's efforts.

A fitness instructor for 35 years she is at present teaching Spinning and Core Conditioning at the Prosserman Centre on Bathurst Street.

The family dynamics includes three children and eight grandchildren.

**www.reena.org**

# Jewish apps for iPhones and iPads

*Jewish & Digital*

*Mark Mietkiewicz*

Today, an overview of some recent Jewish apps for your iPhone or iPad. All are free unless otherwise noted.

• [Hillel] would also say: if I am not for myself, who is for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when? (Avot 1:14)

• "He who guards his mouth guards his soul. One who opens his lips wide comes to ruin." (Proverbs 13:3)

If you want to carry a little – actually, a lot – of wisdom with you wherever you go, here are two apps for you. You are probably already familiar with some of the teachings of **Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers)**, such as the famous one quoted above. The free app includes all six chapters in both English and Hebrew, along with insights and background. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp1]**

**Daily Proverb** provides selections from Solomon's book. This English-only app allows you to bookmark your favourite Proverbs and even has a tool to assist you to memorize them. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp2]**

**iComfort** ($1.99) demystifes the Jewish laws of mourning. It provides an overview of the stages of mourning (funeral preparation, shivah, shloshim, yahrzeit), advice on comforting a mourner and provides the basic prayers related to mourning, including an audio version of *Kaddish*. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp3]**

**Kever Pointer App – A Virtual Visit To The Grave** ($.99): This is an odd one. It includes interesting background information about the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, as well as historic Jewish figures from the Temple period to the modern era. Since Jews pray toward Jerusalem, I am puzzled by the "Pointer" part of the app, which includes a compass that indicates the direction toward the individual's resting place. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp4]**

**Torahific** ($.99) provides riddles about each weekly Torah portion. Questions are drawn from the midrash, Rashi and other classical commentators:

Q: Adam named all the creatures according to their unique nature. Why did he name the dog "kelev"?

A: A dog is called "kelev," which means "kol lev" (all heart). This name thus describes the loyalty and love that a dog possesses for its owner (and for no one else!)... The name of this creature should inspire us also to be completely faithful and loving to our Master. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp8]**

Do you know a bar mitzvah boy who's about to start laying tfillin? Or perhaps someone who wants to restart the tradition? Here are three apps for you. **MyTeffilin** includes English/Hebrew background about the mitzvah along with clear step-by-step instructions for laying the arm and the head tfillin. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp5]**

**About Tefillin** provides the blessings and the *Shema* in Hebrew and transliterated into six languages (Hebrew, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Persian and Russian). There are links to videos about laying tfillin, including British Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks on the importance of the mitzvah. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp6]**

When donning tfillin, placement is key. In the old days, you might ask a friend or use a mirror to make sure the head tfillin is sitting properly. But why use a friend or a mirror when you can go high tech? Power up **Tefillin Mirror**, lift your iPhone or iPad and you'll see an image of your face along with three vertical lines to help ensure your tffillin is aligned. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp7]**

*Highway@rogers.com*

# A proposal on prenuptial agreements

**Rabbi Shalom Spira**

"And you shall remember *HaShem*, your God, for it is He Who gives you the strength to act valiantly" (Deut. 8:18). This verse, which appears in our parshat ha-shavuah, is invoked by Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (*Iggerot Mosheh, Orach Chaim* 2:111) as justification for human beings to draft insurance contracts. The Creator has given humankind the creative wisdom to devise insurance programs that benefit society. The verse teaches us to draft commercially appropriate insurance contracts and that, while doing so, we must give thanks to the Creator for granting us the ability to conceive of these policies, Rabbi Feinstein declares.

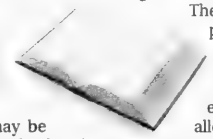
The same is assuredly true for drafting prenuptial agreements that champion the welfare of the righteous women of Israel. In the article "May we all be 'Hartmanized'" that I was privileged to publish in *The CJN* on Jan. 19, 2012, I presented a proposal to that effect. Since then, I have received illuminating feedback from sagacious *CJN* readers recommending improvements to my essay. There is no greater compliment possible to this newspaper's readership!

As such, the second edition – revised and corrected – of my proposal is now available at http://www.wepapers.com/Papers/443780/Prenuptial_Agreements.

My proposal essentially consists of two prenuptial agreements.

First, in order for a *sefer keritut* (bill of divorce required by Torah law to dissolve the marriage between two Jews) to be valid, there must be no financial coercion imposed on the husband. The first prenuptial agreement therefore, shields, the prospective bride and groom – before they contract their marriage – from any government legislation or

***Rabbinic Reflections***



judicial decisions that may be interpreted as depriving the husband of money in the event of any marital disagreement. Such legislation/judicial rulings could render the bride an *agunah*, but a prenuptial agreement will presciently solve the dilemma by granting the bride and groom freedom of religious conscience.

Second, in order to financially empower the bride, she can be given (if the groom so offers before the wedding) a prenuptial agreement of *tosefet mezonot* (enhanced daily allowance), as was Rebecca our Matriarch, as recorded by Rashi in commentary on Genesis 27:9. Rabbi Yaakov Kamenetzky encouraged the implementation of such a prenuptial agreement, but it's necessary to diamond-polish Rabbi Kamenetzky's proposal so that it conforms with the consensus of *poskim*. Under a modified version of Rabbi Kamenetzky's scheme (presented in my essay), every day that the husband and wife live in harmony, the husband would give his wife a large sum of money. (Of course, nothing is given on the Sabbath or festivals.) The wife thus controls the purse strings of the marriage. When marital harmony dissolves, although the wife is not entitled to any further allowance, she now possesses the extensive wealth necessary to offer to pay her husband for a *sefer keritut*, which will be kosher if the husband so agrees.

Accordingly, let us thank the Creator who has given the readership of *CJN* and myself, working co-operatively together, "the strength to act valiantly" in publishing such a proposal to benefit the righteous women of Israel.

*Rabbi Shalom Spira is spiritual leader of Congregation Kol Yehouda in Cote St. Luc, Que.*

# Rediscovering Michel de Montaigne

What do you know about Michel de Montaigne (1533-92)?

He was a nobleman, government official, mayor of Bordeaux and wine grower who lived in the Perigord area of southwestern Frances for six decades.

His mother descended from a Spanish Jewish family that lived in Aragon at the height of the Inquisition in the late 15th century. Three members of his family were burned at the stake. They were prominent Marranos who had gone through the motions of conversion, but continued to practise Judaism secretly.

Daniel J. Boorstin, in his book *The Creators* writes, "The Marrano memory could not have been lost on Michel. He frequently expressed his sense of the injustice done to the Jews, which confirms his doubts on force as an effective agent of persuasion."

In recent years there has been a spirited renewal of interest in Montaigne and his singular achievements.

For 36 years, a hideous religious civil war between Catholics and Protestants had turned France into a charnel house.

In 1571, having witnessed such atrocities as "make me blanch with horror," Montaigne retired from society. He built a quiet, bucolic study, began to write his essays and modestly adopted for his motto "*Que sais je?*" "What do I know?"

In her splendid recent book about Montaigne, Sarah Bakewell explains that there was no precedent in literature for his essays – casual, formalistic reflections. They

***Bookmarks***

***Bernard Baskin***

were mostly brief and "Into them he put whatever was in his head: His tastes in wine and food, his childhood memories, his playful cat and the way his dog's ears twitched when he was dreaming. All of this, as well as terse accounts of the political, social and religious events around him."

He hated cruelty in any form. He abhorred bigotry and attacked the persecution of witches. He was so pantheistic in his vision that he could write, "There is… a certain respect and a general duty of humanity not only to beasts that have life and sense, but even to trees and plants."

What follows are ideas from his essays that provide the thrust of his thought on many subjects:

• Man is certainly stark mad. He cannot make a flea, and yet he will make Gods by the dozen.

• How many things that served us yesterday, as articles of faith, today are fables?

• Few men dare publish to the world the prayers they make to Almighty God.

• Nothing is so firmly built as that which we least know.

• Fame and tranquility can never be bedfellows.

• As to fidelity, there is no animal in the world so treacherous as man.

• The man who tries to please the multitude is never done.

• The greatest thing in the world is to know how to be self-sufficient. Emerson called Montaigne the most honest of all writers. He wrote, "Cut these words, and they would bleed."

Boorstin, in summing up Montaigne's life and thought, offers this tribute: "His enduring miracle to me is this, who picks up his essays in whatever time or circumstance finds them contemporary."

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# Decision pending on whether rally will go ahead

**Continued from page 3**

"FSWC believes that while free speech is an essential component of a democratic society, the provincial government should not sanction organizations calling for war, death and hate towards Jews by permitting the use of public property for such a purpose," Benlolo stated.

***'We believe this is not about free speech. It's about promoting hatred'***

Rick Boon, operations manager of the Legislative Security Service, acknowledged "there is an application put in for the 18th, but no decision has been made on it yet."

He said the legislature maintains guidelines for use of the premises, which includes a provision that "the property itself has to be enjoyed by a number of groups, including small children."

For larger events, legislative security consults with Toronto police to determine if the event will comply with the guidelines, he added.

Film of last year's rally showed Imam Zafar Bangash of the Islamic Society of York Region saying that U.S. President Barack Obama "would rather have Americans starve to death, but he cannot say no to the Zionist parasitical state."

Bangash referred to the United States as a "stooge government" and to Obama as "this black man in the White House."

He went on to call Zionists "racist," "inhuman," and "barbarians."

Maulana Asad Jafri, described as a Khomeinist student from Qoms, Iran, said "whenever you see injustice happen, there is a one per cent, two per cent, 100 per cent involvement by the Zionist regime, the same Zionist regime that sucks the resources, the blood and everything that belongs to the people all across the world."

Avi Benlolo

Another speaker referred to Israel as a spreading cancer that either dies, takes the host body with it, or is itself killed.

Benlolo said, "We believe this is not about free speech. It's about promoting hatred. Beyond the law, Canadian society finds it abhorrent and shocking that people could stand on public grounds and spew hateful ideology that's clearly antisemitic."

McDonald likewise rejected suggestions that denying organizers a permit to gather would violate their free speech rights. Demonstrators can march elsewhere, he said, but Queen's Park has its own policy on permissible gatherings and that should be applied.

Last year's rally included the participation of Karin Brothers, a member of Bloor Street United Church's social justice committee.

After she was shown on the video telling participants that "we need you," the United Church issued a statement distancing itself from her.

Brothers spoke on her own behalf and not for the church, said church spokesperson Rev. Bruce Gregersen.

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**Oct. 16:** **Dr. Karen Mock,** former National Director, League for Human Rights B'nai Brith Canada. **What's a nice Jewish progressive Zionist girl doing in a place like this?**

**Oct. 23:** **Dr. Ron Pruessen,** professor of American Culture and Politics at U of T. **The American Elections 2012: What Will Happen to President Obama?**

**Oct. 30:** **Noah Richler,** writer, documentary film maker, editor and literary columnist for the *National Post*. **What We Talk About When We Talk About War**

**Nov. 6:** **Dr. Doris Bergen,** Chair Holocaust Studies at U of T. **I am (Not) to Blame: Remembering (and Forgetting) Guilt in Eyewitness Accounts of the Holocaust**

**Nov. 13:** **Norm Gardner,** principal with International Police Training Services. **A History of Jews in the Military**

**Nov. 20:** **Gerald Ziedenberg. The Jewish Connection in Academy Award winning film, Casablanca**

**Nov. 27:** **Liz Pearl,** educator and therapist. ***Living Legacies - A Collection of Inspirational Contemporary Canadian Jewish Women.***

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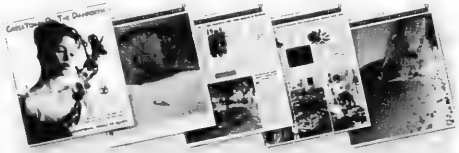
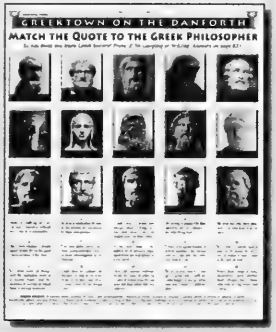


## Omission

***The answers to the quiz "Match the quote to the Greek philosopher" (GreekTown on the Danforth, Aug. 2, page B20) were not on page B23 of that issue as indicated. We apologize for the omission.***

HERE THEY ARE:

1. Pythagoras
2. Antisthenes
3. Plutarch
4. Zeno of Citium
5. Xenophon
6. Aspasia
7. Theophrastus
8. Aristotle
9. Diogenes
10. Heraclitus
11. Parmenides
12. Epicurus
13. Gorgias
14. Socrates
15. Plato



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# CTV Games announcers take principled stand

Kudos to CTV's Brian Williams and Lisa LaFlamme, anchors for the network's coverage of the 2012 London Olympics, for their principled stand during the July 27 opening ceremonies. Commemorating 40 years since the Munich Massacre, in which 11 Israeli athletes and coaches were murdered at the 1972 Olympics – something International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge has refused to do with a moment of silence at the opening event – Williams said the following as the Israeli athletes entered the stadium:

"My position is well known and it is one that I have taken in previous Olympics. It is wrong that the IOC refuses to have a minute's silence for the Israeli athletes that were slaughtered in Munich. It is a much bigger issue this year, as it's the 40th anniversary of Munich. Members of the Canadian government [and] yesterday our Governor General all called for a moment's silence. Dr. Rogge says the ceremony is not the place to remember a tragic event, but it [was] tragic. It's one of the most significant and world-changing events in Olympic history. It absolutely should have been done here. The IOC worries about politics? This event is political by its very nature."

LaFlamme noted: "The widow of one of the victims spoke out saying 'they came with dreams, they went home in coffins.' They want to be remembered here tonight."

"And remember," Williams added, "they died as Olympians."

* * *

Last Tuesday, what seemed on the surface to be a small but important gesture from Egypt's new president Mohammed Morsi to Israel almost immediately created a storm of controversy and confusion.

What's at issue is whether Morsi, as first announced by Israeli President Shimon Peres' office on July 31, actually sent a letter thanking Peres for his Ramadan greetings and expressing hope in renewing the peace process "in order to achieve security and stability for all peoples in the region, including [the] Israeli people."

The letter, which came by fax to Peres' office from Egypt's embassy in Tel Aviv, bore the unsigned name and title of the Egyptian president. However, as soon as its contents became public (it was printed in the Israeli daily *Yediot Achronot*), Morsi's spokesman Yasser Ali denounced the letter as fake and a "slander."

The vehemence with which his denial came was especially disconcerting to Israeli officials, some of whom interpreted the letter as an encouraging sign that, even though the Egyptian president comes from the Muslim Brotherhood which is hostile to Israel, all might not be lost, as feared, in Egypt-Israel relations. (Those relations, after all, under the "friendly" former president Hosni Mubarak, were cold at the best of times.)

Mohammed Morsi

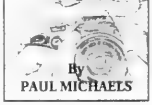
According to the Israeli media, the Egyptian embassy gave permission for Peres' office to release the letter.

This led many journalists, both in Israel and abroad, to surmise that beyond the question of Egypt-Israel relations, what's also at play here are internal Egyptian politics, in particular the dynamic unfolding between Morsi's office and the military. Both are vying for power and control in a period of an unclear modus vivendi following the recent democratic elections (and limitations placed on those results by the army leadership).

A Cairo-based analyst who wishes to remain anonymous offered the following observations in a private exchange: "As to the truth of the letter, it's clear to me that the letter is genuine – that it came from the Egyptian Embassy. The only question is whether Morsi approved it. I don't have a clear answer on that. Among the possibilities: the Foreign Ministry is still in the hands of Mubarak-era people, and this would be a way to embarrass Morsi. Israeli diplomats are well received at the Foreign Ministry, Brotherhood or no Brotherhood. The other possibility is that Morsi's people approved it verbally and kept plausible deniability for local consumption. Note the wording that refers to peace for the Israeli people, not for Israel. I don't know which one it is, but I'm sure that Israel didn't forge this, and neither did *Yediot Achronot*."

*Paul Michaels is director of research and senior media relations for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

According to Reports



By PAUL MICHAELS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# *Jews will almost certainly vote Liberal – again*

**David Lazarus**
Staff Reporter

**Analysis**

**MONTREAL** — With a Quebec election slated for Sept. 4, the day after Labour Day, indications are that the province's Jewish community will once again be among the Liberal government's most dependable supporters at the ballot box – even if they're holding their noses.

Premier Jean Charest dissolved the national assembly last week in order to seek a fourth straight mandate, and the Jewish community, like many other Quebecers, seems to have grown weary and cynical about allegations of widespread corruption in the construction industry, alleged "French-only" treatment of anglophones when dealing with Quebec officials, skyrocketing taxes and collapsing road infrastructure.

But that doesn't mean the vast majority of Quebec Jews – who almost all live in Montreal's west end, as well as in West Island ridings – will vote for anyone other than Liberal candidates.

Quebec Jews seem glumly resigned to the real possibility that the next government could be led by the Parti Québécois, which is never a welcome development for a staunchly federalist community that has already endured two referendums on sovereignty.

In general, ties between the community and Charest have been strong, even though Jewish leaders did meet twice over the past year with officials from the Coalition d'avenir du Québec (CAQ), a new party that's seeking Jewish – and other Quebecers' – votes.

Pundits were speculating last week that either of the two main parties could prevail – possibly with a minority government – although the PQ had been clinging to a slight lead, and most political handicappers were predicting a PQ victory, despite the reported unpopularity of its leader, Pauline Marois.

In west-end D'Arcy McGee, the only majority-Jewish riding in the province, veteran Liberal MNA Lawrence Bergman, 71, can safely rely on constituents voting him in for a sixth term.

In the last provincial election, in 2008, Bergman garnered almost 90 per cent of the vote, and his level of support has almost always been that high since he was first elected in 1994 with a low-by-comparison 65 per cent of the vote, ahead of Equality Party leader Robert Libman.

In April, Bergman had no challenger at the riding's Liberal nomination meeting, held at a local synagogue. One of his strongest supporters has been community leader and *CJN* board member Steven Cummings.

Bergman, who most recently had been serving as chair of the government caucus, has been credited with persuading Charest to approve construction of Pavilion K at the Jewish General Hospital. The Liberal government contributed $95 million to the project, in addition to pledging another $300 million for three other construction phases at the hospital through 2016.

Bergman has also reportedly had Charest's ear, meeting with him every Tuesday morning for 90 minutes.

Rabbi Reuben Poupko of Beth Israel Beth Aaron Congregation said that while it's too early to say which party will win, "we look forward to an election where there is a high-minded debate on the issues facing Quebecers."

In an apparent reference to "reasonable accommodation," an issue that divided minority and majority Quebecers and was prominent in 2008, Rabbi Poupko said: "We hope that no politicians would try to appeal to nativist or xenophobic sentiment that exists among a small minority of Quebecers."

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טורונטו הפכה לאחת העירים הנחשבות בקרב קהילת הגאים הבין לאומית, ולכן כל שנה כשמצעד הגאווה בעירנו יוצא לדרך, נוהרים יותר ממליון גאים וסקרנים להיות בקרבנל שהפך במשך השנים לארוע המרכזי של חגיגות העצמאות בקנדה- אם לא בחשיבות- לפחות בגודל. אז גם השנה התקבצו בעירם של המייפל ליפס גאים מכל רחבי קנדה והעולם לחגוג את יום הגאווה ולהוכיח לכולם שהארון נועד לבגדים ולא לבני אדם, וכמו בהרבה ארועים בהם לוקחים חלק ליברלים, אינטלקטואלים ושמאלנים נאורים, הכריזה קבוצה של מנהיגי הגאים שישראל היא מדינת אפרטהייד אשר מדכאת מיעוטים, ולכן אומות נאורות צריכות להטיל חרם על המדכאים...בארדיש אומרים גזוגעט, כלומר אמרו....חבל רק שאותם הוגים נאורים שכחו שאם מצעדם הגאה היה נערך בשטחים הכבושים והמדוכאים, בעקר ברצועת עזה המדוכאת, מצעדם היה מסתיים על עמודי תליה בככרות הערים הכבושות, ואם הם היו בוחרים לצאת מהארון ברפיח, שכם, עזה או חברון, היו הם מתכבדים בעופרת יצוקה על ידי כיתות יורים עטופות בכאפיות ודגלי חמאס. כיכר תחריר, סמל האביב הערבי, היתה הופכת לחורף הגאווה, ובדמשק הם היו מצטרפים למתנגדי המשטר שנטבחים בכל חוצות הערים.

וכאן המקום להזכיר לכל מי ששכח שבארץ ישראל הכובשת ומדכאת כל שנה צועדים אלפים ורבבות במצעדי גאווה תוצרת כחול לבן וממשלת האפרטהייד והדיכוי מסייעת לצועדים ודואגת שמצעדם יסתיים בשלום ובביטחון בלי שמתאבד מדוכא יפוצץ עצמו ואת מצעדם לטובת שבעים ושתים בתולות.... אז נכון שצביעות ודו פרצופיות הן תכונות מקובלות על ידי נאורים בעקר בשמאל, אך גם לצניעות יש גבול. לכן אסיים במשפט שאמר עיתונאי ופוליטיקאי חכם ממני: "הקמנו מדינה לא כדי למצוא חן בעיני הגויים, אלא כדי שיוכלו לקפוץ לנו!!!" אגב, קוראים לו יאיר לפיד

***איתמר כהן, עורך דין:***

על פי השמועה יש בטורונטו מעל לחמישים אלף ישראלים. מטבע העניין יש לרבים מאיתנו עניינים עסקיים, משפחתיים וחוקיים עם ישראל. אני למשל, אחת לכמה שנים צריך לחתום על מסמך ישראלי, ייפוי כוח, חוזה או משהו דומה, ותמיד חוזרת האופציה היחידה: ללכת לקונסוליה הישראלית. ללכת לקונסוליה אומר לעמוד שעות בתור עצבני, לעבור בדיקה בטחונית ולהרוס כמה שעות בחיים שלרובנו הן יקרות מאוד. והינה בשבוע שעבר נזקקתי לשלוח ארצה בדחיפות מסמך ולא היתה שום אפשרות שאוכל לבזבז בוקר בקונסוליה הישראלית. מה רבתה שימחתי לגלות באתר הקונסוליה רשימת עורכי דין ישראלים שפועלים בטורונטו. וכך פגשתי בשעת אחר צהריים שהיתה נוחה לי את איתמר כהן, איש מקסים ומקצועי ותוך רבע שעה סיימתי את ענייני, בלי לשרוף בוקר שלם.

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MORE GIDI KOREN at www.gidikoren.com

# Jewish, Arab Israelis meet at Canadian camp

**Rena Godfrey**
Special to The CJN

Eyes bright and full of hope, 14-year-old Mahmoud is eager to talk about his life-changing camp experience at a two-week summer program held at Camp Shomria in Perth, Ont.

Mahmoud, who spoke at a recent closing reception in downtown Toronto for the Heart to Heart program at the camp, is one of the 20 Jewish Israeli and Arab Israeli youths between the ages of 14 and 16 who participated in the program.

"It's so beautiful to meet Jewish boys and girls. After being with them, we are a family now and I love them," Mahmoud said, beaming.

Now in its second year, Heart to Heart is an extension of a larger Israeli educational program, Children Teaching Children (CTC), established more than 25 years ago.

CTC is operated and funded by Givat Haviva (www.givathaviva.org.il), a non-profit organization created in 1949 as a national education centre for the Kibbutz Federation in Israel.

CTC facilitates Arab and Jewish encounters for middle-school-age children throughout the Wadi Ara region, to nurture an open dialogue between the two groups.

Yaniv Sagee, shaliach for Givat Haviva and Hashomer Hatzair in the United States, and soon to be director of Givat Haviva in Israel, helped launch Heart to Heart, recognizing the importance of having Jewish and Arab Israeli adolescents meeting in Canada, away from the ongoing pressures and politics of living in Israel.

At Camp Shomria, Israeli campers have the opportunity to integrate with Canadian campers yet can still focus on their daily educational group activities guided by both Israeli and Arab counsellors.

Heart to Heart participant Guy, 15, was thrilled to simply hang out in his cabin with his new friends after a long day of programs and discussion.

"Now, it's easy to understand each other's point of view," he said. "That's one of the things we don't have in Israel because it's hard to meet with Arabic kids. We live in our own cities and there's usually no mixing."

Shahin, another Arab-Israeli Heart to Heart camper, also never had the chance to meet Jewish children his age before the program and didn't expect to make such good friends, but was very happy he did.

Participants in Heart to Heart

Lina, an Arab-Israeli girl, was extremely touched when her new Jewish friends waited for them to break the month-long fast of Ramadan.

Sagee believes that having an integrated camp like Heart to Heart also benefits Canadian campers, giving them a "unique opportunity to see Israel through the lens of both its Arab and Jewish citizens."

He is optimistic that CTC will one day become a national program, so that more students such as Mahmoud and Guy will have the chance to recognize and explore their similar cultures and perhaps even become friends.

Program director of Heart to Heart, Zakaria Mahameed, who accompanied the group from Israel, was himself an Arab participant of a similar integrated program some 15 years ago and knows first-hand the success of such initiatives.

He especially loves to see Arab and Jewish parents of Heart to Heart campers connecting back home in Israel.

When asked about staying in touch with the Jewish members of the group after camp, Mahmoud smiled and talked about plans for two big parties when they return to Israel. One gathering will be hosted in a Jewish house and the other in an Arab home.

Mahmoud also dreams of peace.

"Many people in the world think that the Arab and Jewish people hate each other, but it's not all of them. We want to change people's minds and show them that we can live together and love each other," he said.

For more information about Heart to Heart, visit www.hashomerhatzair.ca.

# *I wish you all of life's blessings*

***Life Coach Corner***

***Judy Siblin-Librach***

I have been writing this column for six years now. It has been a joy, a privilege and an honour to have this little corner to talk about everything to do with finding your bliss.

The day the idea for the column was accepted by the editor was one of the happiest of my life. I was so grateful to the editor and his staff for their support, belief in me and confidence in the topic.

It has been thrilling to impart the wisdom of all of the wonderful authors, speakers and thinkers on subjects such as happiness, gratitude, kindness and overall well-being.

At first, I quoted a lot of the spiritual thinkers of our time, but then gradually my confidence grew, until I was able to write a column in my own voice, and that was a thrilling realization. Then came the emails and lovely comments of appreciation from readers, and people stopping me always to say, "I read your column. I loved it. We clip your columns and enjoy the feeling-good messages in each one."

So after six years, this is going to be my last column.

To all of my readers, I thank you for your loyalty and support. A special thank-you goes to a man I've never met, who clipped every one of my columns and pasted them into a scrapbook that he reads often, enjoys and shares with others. I thank my incredible husband, Cliff, for his insight and editing suggestions. A thank-you to my wonderful children, Max and Lily, for their excitement and for being the inspiration for many of the columns, along with many of our friends, who gave me ideas, suggestions and even made it into the column!

But this column would have never have happened without a real inspiration. This column is dedicated to my father, Herbert E. Siblin, whose goodness, kindness, integrity, honesty and overall humanity was the basis for what this column is and what my life is all about.

Anyone who knows my dad will agree that his generosity of spirit, ethics and goodness are apparent in all he does. And so his way of being has always been a beacon of light, and this column was a way to share that. He would often rejoice in the columns, not even realizing that he infused almost every one of them, by just being a persona grata, the prince of a man that he is.

I'll never forget when our family visited Israel for the first time and I wrote a column about it. My dad called immediately after reading the column and was very emotional. He told me he loved the column and that he had tears in his eyes when he read it.

I've learned a lot from my dad, including that being outwardly focused is a wonderful way to be, that being a mensch will always be the right choice and that you will always find happiness in bringing happiness to others. He also taught me that when it's time to say goodbye, smile, be brave, be grateful and cheerful, and try to set a good example for others.

Dad, thank you for that wonderful advice, and I will continue to try to follow in your footsteps in every way that I can.

To my readers, I wish you all of life's blessings, happiness and bliss always.

With love and gratitude, Judy Librach

*Judy Siblin Librach is an Adler-trained life coach. She can be reached at www.findingyourbliss.com.*

***Mazel Tov will return next week — Send us your digital memories***

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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

Social Networking @ The Canadian Jewish News
for the :-) generation
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NEEDBOX/CS

**Deadline reminder: Aug. 13 is the deadline for the issue of Aug. 23. Aug. 20 is the deadline for the issue of Aug. 30. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or email whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, Aug. 9

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

One Family Fund holds its golf tournament at King Valley Golf Club,1 p.m., 15675 Dufferin St. www.onefamilyfund.ca/events-golf.

**OJIBWAY DANCERS**

Gonrah Desgohwah White Pine Dancers perform at the family fun night at the Barry Zukerman Auditorium, Earl Bales Park. Free activities begin at 5:30 p.m., performance starts at 7 p.m.

## Saturday, Aug. 11

**ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL**

Orillia Country Shul, 151 Creighton St. S., Atherly, near Orillia, resumes its summer services at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 11, **Rabbi Cory Weiss**. Aug. 18. **Rabbi Micah Streiffer**. All are welcome. 705-327-7069.

## Sunday, Aug. 12

**SHAAR SHALOM SINGLES**

Shaar Shalom Singles (45+) present award-winning singer **Andrea Garofalo**, 7:30 p.m., 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill. $10. **David**, 416-224-9494.

**JEWISH WAR VETERANS**

Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Toronto post, meet, breakfast 9:30 a.m.; meeting 10:30 a.m., Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St.

**PJ LIBRARY STORY TIME**

PJ Library holds a story-time event, 10 a.m. at the Schwartz Reisman Centre, 9600 Bathurst St., Vaughan. Story times also Aug. 19 and Aug. 26 at Wood Valley Park. Free. Registration required at the website: www.pjlibrary905.ca.

## Tuesday, Aug. 14

**CONCERTS IN THE PARK**

The Royal Canadian Legion Concert Band performs tonight at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre, in Earl Bales Park, 7 p.m. Aug. 21, the Casablanca Orchestra performs. In case of rain, the performance moves to the Earl Bales Community Centre.

**JEWISH ICONS**

**Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses Jewish icons of the 20th century. Tonight, **Leo Frank**. Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 7:30 p.m.

## Thursday, Aug. 16

**FRUMBA**

Try Frumba, a cardio dance class for women set to Jewish, Israeli music, 7:15, Pride of Israel Synagogue, 55 Lissom Cres. Call 416-226-0111 for tickets.

## Other News

**THE CUTTING VEG**

The Cutting Veg, a community-supported agriculture program, delivers organic produce to Toronto-area synagogues throughout the summer and fall. For more information, visit www.thecuttingveg.com/CSA or call 647-388-7444.

**THE SHIRA SINGERS**

The Shira Singers, who perform for seniors in the GTA, are looking for new choir members. Call **Yair**, 905-886-1755.

**Continued on page 23**

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METRO SQUARE 3636 Steeles Ave E Markham • COMMERCE GATE 505 Hwy 7 E Thornhill 905.763.8

**Continued from page 22**

**THEATRE TOURS**

The Temple Sinai Social Club is going to see *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Theatre By The Bay, Barrie, **Aug. 15**. Bus and matinée, $55. Reserve with **Marcie**, 416-487-3281.

Beth Emeth Theatre Tours is going to Stratford **Sept. 12** to see *42nd Street*. Bus and matinée, $100. Call **Tema Wasserman**, 905-770-0355.

**KAVANAH GARDEN RETREAT**

An all-day workshop featuring yoga, meditation, drumming, Pilates, movement and drama will be held **Aug. 26**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Shoresh's Kavanah Garden, 18 Lebovic Campus Dr., Vaughan. $100 (financial assistance available). To register: http://tolifetolife.eventbrite.co. For more info, send an email to: drjuliasegal@gmail.com.

**MOSAIC OUTDOOR CLUB**

Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America for Jewish outdoor enthusiasts is holding a Labour Day retreat in Colorado, **Aug. 30-Sept. 3**. For more info, visit www.mosaicoutdoor.org or call 1-888-MOSAICS (667-2427) to register.

**JUMPSTART HEBREW**

JumpStart Hebrew is a program for children entering JK to Grade 2, **Aug. 27-31** at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Children will be introduced to Hebrew through art, music and play. Email **Karen Goodis**, karen@bethsholom.net or www.bethsholom.net.

**UJA CAMPAIGN LAUNCH**

Oscar winner **Jon Voight** is the guest speaker at UJA Campaign's 2013 launch, **Aug. 21**, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 7:30 p.m. $45. 416-631-5705 or www.ujaevents.com/registration/voight.

**MELTON MINI SCHOOL**

Melton Adult Mini School is open for registration for the fall term. Classes meet Wednesday mornings at Beth Emeth Synagogue. Call **Loretta**, 416-789-7400 or visit the website: www.melton-toronto.org.

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Torah Tots at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham is open for fall registration. 905-886-0420, ext. 227.

Temple Sinai Nursery School is holding an open house **Sept. 6**, 5:30 p.m., with bouncy castle, pizza dinner and games. RSVP 416-487-3291 or www.templesinai.net/study/nursery.

**HIGH HOLIDAY TICKETS**

High Holiday tickets for services at Shaar Shalom Synagogue are now available to the public. Call 905-889-4975.

## JF&CS GROUPS

**BEREAVED PARENTS**

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**PEP Group** presents entertainer **Marc Ballesteros,** Aug. 9, 12:30 p.m., Earl Bales Community Centre. RSVP **Terri** 416-785-0335.

**Seniors Social Club** presents **Yitzhak Argaman**, Aug. 12 at 7 p.m., Earl Bales Community Centre. RSVP **Sandy** 416-736-8073 or 416-458-1440.

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. Casino Rama, Aug. 15. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m. First class free.; Wednesdays, social bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts. Call **Morty**, 416-783-6078; 416-630-6487.

**The Bridge Club** at Forest Hill Library is seeking new members. Call **Lea** (evenings), 416-487-7630.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Active Seniors & Zoomers, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. Aug. 9, illustrated presentation about **Picasso**, 1:30 p.m.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526. **Colin Blayney.** Join **Josh Matlow** Sept. 5 at 8 a.m. for the launch of a month of free events: walking tours, fitness classes and speakers.

**Bernard Betel Centre** 416-225-2112. Aug. 14, **Susan Jackson** discusses "What Do Today's Families Know About Being Jewish?" 10 a.m.; Aug.15, Strawberry social – tea and concert, 1:30 p.m.; Aug. 16, **Bobbi Epstein** discusses "Taking Care of Your Teeth," 1:30 p.m.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

**Kevin Courrier** teaches a course on Love and Hisses: Debating the Movies, Aug. 1-29.

**Iain Scott** discusses opera. Aug. 15, **Maria Callas**; Aug. 22 **Joan Sutherland**, 1 p.m.

Drop-in duplicate bridge, Thursdays 12:30-3:30 p.m. Current events discussion, Thursdays, 12:45 p.m.

Save the date: Sept. 6, the best of Hebrew University's thinkers speak at the JCC. Call **Gustavo**, ext. 4102.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

**Keith Friedlander** teaches a course on People of the Comic Book: Jews and the Graphic Novel, 6:30 p.m. Aug. 9, "Joann Sfar's *The Rabbi's Cat.*"

The adult daytime choir runs all summer, Tuesdays 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

A summer evening choir is being offered, Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. Open to all, no auditions. music@mnjcc.org.

*Kids Who Can*, photos by 13 photographers from Easter Seals summer camps is at the gallery until Sept. 9.

Miles Nadal JCC holds an open house Sept. 5, 12-8 p.m. Free fitness demos, activities for kids and tours.

Ongoing group and private swim lessons, ext. 530; aquatics@mnjcc.org.

Personal training for youth and adults, ext. 506; jasone@mnjcc.org.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

## SCHWARTZ REISMAN CENTRE

9600 Bathurst St., Vaughan. 905-303-1821. www.srcentre.ca.

Free Sunday programs all summer, ext. 3047. Daycare registration is now open. Register now for programs. Call **Monique** for family and children's programs, ext. 3047; **Staci** for adults/seniors, ext. 3037; **Tonya** for fitness and health, ext. 3016; **Naama** for daycare and preschool, ext. 3018; **Alex** for JCC Chai Sports, ext. 4465.

The outdoor pool is now open 12-7 p.m. For swimming lessons, call **Yuri,** ext. 3034.

Save the date: Sept. 9, the best of Hebrew University's thinkers speak at the centre. Call **Gustavo,** ext. 3038.

**KEEPING KOSHER: Rabbis representing kashrut agencies from around the world met for an Association of Kashrus Organizations conference in Toronto last month. The event was hosted by the Kashruth Council of Canada. The organizing committee includes, from left, Richard Rabkin, Rabbi Yacov Felder, Rabbi Sholom Adler, Rabbi Sholem Fishbane and Rabbi Tsvi Heber.**

***SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN***

# Too hot to make dessert? Try an ice-box cake

**Eileen Goltz**
Special to The CJN

Anyone who knows me knows I am a huge fan of dessert. In fact, if given the choice, I'll eat it first. While baking something is my typical modus operandi, when the temperature and humidity start edging toward thermonuclear meltdown, I lean less toward cooking and more toward how cold I can make the sweet for the end of my meal.

I suggest we all head straight to the quaintly named ice-box cake. For those of us not born before the 1930s, an ice-box was the storage unit that was the precursor to the refrigerator where big blocks of ice were delivered to the home to place in the "ice box" to keep food cold.

Ice-box cake is a slight misnomer. It's usually a dessert-like recipe that contains custard or curd or whipped cream layered between cake, graham crackers, cookies or graham cracker or cookie crumbs. These layers "rest" or "set up" in the refrigerator (as opposed to the freezer) for several hours or overnight so that all the ingredients evolve into a single, luscious, creamy, cake-like dessert that will remind you of an éclair, cake, cookie and the best thing you've ever eaten, all rolled into mouthful after mouthful of delicious.

The easy part is putting together your ice-box treat. For expediency sake, most people usually opt for store bought cookies or cakes for the key ingredient because, like me, they don't want to cook when it's too hot. Sometimes, though, you do have to make the cake or cookie, as it's a key ingredient of the recipe. That said, I typically make my own whipped cream, custard, curd or pudding because I'm not a big fan of their "imitation" flavours. I also usually avoid recipes that require gelatin – I'm not a big fan of the texture it creates.

Most of the following recipes are quite flexible and forgiving when it comes to the ingredients. You have the luxury – dare I say freedom – to interchange most of the ingredients and individualize your creations according to your (or your guests') preferences. Hate strawberries? Use raspberries or blackberries. Don't like chocolate cookies? Use vanilla or pecan. Lactose intolerant? Get the non-dairy whipped topping. Just remember, no matter what you put together, cold in very hot weather is always delicious. I am, however, making no comment on the number of calories you will consume when you decide that leftovers are just not an option.

### CHOCOLATE AND CREAM CHEESE ICE-BOX CAKE

1 package (18-1/4 oz.) chocolate cake mix
1 egg
1/2 cup butter, melted
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1 cup sugar
1 carton (12 oz.) frozen whipped topping, thawed, divided
3 cups cold milk
2 packages (3.4 oz. each) instant vanilla pudding mix
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
1/4 tsp. rum extract
2 tbsp. chopped pecans, toasted

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 9x13-in. baking pan. In a large bowl, combine the cake mix, egg, butter and pecans until they form a crumb mixture. Press the mixture into the prepared pan. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes. Cool completely.

In the bowl of an electric mixer or food processor combine the cream cheese and sugar and beat or process for about 2 minutes or until combined. By hand, fold in 1 cup of the whipped topping. Spread the mixture over the top of the cooled crust. Refrigerate for 10 minutes.

In another large bowl, whisk milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes. Let stand for 2 minutes or until soft set. Stir in nutmeg and extract. Spread over cream cheese layer. Top with remaining whipped topping. Sprinkle with pecans. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Serves 16.

Submitted by Irene Koslowski, Chicago.

**Continued on page 25**


# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

**Steeles Memorial Chapel**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Vekselhtein, Lora | July 20/12 | Private |
| Render, Brian | July 19/12 | Private |
| Wiser, Morris | July 21/12 | 70 Danby Ave |
| Gaba, Viktor | July 22/12 | 205 Hilda Ave |
| Broun, Oskar | July 22/12 | 30 Colonial Cres |
| Chriqui, Albert | July 23/12 | 650 Briar Hill Ave |
| Borovoy, Edward (Ted) | July 23/12 | 2878 Bur Oak Ave |
| Kanner, Regina | July 23/12 | 56 Stormont St |
| Rudman, Evgenia | July 23/12 | 34 Southvale Dr |
| Vinokurova, Frida | July 24/12 | |
| Katz, Bradley David | July 24/12 | 46 Brookmill Dr |
| Gluckman, Margit | July 24/12 | |
| Lindenberg, Miriam | July 26/12 | 1801 Bayview Ave |
| Sokolow, Marvin Samuel | July 25/12 | 1597 Dufferin St |
| Borissovskaia, Tamara | July 26/12 | |
| Manzar, Zahava | July 27/12 | |
| Mingail, Aaron | July 27/12 | 45 Coach Liteway |
| Benjamin, Tamara | July 26/12 | Private |
| Bieler, Richard | July 27/12 | 850 Steeles Ave. W |

**BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Michael Canton | Jul 21/12 | 40 Faywood Blvd. |
| Bernie Berenblum | Jul 20/12 | 541 Finch Avenue, West |
| Andree Vogel | Jul 20/12 | 3900 Yonge Street |
| Paula Martenfeld | Jul 20/12 | 5 Bluejay Place |
| Sara Waltman | Jul 23/12 | 7 Ambassador Place |
| Gloria Strom | Jul 24/12 | 1 Concorde Place |
| Stan Eisner | Jul 24/12 | 65 Skymark Drive |
| Sara Goldlist | Jul 25/12 | 8 Covington Road |
| Murray Malkin | Jul 25/12 | 33 Mill Street |
| Athalia Leibman | Jul 28/12 | 645 Castlefield Ave. |
| Molly Wohl | Jul 26/12 | 8 Covington Road |
| Gerald Paulin | Jul 26/12 | 7300 Yonge Street |
| Bernie Baum | Jul 26/12 | 2500 Bathurst Street |
| Sam Eckler | Jul 26/12 | 485 Steeles Avenue, W. |
| Abraham Rak | Jul 27/12 | 343 Clark Ave. W. |

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bryna Mickelson | Jul 19/12 | 64 St. Clair Ave. West |
| Gloria Cohen | Jul 22/12 | 1 Northwestern Ave. |
| Ben Weinstein | Jul 23/12 | 4001 Bayview Avenue |

**Hy Zilberg** passed away peacefully on July 20th, 2012 in his home in Summerfield, Florida. He was with his wife, Janice and children Danny & Larry Lipson, Devorah Ohayon (Lipson), Robin & Rachel Zilberg. Hy and Eunice (predeceased in 2000) ran the Mam'selle Shop in Niagara Falls.

He was a man of honesty and integrity; charitable and good and will be missed by his wife, sister Sybil, children, 12 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren, and all who knew him. Donations may be made to Niagara Hospice or Marion County Hospice, Florida.

**RUBIN, Marvin** - On Saturday, July 28, 2012. Marvin Rubin of Winnipeg, beloved husband of Betty for 60 years. Loving son of the late Jacob and Mamel Reibel. Cherished father and father-in-law of Marlene and Barry Fisher, Janet Ross, and Bruce Rubin and Steven Hummel. Dear brother and brother-in-law of Louis and Collette Rubin of Winnipeg, Dorothy and the late Henry Karpf of Philadelphia, and the late Miriam and Rabbi Menachem Epstein. Devoted grandfather of Matthew and Hilete, Jeffrey, Daniel, Jessica, Nicholas, Stephanie, and Sophie. Lovingly remembered by nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Service was held at Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel on Monday, July 30th at 1:00 pm. Interment in the Community Section of Pardes Chaim Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies at 416-864-9735 or to Magen David Adom at 416-780- 0034.

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# You can be flexible here

Continued from page 24

**It's not quite an ice-box cake, but the Devil's Food White-Out Cake from *Baking From My Home To Yours* by Dorie Greenspan (Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006) also features delicious layers of chocolate and cream.**

### ICE-BOX CAKE

3 cups heavy cream
3 tbsp. sugar
1 tbsp. vanilla extract
2 (9-oz.) packages chocolate wafer cookies
unsweetened cocoa (or chocolate shavings)

In a large bowl, beat cream, sugar and vanilla with an electric mixer on high speed until soft peaks form.

On a flat serving plate, arrange 7 cookies side by side in a circle, keeping 1 cookie in the centre. Spread with 1/2 cup whipped cream, making a 7-inch circle. Repeat with remaining cookies and cream, making 11 layers of cookies and ending with a layer of cream (there will be a few cookies left over). Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. To serve, dust top lightly with cocoa powder or chocolate shavings.

Adapted from *The Magnolia Bakery Cookbook*

### STRAWBERRY ICE-BOX CAKE WITH FUDGE DRIZZLE

2 lb. fresh strawberries, washed, hulled and sliced thin (save 5 or 6 whole ones for garnish)
3-1/4 cups whipping cream, divided (3 cups + 1/4 cup)
2/3 cup powdered sugar, divided (1/3 + 1/3)
1 tsp. vanilla
24 to 28 whole graham crackers (package of about 19 oz.)
2 oz. dark chocolate, finely chopped
1 tbsp. butter

In the bowl of an electric mixer, whip 3 cups of cream until they form medium peaks. Add 1/3 cup powdered sugar and vanilla and whip to stiff peaks.

Spread a dollop of the whipped cream on the bottom of a 9x13-in. baking pan. Place six graham crackers on top of the whipped cream. Gently spread more whipped cream on top of the graham crackers. Place a layer of sliced strawberries on top. Repeat this process to create three more layers (total four layers of graham crackers and 3 layers of strawberry slices). End with a layer of whipped cream.

To make the frosting: in a microwave bowl, combine the chocolate, butter and 1/4 cup cream. Heat just until the chocolate and butter melt. Whisk slightly and then add the remaining powdered sugar. Whisk vigorously to remove any lumps. If there are lumps, microwave for 10 seconds and whisk again. Drizzle the fudge frosting over the top. Refrigerate for at least four hours. Garnish with the whole berries. Serves 10 to 12.

### STRAWBERRY PRETZEL ICE BOX PIE

I saw a version of this recipe in a magazine a few weeks ago and just had to make it. It was amazing!

2 cups finely crushed pretzel sticks
3/4 cup butter, melted
1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
2 cups sliced fresh strawberries
1 (14-oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
1/2 (8-oz.) package cream cheese, softened
2 cups whipping cream, divided
1/3 cup granulated sugar

Preheat oven to 350. In a bowl combine the crushed pretzels, melted butter and brown sugar then firmly press mixture on bottom, up sides, and onto lip of a lightly greased 10-inch pie plate. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned then let cool completely.

In the bowl of a food processor, chop up the strawberries, brushing down the sides as needed until they are in smallish pieces but *not* puréed. Remove them from the bowl. Place the sweetened condensed milk and cream cheese in the bowl (you don't have to clean it out) and process until smooth. By hand, fold in the strawberries.

In the bowl of an electric mixer beat 3/4 cup whipping cream until soft peaks form. Gently fold the whipped cream into strawberry mixture. Spoon the strawberry filling into prepared crust. Cover and freeze 8 to 12 hours or until firm. Beat remaining 1-1/4 cups whipping cream at high speed until foamy and gradually add granulated sugar, beating until soft peaks form. Spread over pie. Freeze 1 hour or until whipped cream is firm. Serves 8.

Modified from a recipe in *Southern Living*, June 2012

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# Jewish London embraces Olympic spirit

**Miriam Shaviv**
JTA

For Leslie Lyndon and the London Jewish community, it was a minor miracle.

When Lyndon carried the Olympic torch through a north London neighbourhood, it was more than representative of how Jewish Londoners have embraced the Olympic spirit. This was five years since Lyndon, at the age of 63, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. No longer able to recall instructions, he needed his stepson, Matthew, to help him through the day.

But like most of the 8,000 torch bearers chosen to carry the Olympic flame in the run-up to the Games, he was being recognized for good works – in his case, as the former cantor of the Masorti New North London Synagogue. And his community came out by the hundreds to support him.

"Never have I felt so confident of an early minyan," said Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg in an email to his members. "To see you, Leslie, with your typical beaming smile, holding the torch high in both hands, running up the hill – I wonder how many of us cried for joy and love of you and all your family. Then you stopped and lit the torch for the subsequent runner – I'm not sure what the [blessing] ought to be, '*lehadlik ner shel* humanity?'" To light the candle of humanity?

This outpouring of pride – replicated across the Jewish suburbs for a couple dozen other Jewish activists also honoured as torch bearers – was typical of how members of London's Jewish community seem to have welcomed the Olympics into their lives. Since the opening ceremony on July 27, Jews have shown enormous involvement both personally and communally.

In the Olympic venues there are, anecdotally, hundreds of Jewish volunteers, from Phil Ravitz, a retired journalist who is responsible for getting archers from their competitions to the press zone, to Anne Iarchy, a personal trainer who is marshalling the road cycling events.

The most visible Jewish presence is the dozen or so Jewish chaplains of all denominations, part of a 190-strong team of religious leaders providing pastoral services to the athletes, media, volunteers and Olympic workers.

"I've been quite busy," said Alex Goldberg, one of the Orthodox chaplains. "You see people who are away from home, others who are recovering from illnesses, who are quite happy to have made it here. Some people can get isolated in big buildings. Others just need to take a break."

While he is there to minister to people of all religions, "I've probably met around 100 Jewish people, mostly from the media," he said. "Even when they are not religious, they are pleased to see a Jewish chaplain on the team. They come up and introduce themselves. I've been here for the past two Shabbatot and a lot of Jewish people came for some coffee and cake after the prayers."

The supply of kosher food to the Olympic Park, however, has been a complicated operation.

David Colman, director at Hermolis, the kosher food supplier, said the company is delivering meals to 25 non-Israeli athletes who wish to keep kosher, as well as a stock of 1,000 meals meant for journalists, 1,000 for volunteers and workers, and 500 for corporate events. In addition, kosher sandwiches and hot meals for visitors are available from some vendors in the Olympic Park.

However, due to Olympic sponsorship rules, shops are not allowed to advertise that they are selling kosher food, and the packaging has had to be minimalist, without the company's normal logos but with a kosher and halal stamp.

"We don't know where our own meals are being sold," Colman said. "It's a bit of a crazy situation. If visitors go to a café and ask for kosher, hopefully they will either be offered it or told where else it is sold."

Across the city, there seems to be a rise in the number of tourists visiting Jewish attractions.

"We certainly have had a more international audience coming through the doors, which is fantastic," said Janice Lopatkin, external relations executive at London's Jewish Museum. "Many people are coming in with Olympic passes, and we have had journalists from Singapore and Hong Kong doing a report about what else to do in London during the Olympics."

The museum has been listed in several Olympic guides to London, and many visitors, she added, may have been attracted to the museum's display about Sir Ludwig Guttmann, a German Jewish refugee to London who inspired and founded the Paralympic Games. In the last month, some 3,000 people have visited a website set up by the Jewish Committee for the London Games (JCLG), which lists the Jewish community's main attractions and facilities, as well as a timetable of Olympic-related events of Jewish interest.

"We have been inundated with hundreds of inquiries through the website, mostly about kosher food in the Olympic Park," said Peter Mason, director of the London Jewish Forum, a partner in the JCLG.

Many congregations have had events to celebrate the opening of the Olympics. Just a few miles from the Olympic Stadium, for example, the Woodford Liberal Synagogue held a special Olympics kiddush last Shabbat. As at several other Liberal shuls, congregants recited a prayer for the Games to be peaceful and healthy, which was written by their rabbi, Richard Jacobi.

The Orthodox chief rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, composed his own prayer in memory of the 11 Israeli athletes murdered at the Munich Olympics 40 years ago.

Other synagogues have had to contend with disruptions caused by the Olympics. Westminster Synagogue, an independent Progressive congregation that is associated with the Reform movement, found that access to its central London building became difficult when Olympic organizers started using Hyde Park across the way to show Olympic events on large screens and hold concerts. As a result, since mid-July the community has been visiting various Reform and Liberal shuls across the city every Shabbat.

"We've been making friends as well as learning how others run their services. We've picked up a few ideas along the way," said Westminister Synagogue's rabbi, Thomas Salamon. "I've been asked to preach in several synagogues and called up to the Torah. It's not unsettling at all. It's a really different experience. Everyone has been very welcoming."

**Israel's Olympic team meets with President Shimon Peres, seated centre, prior to leaving for London.** ***[Flash90 photo]***

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## Ahmadinejad makes new call for Israel's annihilation

**Asher Zeiger**
The Times of Israel

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's most recent call for the destruction of Israel represented his most comprehensively antisemitic speech ever and is particularly "ominous" in light of Tehran's continued quest for nuclear capability, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) warned last Thursday.

Addressing a group of ambassadors from Islamic countries last week, Ahmadinejad said the "annihilation of the Zionist regime" is not just a Palestinian issue, but the "key for solving the world problems," and he slammed U.S. leaders for "kissing the feet of the Zionists."

Aug. 17th's annual Quds Day – Jerusalem Day – "is not merely a strategic solution for the Palestinian problem, as it is to be viewed as a key for solving the world problems," Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying. "Any freedom lover and justice seeker in the world must do its best for the annihilation of the Zionist regime in order to pave the path for the establishment of justice and freedom in the world."

"It has now been some 400 years that a horrendous Zionist clan has been ruling the major world affairs," added Ahmadinejad, asserting that the Zionists are "behind the scenes of the major power circles, in political, media, monetary and banking organizations in the world."

**President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**

The ADL noted in a statement last Thursday that this speech differed from past antisemitic rants by the Iranian leader in that he no longer tried to hide the fact that by "Zionists" he does not mean Israelis, but Jews.

"In his bluntness, Ahmadinejad cuts through the false dichotomy of anti-Zionism and antisemitism when he uses the term 'Zionist' to describe alleged Jewish control of the world for 400 years," said ADL director Abraham Foxman.

Foxman said that while the message itself has been heard before, Ahmadinejad's words had "more ominous overtones and should be taken seriously as the Iranian regime continues on its march toward a nuclear weapon."

Ahmadinejad also made reference to U.S. Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney's visit to Israel last week, saying that the influence of the Zionist regime is so profound that "the presidential election hopefuls must go kiss the feet of the Zionists to ensure their victory in the election... If the people's votes really counts in those countries, why then a candidate must go to kiss the feet of a clandestine Zionist minority, sacrificing the entire prestige, chanted mottoes, and values of their system before the Zionists, and justifying the entire criminal acts of that regime?"

Foxman said that Ahmadinejad's remarks were "filled with antisemitism and expressions of contempt for Israel and its leaders." He called them the "hallmark of the hate-filled and irrational nature of the Iranian regime."

In related news, Iran denied a report that some computers at the country's nuclear facilities were hit with a virus that shut them down and played the AC/DC song *Thunderstruck* at full blast.

The head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Fereidoun Abbasi, called the report "incorrect," according to *Bloomberg News*, citing the *Iranian Students News Agency*. He did not elaborate on the issue.

*TimesofIsrael.com*

*With files from JTA*

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# Attack on Iran could come soon: ex-Mossad chief

Times of Israel Staff

**JERUSALEM** — Former Mossad chief Efraim Halevy, who told *The Times of Israel* in an interview in March that there would be "nothing else left" but a resort to force if the diplomatic track with Iran did not quickly produce a breakthrough, hinted Aug. 2 that the moment of truth on Iran's nuclear drive is imminent.

"If I were an Iranian, I would be very fearful of the next 12 weeks," Halevy, who is also a former national security adviser and ambassador, told the *New York Times*.

In a recording broadcast on Channel 2 news Aug. 2, he added that Israel's threats of military action had a certain "credibility and seriousness."

The *New York Times* report, focusing on talks here Aug. 1 by Defence Secretary Leon Panetta, said there was "feverish speculation" in Israel that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "will act in September or early October."

Apart from Netanyahu's concern that Israel's military option would "soon" become redundant, the paper cited several other reasons "for the potential timing."

Among them, it said, was the fact that "Israel does not like to fight wars in winter." Also, Netanyahu "feels that he will have less leverage if [U.S.] President [Barack] Obama is re-elected," while if Mitt Romney were to win the November election, "the new president would be unlikely to want to take on a big military action early in his term."

Still, the Aug. 2 article continued, "a number of administration officials say they remain hopeful that Israel has no imminent plans to attack and may be willing to let the United States take the lead in any future military strike, which they say would not occur until next year at the earliest."

The *New York Times* further reported that administration officials say "Israeli officials are less confrontational in private" and that Netanyahu "understands the consequences of military action for Israel, the United States and the region. They say they know he has to maintain the credibility of his threat to keep up pressure on the United States to continue with sanctions and the development of military plans."

In his interview with *The Times of Israel* in late March, Halevy said that if the then-upcoming international talks with Iran on thwarting its nuclear program did not quickly produce a breakthrough, there would be "nothing else left" but a resort to force.

He also said he had "no doubt that for the past few years, Israel has been readying its capabilities to meet the Iranians if necessary by force.

It was "tragic," Halevy added at the time, that "I don't see any great effort being made" by the P5+1 group – the five UN Security Council permanent members and Germany – to prepare urgently and effectively for those talks.

Efraim Halevy

The lights "should be burning through the night" to get a strategy together, he said. "The number one thing the world should be doing [on Iran] is investing enormous preparation into the P5+1 confrontation, because this is really the 'Last Train to San Fernando.'"

Iran, he predicted, would doubtless try to play for time in the talks. The international community, therefore, needed to be ready with its strategy and tactics, and to be represented by "a very high-level, experienced, wise and creative negotiator."

For the international community, said Halevy, "there's no time for, you know, 'Let's meet again in two or three months, let's do our homework, let's not rush things, let's look at it, and so forth.'" Rather, he said, "there has to be a breakthrough… If there is no breakthrough, it means to say that the talks have failed."

Asked if, by a breakthrough, he meant Iran announcing the suspension of its nuclear program, Halevy demurred.

"I don't want to say 'Iran suspending the program.' I don't believe that everything will become public overnight." But it would need to be clear, he said, "that there is a serious negotiation… They don't have to spell it all out, but it has to be clear."

Halevy said he did see signs of greater potential international co-ordination over Iran. He was encouraged by the growing consensus on tackling the civil war in Syria, notably including Russia and China, which he said could also be reflected in a co-ordinated strategy on Iran. He also noted that the priority for the ayatollahs' regime in Iran is "survival" at all costs.

Nonetheless, if talks fail, "there's nothing else left" but a resort to force, he said.

Perhaps, it was put to Halevy, Israel could live with a nuclear weapons-capable Iran? He responded: "I don't think that we should countenance that as long as we can do what we can to remove it. I don't accept the notion that Israel is destructible. But I think that if Iran retains a nuclear capability, life here is going to be very tough for a very long period to come. Israel will not disappear, but Israel will go through a period which I would not like it to go through."

Asked whether he believed the Israeli government wanted a diplomatic solution, he answered: "I'm not sure every Israeli wants a diplomatic solution… I'm not sure that the government is entirely behind this support for a diplomatic solution."

In related news, a former head of the Israel Defence Forces military intelligence said that his country lacks the international "legitimacy" needed to succeed in an attack on Iran's nuclear installations.

The timing for an Israeli strike "is not now since, even if is successful, it will ruin the legitimacy that is needed," Aharon Ze'evi Frakash told the *Jerusalem Post*.

Farkash served as the IDF's head of military intelligence from 2001-2006.

"If Israel attacks, we will find ourselves being asked why we attacked when the world was imposing tough economic sanctions and was paying for this and was hurting as a result," Farkash said.

He reportedly added that an Israeli attack would turn into an "operation with more attacks within weeks, months and years after" the initial strike. "This means that Israel will need legitimacy to be able to maintain" the operation. This was "the key to success or failure."

He also said Israel is unlikely to attack Iran before the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 6. What is needed, he said, is to make the Islamic regime feel as if it is facing an "existential threat."

*Timesofisrael.com, with files from JTA*

# *Sanctions not working*

**Continued from page 1**

However forceful our statements, they have not convinced Iran that we are serious about stopping them. Right now, the Iranian regime believes that the international community does not have the will to stop its nuclear program. This must change and it must change quickly, because time to resolve this issue peacefully is running out."

Panetta emphasized the U.S. administration's resolve to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon.

"I want to reassert again the position of the United States, that with regards to Iran, we will not allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon, period. We will not allow them to develop a nuclear weapon, and we will exert all options in the effort to ensure that that does not happen. I want you and the people of Israel to know a few things that have not and will not change. The United States stands firmly with Israel, and we have a rock-solid commitment to the security of Israel and to the security of its citizens. And make no mistake: we will remain determined to prevent Iran from ever acquiring a nuclear weapon."

White House officials agreed with Netanyahu's assessment that sanctions have not set back Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program, but they counselled patience.

"We completely agree with the prime minister's assessment that Iran has failed to make that choice and that is absolutely a disappointment," White House spokesperson Jay Carney said Aug. 1.

During a meeting earlier last week with Mitt Romney, the presumed U.S. Republican presidential nominee, Netanyahu expressed skepticism about the sanctions.

"We have to be honest and say that all the diplomacy and sanctions so far have not set back the Iranian program by one iota," he told Romney.

The Obama administration has been making the case for months to Netanyahu that he should delay any plans to strike Iran until it exhausts peaceful options.

Asked about Netanyahu's comments, Ben Rhodes, the U.S. deputy national security adviser, also agreed with the Israeli leader.

"We continue to be dissatisfied, as Prime Minister Netanyahu is, with Iran's continued failure to live up to its international obligations," he said.

Rhodes said, however, that the sanctions were having a dire impact on Iran's economy and suggested more time was needed to assess whether they would move Iran's leadership to agree to terms for greater transparency about its nuclear activities.

"What we see today is not just a unified international community, but you see sharp divisions within the Iranian political system, far more so than we have seen in many years," Rhodes continued. "And I think that is a testament to the pressure that they're under."

Rhodes said that what the Obama administration has accomplished "is a steady ratcheting up the pressure that is increasing the cost for the Iranians in failing to make the right decisions. And until they do shift course, we will continue to look for ways to increase the impact."

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# State Dep't report describes 'rising tide' of antisemitism

**Ron Kampeas**
JTA

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. State Department's report on religious freedom described a "global increase" in antisemitism and said the "rising tide of antisemitism" was among the key trends of last year.

The executive summary of the report for 2011, released on July 30, also detailed the "impact of political and demographic transitions on religious minorities" and "the effects of conflict on religious freedom."

The increased antisemitism was "manifested in Holocaust denial, glorification, and relativism; conflating opposition to certain policies of Israel with blatant antisemitism; growing nationalistic movements that target 'the other'; and traditional forms of antisemitism, such as conspiracy theories, acts of desecration and assault, 'blood libel' and cartoons demonizing Jews," the summary said.

It was not clear from the report how its authors assessed an "increase" in antisemitism. There was no overall quantification of the phenomenon, and individual country reports, while listing instances of official and societal antisemitism, did not compare rates to previous years' reports.

The emphasis on antisemitism reflects a policy initiated by Hannah Rosenthal, the current special envoy on antisemitism. Rosenthal has pressed for the incorporation of antisemitism monitoring into the department's overall human rights reports, arguing that it increases awareness of the issue among U.S. diplomats.

The George W. Bush administration, which expanded monitoring of antisemitism by creating the post of an envoy to combat antisemitism, kept its reports on the issue separate.

Countries singled out for special notice on antisemitism included:

- Venezuela, where President Hugo Chavez described Israel's treatment of the Palestinians as "genocide" and called Zionism racism, and an op-ed in a government-owned newspaper that described Norwegian mass killer Anders Breivik as a "sabbath goy."
- Ukraine, where there were several instances of vandalism targeting Jewish buildings and cemeteries, as well as incitement by ultranationalist figures.
- Hungary, where the rise of an antisemitic political party was noted.
- Egypt, where antisemitic cartoons and articles persisted in government-run and opposition media after the revolution in early 2011 that ousted the regime of Hosni Mubarak.
- Iran, where the report said that the "government's antisemitic rhetoric, along with a perception among radical Muslims that all Jewish citizens of the country supported Zionism and the State of Israel, continued to create a hostile atmosphere for Jews." The report also said that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad "continued to question regularly the existence and the scope of the Holocaust and publicly called for the destruction of Israel, which created a more hostile environment for the Jewish community."
- The Palestinian areas, where the report noted an instance of a Hamas imam in the Gaza Strip calling for the death of Jews, as well as a documentary on Palestinian Authority TV that characterized Jewish rites as "sin and filth."

President Hugo Chavez

The country report on Israel said that "government policy contributed to the generally free practice of religion, although government discrimination against non-Jews and non-Orthodox streams of Judaism continued." It noted that Christian missionaries were turned away at the airport in some instances and also noted the Interior Ministry's refusal to recognize some U.S. converts to Judaism as Jews.

"A minority of Jews in the country observes the Orthodox tradition, and the majority of Jewish citizens objected to exclusive Orthodox control over fundamental aspects of their personal lives," the report said.

It noted the practice on some public buses of segregating men from women.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry had yet to formulate a response to the report, an official at the Israeli Embassy in Washington said last week.

Recording instances of societal discrimination, the report listed organized efforts to persuade Jewish businesses not to hire Arabs, as well as attacks by extremist settlers on mosques.

It also noted extremist Muslim riots, including several instances in which rioters at the mosques overlooking the Western Wall stoned Jewish worshippers.

# Israel, PA reach deal on taxes and goods transfers

**Asher Zeiger**
The Times of Israel

**JERUSALEM** — Several months of secret meetings between Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz and Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad resulted in an agreement reached on July 31 that Steinitz hailed as "an important step in strengthening the economic ties between Israel and the Palestinian Authority."

**Palestine Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, left, and Israeli Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz sign the agreement.**
*[Israel Sun photo]*

A Finance Ministry press release said the agreement will help foster trade between Israel and the PA, as well as to help strengthen the Palestinian tax system and strengthen its financial base. Additionally, the deal will enable both sides to more effectively fight smuggling and tax evasion.

The new arrangements will go into effect Jan. 1 and will be monitored by a joint team of Israeli and Palestinian experts, the statement said.

"The new arrangements are part of our overall stated policy to support the Palestinian society and to strengthen their economy," said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He added that the agreement will "hopefully further our relations with the Palestinians in other areas as well."

Fayyad said that the agreements "will help to strengthen the economic base of the Palestinian Authority... [and] also improve the economic relations between the Palestinian Authority and Israel." *TimesofIsrael.com*

## Israel Briefs

***Hamas condemns visit***

Gaza's ruling Hamas party has criticized a Palestinian official for visiting a memorial at the Nazi death camp Auschwitz and paying respects to its 1.5 million victims there, most of them Jews. Hamas official Fawzi Barhoum, expressing the Islamic militant group's position, claimed Aug. 1 that the Holocaust "is a big lie." He said last week's visit to the Auschwitz by Ziad al-Bandak, an adviser to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, went against Palestinian public opinion. Abbas and Hamas are political rivals. Al-Bandak, a Christian, came on an invitation from a private Polish foundation promoting tolerance. In 2007, the Palestinian and the Israeli ambassadors to Poland made a joint visit to the memorial.

***Barak orders conscription***

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak last week ordered the Israeli Defence Forces to draft haredi men as it does other Jewish Israelis. Barak has allowed a month for officials to formulate regulations on haredi conscription, according to reports. The order came as the Tal Law, which allowed haredi men to defer army service, expired Aug. 1. Israel's Supreme Court overturned the law in February. Israeli law mandates that Jewish Israelis enter the army at age 18. Some Israelis legally defer army service for a year or more to study and prepare for the army. Israeli Arabs are not required to serve in the army.

***Bombing recalled***

A memorial service at Hebrew University in Jerusalem marked the 10th anniversary of a fatal bombing there that killed nine people. "A decade has passed since the attack, and it's not only a time to mourn, but also a time to reflect upon the mission entrusted to us," Hebrew U president Menahem Ben-Sasson said at the July 31 memorial service. "We are entrusted with the development of knowledge that knows no shade of skin or religion. And so we say to the families, we shall endure."

***Morsi denies letter to Peres***

Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi has denied sending a friendly letter to Israeli President Shimon Peres. A Morsi spokesman said the Egyptian leader didn't send the letter, which according to the *Times of Israel* said that Morsi hopes for continued security and stability in the region, including for Israel. "President Morsi did not send any correspondence to the Israeli president, and the reports to that effect in Israeli newspapers today are fabricated," the spokesman told the Egyptian newspaper *Al-Ahram* July 31. "These fabrications do not stop." Peres' office had no comment, but his office publicized a copy of the letter that speaks to its authenticity, with a heading from the Egyptian Embassy in Israel. In July, Peres sent a letter to Morsi expressing hope for continued peaceful relations between their countries. Since becoming president in June, Morsi hasn't verbally attacked Israel directly and has expressed a willingness to stay faithful to the countries' peace treaty, the *Times* reported.

*Files from JTA and TimesofIsrael.com*

# Israel defence industry lowers profile at air show

**Anshel Pfeffer**
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

**FARNBOROUGH, England** — The Israeli defence industry and its flagship company, Israel Aerospace Industries, have produced some fabled combat aircraft, battle tanks and guided missile boats, as well as thousands of electronic warfare gadgets over the years.

Imagine, then, the surprise of visitors at the Farnborough International Air Show west of London recently, when IAI's display at the show was dedicated to a tractor with the unlikely name of TaxiBot.

Of course, this is not just any tractor, but an advanced semi-robotic system designed to tow jet airliners of all sizes from the terminal building to the runway, thus saving thousands of tons of jet-fuel and minimizing noise pollution around airports. Still, it is an intriguing choice for the largest defence company in Israel to put in its display window.

"Our innovation unit came up with the idea by adapting unique capabilities developed in the military to the civilian market," Ron Braier, the TaxiBot program director said. "We solved a problem that other companies had been looking to solve."

The system, which is about to undergo operational tests with German airline Lufthansa at its main hub in Frankfurt, is partly based on robotics developed for the Guardium, an unmanned land vehicle that patrols Israel's southern borders.

"Airliners spend an average of 18 minutes using their engines before they actually take off, often much longer," said Moshe Ararat, head of business development for IAI's Lahav division. "For a Boeing 747, that means using up a ton of jet-fuel that could be used in flight. What we have developed is a system that can transport the plane to the runway without starting its engines. It saves fuel, reduces noise and protects the engines from ingesting foreign objects on the taxiways."

To untrained eyes, the TaxiBot looks like any other tractor that pushes airliners away from the terminal building. But the robotic arm that grips the plane's front undercarriage causes no structural fatigue and is operated by the pilot in the cockpit.

**The Hermes 450 unmanned aerial vehicle** ***[Flash 90 photo]***

IAI hopes to enter a whole new market of civilian airport management where they've had no presence until now.

It's a new direction for the corporation, though still part of its overall strategy to shift at least part of its export business (82 per cent of IAI's revenues) to the civilian field, which currently accounts for only about a third of the company's operations.

The focus on new, advanced, civilian products is also the result of obstacles facing Israeli corporations in a marketplace where some of the biggest customers are countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel, particularly the Arab Gulf states. That doesn't mean IAI's top executives, chair Dov Baharav and CEO Yossi Weiss, who started the job only two weeks ago, don't discuss military deals at the show, but those conversations are pushed to the background.

The special sensitivities of marketing Israeli weapons systems are easily discernible at Farnborough. There are two striking examples. One is the display of the Eurofighter Typhoon, the main combat jet of the British, German, Italian and Spanish air forces. Surrounding the plane, which proudly displays the flags of its customers, including Saudi Arabia, a wide array of missiles is spread out to demonstrate its multiple capabilities. Among them is a tube simply identified as a "targeting pod."

What isn't mentioned is that the pod, which allows the Eurofighter to attack from a great distance by day or night, is the Litening, designed in Israel by Rafael Systems.

Another example is that of French electronics giant Thales, presenting the Watchkeeper 450, an advanced unmanned airborne surveillance system ordered by the British army, soon to be in service over Afghanistan. There is a full-sized version of the drone and its control cabin on display, but no mention that this is actually the Israeli Hermes 450 designed by Elbit Systems.

Both companies, Elbit and Rafael have their own displays and booths for meetings at Farnborough, but they are content to downplay their involvement in some of the most successful products in the defence marketplace.

"We seek co-operation with defence companies in other countries exactly for this reason," said one of the executives. "Not everyone is comfortable buying Israeli weapons. This way we can continue to develop and manufacture, safeguarding Israel's technological advantage while providing work for thousands of employees and still making profits."

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# Team to compete in Solar Decathlon China

JNS.org

**TEL AVIV** — An Israeli team will submit an entry to the prestigious Solar Decathlon China competition scheduled for August 2013. The competition will include academic teams from 20 countries who will compete for the title of champion of ecological construction.

The Israeli team, including members from Tel Aviv University, Shenkar College of Engineering and Design, Neri Bloomfield School of Design and Education, and the College of Management Academic Studies, will present an innovative ecological ("green") house that will generate more electricity than it needs for it to function.

The team has been preparing for the competition since last year, when Dr. Yossi Kuri of the Department for Interior Design, Structure and Environment at Shenkar College, in co-operation with architect Chen Shalita, announced his intention to gather a team of students to compete in the upcoming event.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon web page, Solar Decathlon China is the most recent addition to the international family of Solar Decathlon competitions.

The Solar Decathlon is an award-winning program that challenges collegiate teams to design, build and operate solar-powered houses that are cost-effective, energy-efficient and attractive. The winner of the competition is the team that best blends affordability, consumer appeal and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency.

# A dark, cynical look at life in the army

**Joseph Serge**
Arts Editor

Stories about soldiers generally tend to be either farcical *MASH*-style parodies or dark, serious "war is hell" types.

Budding Israeli writer Shani Boianjiu's disjointed debut novel about three Israeli female soldiers, *The People of Forever Are Not Afraid* (Hogarth), out next month, definitely leans toward the latter.

At the start of the book, Yael, Avishag and Lea are three friends graduating high school and anxious about their upcoming compulsory stint in the Israel Defence Forces.

They attend school in a "caravan of a classroom" in a tiny village of 82 homes on the border with Lebanon built to "Jewdify" the Galilee in 1983.

The girls hate the village where cellphone reception is almost non-existent, where missiles fall from the sky as they have done "since always," and where most people's fates are tied to the "company that makes parts that go into machines that help make machines that make airplanes."

**Shani Boianjiu during her stint in the army**

Yael has a crush on Avishag's brother, Dan, who dies while playing Russian roulette – the first of several men who die premature and violent deaths in this book. (Not to accuse the author of misandry, but the male characters in this book tend to be shallow, easily-discarded sex toys for the women. One horrific segment in the end, especially, sheds a rather bad light on male Israeli soldiers.)

After boot camp, Yael is assigned to a border post near Hebron, where young Arab children steal everything, including the fence that surrounds the camp.

Avishag joins the only combat infantry unit for women and is assigned to the Sinai, where she spends her days flirting and watching refugees sneak across the Egyptian border on her computer screen.

Lea works at a Hebron checkpoint, monitoring Palestinian day workers crossing into Israel. She belongs to the blue-bereted military police, which she hates, and is the least satisfying of all possible assignments. "It was a unit designed for stupid, poor people."

Army life is seen mostly as a waste of time. "A numbing respite from the breathless race" of normal life, Lea thinks.

To pass the time, they sleep with their male colleagues, play pranks on one another or on civilians (one of the girls blindfolds an Arab man and pretends to shoot him), daydream and sunbathe on the hot sand while injecting themselves with frozen IV to keep cool.

Despite this being mostly a dark novel, it's not without its share of wit and parody. In one chapter, Avishag lies naked on one of the watchtowers on the Israeli-Egyptian border, while on the other side an Egyptian soldier is caught with his pants down, using only his left hand to watch her through binoculars.

This becomes a diplomatic incident once the world press gets a hold of the story.

Boianjiu, who was born in 1987 in Kfar Vradim, a small town similar to the one the girls in this book live in, has been published in several magazines. At 25, she is the youngest recipient of the National Book Foundation's 5 Under 35 Award.

She is undoubtedly a talented writer but on this, her first novel, her unstructured writing is in need of some direction.

There are several moments of brilliance, such as the aforementioned *Diplomatic Incident* chapter, or the tongue-in-cheek *Means of Suppressing Demonstrations*, in which a small group of protesting Palestinians demands that Lea's unit shoots them with real bullets in order to attract the attention of the press. [This chapter was published as a short story in *The New Yorker* and inspired the magazine to launch a parody-writing contest]

Possibly the best chapter is the deeply moving *People That Don't Exist*. In it, Avishag, who has just taken a pill to abort the fetus inside her, watches on her computer screen as Egyptian border soldiers shoot a Sudanese man as he leaps over the border fence. As the fetus inside her slowly dies, she raises her hand and touches the wounded man on the green monitor in front of her. "It is cold and far and real. I pretend to touch the child I'll never meet, I pretend I don't exist. For that while only, it gets to be only her."

Meanwhile, in a shifting point of view, we see what the Sudanese man is thinking as he lies on the ground, feeling the contact that Avishag is making with him on her screen. "I could swear someone was touching me. Someone's hand, I couldn't see it, but I could still feel it on my shoulder…"

Powerful, touching stuff.

But this ever-changing point of view is also the biggest problem with this book. The point of view switches from one chapter to the next between that of each of the three girls. Because they all speak with that same detached, cynical, youthful voice, it makes it hard to distinguish which narrator is speaking. This gets annoying really quickly.

The women return home from their stint in the army noticeably scarred. One takes antidepressants, one travels the world and another keeps an Arab man bound to a chair in the smaller bedroom of her "one-and-a-half" in Tel Aviv. War is not good for children, Boianjiu seems to be saying.

The plot of *The People of Forever Are Not Afraid* is disjointed, a series of vignettes that could each possibly be published separately as short stories. (Her first published story, *The Sound of All Girls Screaming*, in *Vice* magazine, is also a chapter from the novel).

But as a narrative whole it lacks cohesion. Several of the chapters include long-winded digressive flashbacks that might work fine in shorter fiction but as a novel slow the pace down. In fact, perhaps, it might have been better if it was published as a collection of thematically linked short stories.

Despite these problems, there's a lot of promise in Boianjiu's debut novel. The author's stream-of-consciousness, conversational prose can make the dark and sombre scenes witty and ironic.

Boianjiu is an exciting, youthful writer, not afraid to take on heavy themes, and there's no doubt we'll be hearing from her again. A Hebrew version of *The People of Forever Are Not Afraid* is slated to be published in Israel later next year.

## 'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING

**The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising** reads as follows:

"In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibits the use of the word kosher or any letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is kosher, if the food does not meet the requirements of the Kashruth applicable to it.

The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

***The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.***

## JON VOIGHT FEATURED AT LAUNCH OF UJA 2013 CAMPAIGN

Academy Award-winning actor **Jon Voight** is coming to town to help with the launch of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater Toronto's Campaign 2013.

Voight's performances in the films *Midnight Cowboy* (1969), *Deliverance* (1972) and *Coming Home* (1978) make him an integral part of postwar American cinema. His outspoken support of Israel should also make him a hero to those who love the one democratic nation in the Middle East.

Three years ago, when some 50 movie celebrities – including Voight's *Coming Home* co-star **Jane Fonda** – signed a petition protesting the Toronto International Film Festival's inaugural "City To City" spotlight on Tel Aviv, Voight issued a public letter in protest. Fonda and the others accused TIFF of facilitating a propaganda campaign for the Israeli government while ignoring the suffering of the Palestinian people, specifically in Gaza.

"Jane Fonda's whole idea of the 'poor Palestinians' and 'look how many Palestinians the Israelis killed in Gaza,' is misconstrued," Voigt wrote. "Does she not remember what actually took place in Gaza? Did Israel not give the Palestinians of Gaza the hope that there could be peace? In response, did Hamas not launch rockets from Gaza into Israel, killing many innocent people?

"I was in Israel. I saw the rockets coming down on Sderot and visited many families who lost their loved ones. How long can a democratic country keep from defending itself? Time and again, [Israel] offered the Palestinians land. They always refused. They don't want a piece of the pie, they want the whole pie. They will not be happy until they see Israel in the sea."

The UJA 2013 Campaign Launch also features 21-year-old singer **Hagit Yasso** from Sderot, the winner of *Kochav Nolad*, Israel's version of TV's *American Idol*. Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Tuesday Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m. Includes kosher dessert reception. 416-631-5705.

* * *

**Jewish Television Show:** *The Canadian Jewish Edition* with host **Gloria Valentine** is a show on Rogers Cable 10 that features interviews with Jewish personalities such as **Nat Garnick** (Aug. 9), **Elly Gotz** (Aug. 19, 22, 23) and mezzo-soprano **Renee Barda** (Sept. 2, 4, 6). Viewing times are Sundays at 8 a.m., Wednesdays at 3 a.m. and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. **Gerda Frieberg** and **Adam Furstenberg** are among the guests scheduled for the fall.

* * *

**Names in the News:** Actor **Jesse Eisenberg**, whose film credits include *The Social Network* and *To Rome With Love*, has written *The Revisionist*, a Holocaust-themed play that is scheduled to open at an off-Broadway theatre in 2013, according to the *Times of Israel*.

The play focuses on a science-fiction writer who meets with a relative in Poland, a Holocaust survivor who has a secret. Eisenberg has not indicated whether he will appear in the play. He appeared in his play *Asuncion*, which also ran off-Broadway last year.

* * *

**Names in the News II:** *The Nutty Professor*, a new stage production based on **Jerry Lewis**'s 1963 film of the same name, opened recently in Nashville, Tenn., before an anticipated run in New York. A musical, the production features a score by **Marvin Hamlisch** and is being directed by Lewis himself, who is 86 years old. The idea came from actor **Michael Andrew**, who plays the title role, a Jekyll-Hyde character who is both the nebbishy **Julius Kelp** and his assured alter ego, **Buddy Love**.

Andrew told the *New York Times*, he first came to Lewis with the idea for the play about eight years ago. "I said, 'Look, we're really just looking for your blessing to do this.'" Andrew reportedly said to Lewis – who replied: "Blessing? I'm going to direct it, and you're going to play those two characters."

* * *

### Arts in Brief

• **Keith Friedlander** talks on *People of the Comic Book: Jews and the Graphic Novel*, in which he explores the Jewish relationship to the graphic novel, focusing on **Joann Sfar**'s *The Rabbi's Cat*. Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, Aug. 9, 6:30 to 8 p.m. $12 drop-in, students $6. Information sharonis@mnjcc.org; registration 416-924-6211, ext. 0.

• Active Seniors features a beautifully illustrated presentation about **Picasso**, his life and art. Miles Nadal JCC, Thursday, Aug. 9, 1:30 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 155.

• *The Crucible*, **Arthur Miller**'s account of the Salem witch trials made a sensation with its obvious parallels to the Communist scares of the 1950s. Previews began at Soulpepper Theatre July 25; the play opens Aug. 9 and runs to Sept. 22. Also at Soulpepper, **David Mamet**'s *Speed-the-Plow* with **Ari Cohen** and **Jordan Pettle**, and **Neil Simon**'s *The Sunshine Boys* with **Kenneth Welsh** and **Eric Peterson**. www.soulpepper.ca

• The Stratford Shakespeare Festival has announced that it will present *Fiddler On The Roof* as part of its 2013 season, with **Donna Feore** as director and choreographer. A new production of **Shakespeare**'s *The Merchant of Venice*, featuring **Brian Bedford** as Shylock, is also planned.

* * *

**At the Galleries:** Driftwood artist **Jerry Friedman** shows his work at his studio on the Artists of the Limberlost studio tour, Aug. 18 and 19. The tour includes 20 artists in seven studios along historic Limberlost Road, 12 kilometres east of Huntsville, Ont. www.artistsofthelimberlost.ca

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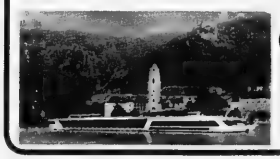

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AMAWATERWAYS

# Novelist focuses on Arab-Israeli conflict

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

The theme of sectarian violence often takes centre stage in Sharon McKay's novels, and *Enemy Territory*, her latest one, faithfully conforms to this pattern.

"I have been writing about conflict for a young adult audience for years," said McKay, referring to such previous books as *Charlie Wilcox*, *Thunder over Kandahar* and *War Brothers*.

*Enemy Territory*, set in contemporary Israel and the West Bank, is about two young teenagers, Sam, an Israeli Jew, and Yusuf, a Palestinian Arab, who find themselves sharing a room in Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem after they are both badly injured.

Predictably enough, they are initially hostile to each other, but after deciding to run away from the hospital to embark on a midnight adventure in the Old City, they learn to respect their cultural and political differences and form a friendship.

"I wrote *Enemy Territory* because it was a huge challenge," explained McKay, who was born in Montreal and now lives in Prince Edward Island. "I felt that everything written to date on the Arab-Israeli conflict presented one point of view or the other. I wanted to write a book that showed how young people perceive the conflict, and how it is possible for them to begin talking and understanding one another."

Like some of her books, *Enemy Territory*, published by Annick Press in Toronto, is largely based on personal observation.

A stickler for details, McKay went to the Middle East to gather material, living with an Israeli in western Jerusalem and with a Palestinian in the West Bank as she methodically conducted research.

The Arab-Israeli dispute was not McKay's first exposure to strife.

"I spent every summer from the age of 12 with my grandmother in Belfast, Northern Ireland, living between the Protestants of Shankill Road and the Catholics of Falls Road," she said.

One of the first bombs to explode during the so-called "The Troubles" in Ireland, she recalled, went off near her aunt's garden wall, flinging her and her grandmother out of bed.

Not surprisingly, McKay detects similarities between the Irish problem and the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"They come up in the point of view of children and teenagers," she said. "It's amazing how fast all kids can adjust to bombs and guns and security checks. Equally amazing is how children can accept adults' explanations of conflicts without question."

Nonetheless, Northern Ireland and Israel are different in some important respects, she added. "Northern Ireland is not surrounded by enemies on all sides. Nor did anyone ever suggest that we [the Irish], would be blown off the face of the earth."

**Sharon McKay**

Before writing *Enemy Territory*, McKay produced *Charlie Wilcox*, a blend of fact and fiction turning on the experiences of her great uncle, a Newfoundlander, as an under-age soldier in World War I.

A trip to Afghanistan in 2009, under the auspices of the Canadian Forces War Artists Program, prompted McKay to write *Thunder over Kandahar*.

She wrote *War Brothers*, the story of African child soldiers, after talking to them in Uganda.

In addition, she has written on the Holocaust in *The Whisperers Trilogy* (with Kathy Kacer) and on Esther Brandeau, the first known Jewish person to live in New France, in *Esther*.

McKay believes that every Canadian, regardless of religion, has some kind of relationship with Israel, however tentative.

"It can be positive, negative, filled with love or animosity, but everyone has an opinion," said McKay, who cried after reading *Exodus* as a teen.

"Israel became a country of my dreams and imagination," she said. "To me, Israel is the gatekeeper of the civilized world as I know it. The West Bank was equally beguiling."

Although Israel's negotiations with the Palestinian Authority have broken down, she doubts whether the situation is hopeless.

"I have faith that the youth of Palestine and Israel will talk to each other using social media. And while the adults will cry, 'They want to kill us/take our land,' my hope is that kids will begin with 'hello.' It may be naive, but what is the alternative?

"No one ever imagined that there could be peace in Northern Ireland. My hope is that the day will come soon when the Middle East, too, will become a peaceful haven."

# Barry Manilow joins Songbook Hall of Fame

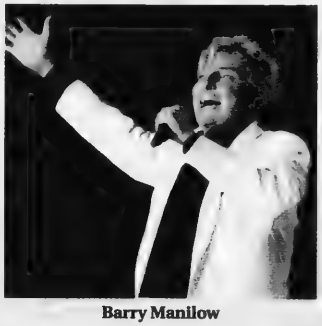
**Marvin Glassman**
Special to The CJN

When Barry Manilow decided to make music his career, his goal was to create music that would endure beyond his lifetime.

That goal was reached as Manilow was formally enshrined into the Great American Songbook Hall Of Fame this past June. Manilow's music is now deemed on a par with fellow Great American Songbook composers such as Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and Cole Porter.

It is an honour that Manilow does not take lightly as he prepares for his upcoming concerts on Aug. 20 and 21 at Casino Rama.

"What I love most about the Great American Songbook composers is the respect they all gave to the lyrics in a song. Today, the stars in music are not the songwriters or singers, but the engineers and producers who give a groove and a good rhythm in songs. I miss the art of songwriting and it's sad. So, I am deeply appreciated of being inducted into the Great American Songbook Hall Of Fame and to be respected in music," said Manilow, 69, in a phone interview.



**Barry Manilow**

"Barry cares about the classic way of writing a song, telling a story with emotion with a melody to go with poignant lyrics. The Manilow songs continue the tradition of the great songwriters of the 20th century," said singer-songwriter Michael Feinstein, who inducted Manilow into the hall of fame and was an archivist for Ira Gershwin.

The Manilow song catalogue featuring 25 top 40 songs, such as *Copacabana*, *Even Now* and *Mandy*, are standard fare in many pops orchestral shows, and a number of Manilow tribute shows have been presented in Canada, England and the United States.

"The many tribute shows indicate the acceptance of Barry Manilow as a standard bearer of the classic song," said Alan Jacobson, who produced *I Am Music: The Songs Of Barry Manilow*, which featured 10 vocalists performing Manilow's hits at the Plaza Theatre in Palm Beach, Fla., last May.

"Barry's music has melodies that stick in your head. His music is timeless, and the Manilow songs will endure for many generations to come," Jacobson added.

"My fans really love those big hit songs, so I will go from *It's a Miracle* to *I Write the Songs* and also throw in album cuts such as *15 Minutes* at both Casino Rama shows. My hits never get old for me, and I always go back to basics – find the meaning of the song in the lyric and sing believing in the words," Manilow said.

Manilow was raised by his mother, Edna, and grandparents, Esther and Joseph Manilow, Jewish immigrants from Russia, in a small Brooklyn apartment. Although born as Barry Pincus, he changed his surname to Manilow shortly before his bar mitzvah out of love for his zayde.

Manilow honed his music first on accordion and refined it on the piano that he received as a bar mitzvah gift.

For a time, things were traumatic for Manilow financially and emotionally. He nearly went bankrupt twice and had married and divorced his high school sweetheart by the age of 25.

In the 1960s, Manilow coached singers who wanted to audition on Broadway and wrote commercial jingles, before becoming musical director for Bette Midler. Manilow produced Midler's first album, among many more for several singers before starring on his own in 1973.

Very little has gone wrong in Manilow's career. In addition to selling 80 million albums over his career, Manilow showed his theatrical flair by co-writing a musical based on his hit song *Copacabana*, which also became a made-for-television movie, and recorded concept albums on jazz, Broadway standards, big band and swing music.

*Barry Manilow stars in concert at Casino Rama, Aug. 20 and 21 at 8 p.m. For tickets, call 1-800-832-7529 or go to www.casinorama.ca.*

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# U.S. gymnast Aly Raisman's star rises

JTA

**LONDON —** While both took to the podiums in London last week to receive a medal, 18-year-old Alexandra (Aly) Raisman's Olympic star was rising as 36-year-old swimmer Jason Lezak's appeared to be setting.

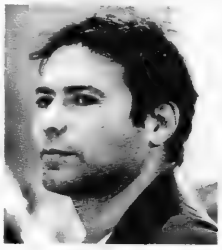
Raisman, of Needham, Mass., helped Team USA take the women's team gold on July 31 – the first Olympic gold medal for the U.S. gymnastics squad since the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

Though Raisman was favoured to win a medal in the all-around individual competition, she finished fourth and out of the medals.

With the events concluded, she finished with 59.666 points, the same as Russian gymnast Aliya Mustafina. Under the tie-breaking system employed at the Games, each athlete's worst score from four events is eliminated and the remaining results tallied up. Under that formula, Mustafina captured the bronze medal.

Still, Raisman could add to her medal total in individual floor exercises and in the balance beam finals, events that were held after *The CJN* went to press.

Lezak, a four-time gold medallist likely competing in his last Olympics, helped the American men's swimming team qualify for the 4x100-metre freestyle swimming finals. The team went on to finish second, receiving a silver medal – Lezak's eighth medal overall in four Olympics. Lezak did not compete in the finals.



Israeli judoka Arik Ze'evi

Meanwhile, the Israeli delegation was experiencing its ups and downs early in the Games.

On July 31, two Israeli medal hopefuls were faring well in windsurfing.

In women's RS:X-class sailing, Israeli Lee-El Korzits was third overall after six races in the 10-race competition. Korzits finished first in one race, second in two, had one third-place finish, a seventh and an 11th.

In men's RS:X, Israeli medal hopeful Shahar Zubari was in 12th place after six races. Zubari, who won a bronze medal in the event in Beijing Games, was a long shot to reach the top 10 and earn a spot in the medal round.

Yakov Toumarkin, a Russian-born Israeli swimmer, advanced to the finals of the 200-metre backstroke, but finished seventh.

In judo, medal hopeful Arik Ze'evi lost his first match in 43 seconds. A four-time European champion, Ze'evi was competing in his fourth – and likely final – Olympics. He had won a bronze medal at the 2004 Games in Athens, but was quickly beaten by German judoka Dimitri Peters in the men's 100-kilogram match.

Judoka Alice Schlesinger was eliminated from competition early last week.

Political differences between Israel and its Arab neighbours came to London when the Lebanese judo team refused to practise next to the Israeli team. The Lebanese even erected a makeshift barrier to split their gym into two halves, according to the *Times of Israel*.

Even before the start of the Games, Iranian judo athlete Javad Mahjoob withdrew from the competition, citing "critical digestive system infection." That led to widespread speculation that Iran was maintaining a longstanding policy of not allowing its athletes to compete against Israelis.

In the pool, American swimmers led all the way in the men's 4x100-metre relay until Yannick Agnel of France pulled ahead of Ryan Lochte in the final lap. France finished first in three minutes 9.93 seconds, ahead of the United States (3:10.38) and Russia (3:11.41).

Lezak, though he did not swim in the relay final, had helped his teammates Lochte and Phelps qualify in the morning preliminaries.

"The coaches had a tough decision to make with so many talented 100 freestylers and then the two best all-around swimmers in the world," Lezak told FoxSports.com via email. "Of course, I would have liked to be a part of the final. If you asked any of us who swam prelims, they would have answered it the same."

While he has not specifically said he would return for another Summer Games, Lezak, who was inducted into the National Jewish Hall of Fame in 2010, is the oldest member of the U.S. men's swim team.

"As the body gets older, sometimes the mind wants to go hard for a lot longer. But I've learned over the course of the last several years how many laps is enough, how many is too much," he told the *Los Angeles Times*.

Since his historic comeback at the Beijing Olympics, Lezak has participated in Israel's Maccabiah Games, winning four gold medals, and taught swimming clinics for neighbourhood kids at the Merage Jewish Community Center of Orange County in Southern California. He has two children and is an active member of Temple Isaiah in Newport Beach, Calif.

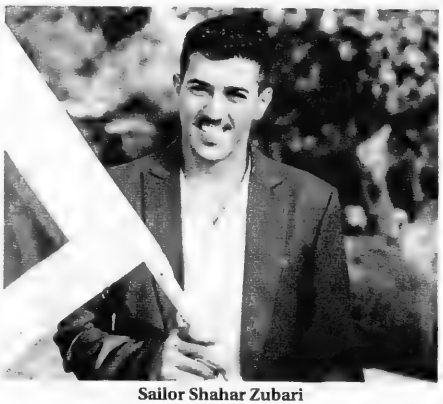
"It's something for me to get in touch more with Jewish kids and hopefully inspire them," he said in 2009. "I really didn't have anyone like that growing up."

Raisman scored 15.300 in the floor exercise to win the event, performing her routine to a string-heavy version of *Hava Nagila*. Raisman also had performed to *Hava Nagila* when she gained a berth on the U.S. team last year.

She is trained by Mihai and Sylvia Brestyan, the Romanian couple who coached the Israeli national team in the early 1990s. The coaches and her mother selected *Hava Nagila* after several exhaustive late-night online searches, they told JTA last year.

She is proud to be using the Jewish song "because there aren't too many Jewish elites out there," Raisman said last year. And, she added, "I like how the crowd can clap to it."

A clip from NBC showing Raisman's parents' reaction to her uneven bar routine garnered more than 25,000 hits on YouTube.



Sailor Shahar Zubari

The clip shows Raisman's mother, and father commenting on their daughter's routine from the stands. Her mother, Lynn, says, "Let's go, let's go," and "Come on, come on" while shifting in her seat, and her father, Rick, remains silent until yelling "Stick it, please, stick it!" at the end of Raisman's routine.

Raisman is a recipient of the Pearl D. Mazor Outstanding Female Jewish High School Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award given out by the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in New York.

Other notable performances of Jewish athletes included U.S. fencer Timothy Morhouse, who lost to Italy's Diego Occhiuzzi in the quarterfinals.

In tennis, Israel's Shahar Peer was eliminated by Russia's Maria Sharapova, one of the top-ranked players in the world.

The Israeli Olympic tennis duo of Jonathan Erlich and Andy Ram were eliminated after losing in two sets to the American Bryan brothers, Mike and Bob. Earlier, Ram and Erlich upset the 2008 gold medallists in men's doubles, Roger Federer and Stanislaw Wawrinca of Switzerland.

The Israelis beat the Swiss pair, 1-6, 7-5, 6-3, in the second round to advance to the quarterfinals.

Along with Israel, the Erlich-Ram victory brought grins to Jewish communities in Argentina and neighbouring Uruguay. Erlich was born in Buenos Aires and made aliyah with his family when he was a year old. Ram is a native of Montevideo, Uruguay. His father is the Israeli Betar Jerusalem soccer player Amiram Ram; his mother is Uruguayan.

Erlich and Ram have been representing Israel for more than a decade. Their greatest victory came in 2008, when they won the Australian Open. They also own Davis Cup wins in 2009 over Russia, in 2007 over Luxembourg and Italy, and in 2006 over Great Britain.

In men's gymnastics, Israel's Alex Shatilov qualified for the finals of the floor exercise after finishing fourth overall. That event took place after *The CJN* went to press. He also finished 12th in the men's individual all-around competition.

In men's rowing, David Banks of the U.S. men's eight team finished out of the medals in fourth, in an event that saw Canada win silver.

## BINSTOCK ELIMINATED

**Beach volleyball player Josh Binstock and partner Martin Reader saw their Olympic dreams come to an end when they were eliminated from further competition by Italy in the "lucky loser" event.**

**Binstock and Reader finished third in their group and had to win the lucky loser to continue their quest for a medal. They fell to the Italians 2-0.**

**In earlier round robin competition, Binstock and Reader defeated Britain in their opening match, two sets to nil, but then lost to Norway and Brazil by the same 2-0 score.**

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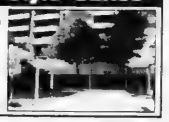

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# Israel wary of changes in Egypt, IDC Herzliya VP says

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

The fact that Egypt is now led by a member of the Muslim Brotherhood is cause for concern and has prompted Israel to increase its security along its southern border, Jonathan Davis says.

Newly elected President Mohammed Morsi has domestic concerns that will hopefully prevent him from dragging Egypt into conflict with Israel, Davis, vice-president for external relations and head of the Raphael Recanati International School at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, said during a recent trip to Toronto.

"[Morsi] needs to meet the needs of his country and feed his people. But at the end of the day, the Muslim Brotherhood's mission statement is to impose sharia law," he said.

"How democracy mixes with Islamic fundamentalism is a challenge. Egalitarianism under sharia law is a challenge. Life as we know it in the West is not possible under these [types of] regimes," Davis added, noting that Hamas rejoiced after Morsi was elected.

He said the best thing Israel can do regarding Egypt is acknowledge Morsi as a new, democratically elected leader and neighbour to the south.

Davis – a former IDF paratrooper who is now a liaison officer in the IDF Spokesman's Office and often briefs foreign journalists on Middle East security issues – was in Toronto to encourage pro-Israel students here to consider attending his school.

About 100 Canadians are currently studying at the IDC, out of a total student population of 6,500, a quarter of whom are international students. It has also formalized an exchange program with St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. Davis is hoping for more collaboration with Canadian universities in the future.

In the meantime, the IDC recently launched a distance education course in counter-terrorism that he said is the first of its kind on the subject.

Talking about his recent North American speaking tour, which was all about "making the case for Israel," Davis said he's been telling Jewish Diaspora audiences that they must start paying more attention to western groups that delegitimize the Jewish state.

Jonathan Davis

"In certain urban centres such as London, Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Toronto and San Francisco, [Israel's supporters] must learn to deal with the delegitimizers," he said.

"I don't have the answers to all these challenges, but as a representative of IDC Herzliya, Israel's first private, non-profit Zionist university, part of our job is to make the case for Israel, which we do through numerous activities on campus."

He said IDC students learn how to respond creatively to anti-Israel activism and to become proactive about promoting the Jewish state to the public at large.

For example, Davis noted how IDC students took an active role during 2009's Operation Cast Lead by blogging 24 hours a day to the world about Israel's actions and defending the state online in a multitude of languages, including French, Swedish and Danish.

"They reached hundreds of thousands of people via Facebook, Twitter, blogs… Our students, both in Israel and abroad, were defending our soldiers on the electronic battlefield," he said.

Davis had specific praise for Canada's Jewish communities and how they understand Israel better than some other Diaspora communities.

Canadian Jews, are for the most part "very connected" with Israel.

"Part of it may be because [Israeli] immigration to Canada took place at later stages than it did in the U.S.," he said. "But whatever the reason, you feel the warmth. You feel that the [local] leadership is hospitable. One sees that the Jewish community raises a lot of money for Jewish causes and for Jewish continuity in this country.

"The care for seniors. The Jewish summer camps. It's all flourishing in Canada the way it was in the Golden Age of [Jewish communities] in eastern Europe. I feel that compared to some other communities I've visited, the Canadian one is more heimish."

For more information on IDC Herzliya, visit http://idc.ca.il.

# *'What kind of a society allows its people to be under such threats?'*

**Continued from page 15**

He said the situation in the Middle East is very black and white and it's hard for him to understand why people don't see it that way.

"What kind of a society allows its people to be under such threats?… Why should the children in the south of Israel have to spend a week in bomb shelters? It's outrageous. And the Israeli response is, 'We'll build another road, take a detour – it's technical.' But the problem is not technical. The problem is strategic. No other country in the world tolerates this. But we Jews tolerate it," he said.

Schecter said Israel invites and encourages hostile behaviour from its enemies by "not asserting political sovereignty and seeing themselves as grasshoppers – not only in the eyes of the world but in their own eyes, and they've been doing it for 3,500 years."

Schecter explained his use of the term grasshoppers. In Numbers, Moses was told by God to send scouts to Canaan to explore the land. The scouts reported that they saw "the sons of Amalek, who come of the giants: and we were in our own eyes as grasshoppers, and so we were in their eyes."

"As soon as you start taking measures to guarantee your own security, believe me, the world will look up and respect you and you will stop looking at yourself as a grasshopper," Schecter said.

The book, from Mantua Books, is available at www.mantuabooks.com or www.amazon.com.

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# Summer camp inspires educator

**Rita Poliakov**
Special to The CJN

Aleeza Lubin has an impressive resumé.

With degrees in history and education and a master's from Columbia University in New York, the Toronto native has taught everything from high school math to history.

Now one of three new B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO) directors, Lubin, 33, has worked with young people for most of her career, with a focus on keeping teens involved in the Jewish community. But it isn't only her stint teaching at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (TanenbaumCHAT) or her experiences in New York that fuelled Lubin's career.

It's the time she spent at summer camp, as a camper and as an employee. Growing up in Toronto, Lubin spent 14 summers at Camp Ramah in Muskoka – eight as a camper and six as an employee. It was those last six years that shaped the rest of her life.

"I always worked with the teenagers. Most of the time, I worked with the older kids, the Counsellors-in-Training (CITs). It always felt like, wow, this is such a momentous point in their lives. To reach that final year as a camper, where you have added responsibility... is a big thing," she said.

"You feel as though you're shaping a part of their lives. I saw it as a challenge, which I love. I took it very seriously."

After getting an honours BA from York University, Lubin was drawn to teaching and mentoring positions. She started working at an educational nonprofit north of Toronto before deciding to go through teacher's college at the University of Toronto.

Rather than sticking to history, the current BBYO director decided to try something different.

"In order to become a high school teacher in Ontario, you need to have two teachable subjects. I chose history and math, an unusual combination," she said.

"I was possibly the only person in the entire year who had combined history and math... I love trigonometry. I love algebra. I know. I'm such a dork."

After graduation, Lubin went back to her high school, TanenbaumCHAT, to teach. She saw that the school was expanding and was excited to be part of its growth. But most importantly, she was excited about working with teenagers again.

"[I thought], 'I can have an impact on these kids' lives. A lot of people graduated [high school] and said, 'I'm going to be a lawyer, an accountant, and I'm sitting there... going, 'If you want to be a dancer, do that,'" she said.

"Most importantly, though, I wanted to be able to help them develop as young Jews... It's definitely about showing them the connections [Judaism has] to their lives and making it accessible."

While Lubin enjoyed teaching in the classroom, her favourite moments were usually after school.

"What I was thriving on were the moments outside of the classroom where I was coaching, advising on assemblies, working with students one on one. I was seeing an impact. I wanted that all the time," she said.

In 2007, Lubin left TanenbaumCHAT and moved to New York, where she got a master's degree in American studies.

"I'd taught for four years. I decided it was time to go back to school," she said.

Lubin, who described New York as a "little bit faster and louder than Toronto," earned her master's degree in two years. During that time, Lubin realized that although she wanted to work with young people, she didn't want to go back to the classroom.

Aleeza Lubin

"I didn't want to be limited to a classroom," she said.

Lubin found a national nonprofit Jewish organization based in New York, Bend the Arc (formerly Jewish Funds for Justice), which runs "service-learning" programs for youth and college students.

The group partners with campus Hillels and synagogues and places students in communities across the country so they can volunteer and give back.

While Lubin enjoyed her job with the Bend the Arc, she missed working with teenagers.

"I liked the age group in terms of where they are in their developments. Teenagers are at this point where they're such a sponge. They're taking in so much. They're trying to figure out the world," she said.

"There's something about a teen... [By college], they've already asked so many of those questions. They feel like they already have the answers."

While at Bend the Arc, Lubin learned about a job opening at BBYO, a pluralistic Jewish organization that works to keep teens involved and engaged in their Jewish communities.

Thanks to a $1.9-million grant from the Jim Joseph Foundation of San Francisco, the group was hiring three directors of Jewish enrichment.

After months of interviews and meetings, Lubin won a position earlier this year.

"It'd been a very long and winding process, and it was sort of this relief of 'wow. I'd been so looking forward to this, and now it's actually happening,'" she said.

Getting the job meant moving to Chicago, where Lubin now lives.

"It was an amazing feeling, but also incredibly bittersweet. My five years in New York were amazing... but ultimately, this job felt worth it," she said, adding that her focus for BBYO is on the midwestern region, which includes Winnipeg.

Lubin has high hopes for her position at BBYO, especially since the group, a Jewish nonprofit, is growing and evolving.

"Which, in today's world, for Jewish non-profits, is hard to come by," she said.

"It's thrilling for me to be a part of that, because they're growing and doing such innovative things with young Jews. I'm excited to continue to learn about this amazing movement of young people that is so passionate and strives to get involved in ways that actually are seen, felt and heard."

*More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca*

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# Who's picking up the tab?

*Ask Ella*

*By Ella Burakowski*

**Dear Ella,**

I've recently stepped up my search for a serious relationship. I have a profile on JDate and have gone on a few blind dates. I'm pretty good at first date stuff like small talk and where to go, but I'm constantly stumped by paying etiquette.

Being kind of an old-fashioned guy, I like to pay on the first date, but it's the subsequent dates that I'm having trouble with. I'm just out of university and building my career. I can't afford to be spending tons of money on dating. Even a basic dinner is often more than $50, and the same goes for a movie date.

I'm very uncomfortable asking my date to pay her way. Sometimes they offer and sometimes not, but when they do offer, I feel like a "schnorrer" taking their money. Once I went out with a girl who insisted on paying her own way on the first date, and that threw me right off. "If I pay then we are on equal ground," she said. I actually understood that.

Is there a right way to handle this?

**Paying Perils**

**Dear Paying Perils,**

Much depends on where and how the date originated. If you met for the first time on JDate, then you're probably not going to a movie or dinner. My guess is you're going for coffee or drinks. You didn't invite her, and she didn't invite you. It's a mutual decision to meet, and usually you each pay for yourselves. If you like her and ask her out again, that will be your first date, and you should pay.

When you ask a girl out, it's your invitation so it's up to you to pick up the tab. On the second date, do something a little less expensive like go for a bike ride or a walk in the park. Maybe stop for some ice cream. See if she offers to pay. By the third or fourth date, she should be dipping into her wallet.

There's a subtlety in the way you approach things. For example, if you go to a movie, you might pay for the tickets and say something like, "How about you pick up the popcorn and drinks?" That's a more natural and comfortable way than buying your own ticket while she buys her own.

Don't let money be the elephant in the room. The whole point of dating is to get to know each other. The way the two of you handle money is very much a part of your personalities. You certainly don't want to come off as a tightwad, but you don't want her to feel like you are overpowering and controlling, either.

Believe it or not, in most situations, it will work itself out fairly easily. Don't keep a balance sheet. You need to be socially intelligent. On a first date, she's judging you on everything: your clothes, your manners, your looks, your personality, your intelligence – just like you're doing with her. There's enough to be aware of without letting this part get in the way of what might bloom into a great relationship.

Think of dating as an investment in your future. Once you have a few dates with the same person, you can actually broach the subject directly if necessary. Treat each other with respect and sensitivity. In the meantime, enjoy the excitement of getting to know the new woman in your life.

*Readers may submit their questions to Ella at* The CJN, *e-mail: ellacjn@gmail.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*


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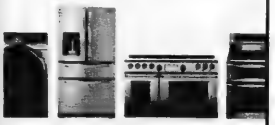

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## On cjnews.com

*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

Salomon Oziel, left, who was recently elected president of École Maïmonide. Oziel talks about the quality of education at the school and his goals for the future.

Montrealer Neev Bensimhon, an up-and-coming comedian and musician, who won rave reviews for his new show, *60 minutes avec Neev*, at Zoofest last month.

***Exclusive to cjnews.com***

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa says the memory of Munich reminds us of the world's hypocrisy.

Web columnist Masada Siegel writes about Toronto, Ontario, a city she says that has so much to offer from the sights to the sounds to simply walking down the street and peering into the shop windows.

Married with Kids columnist Lauren Aginsky watches with interest as her son grows into a "typical South African man."

Sephardi shul, Beth Chabad Cote St. Luc, nears completion.

# Plants are good for the soul

*Senior Side of Life*

*Michael Gordon*

As I was leaving for a bike ride I passed my wife, who was out for her morning walk. "I think it was a successful resuscitation," I said.

She asked whom I was talking about. I answered, "The three foxgloves," beautiful plants with purple flowers that I had planted days earlier and had been wilting in the summer heat. I "diagnosed" severe dehydration, so I provided large doses of water. Overnight the leaves filled out, and the tall stems holding the gorgeous flowers were almost upright.

That seemed to be a miraculous feat of plant care for someone who was brought up in Brooklyn and knew close to nothing about flowers or plants. Betty Smith's 1943 novel, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, had little impact on my botanical knowledge or skill.

My wife had a good laugh, and I biked away, recalling my fond association with the foxglove. When I went to medical school in Scotland in the 1960s, I once went on an outing in western Scotland with some classmates that culminated in a difficult uphill hike on the foothills of Ben Nevis, part of the Scottish mountains. When I stopped to catch my breath, one of my more playful classmates kneeled over me while waving a foxglove and said laughingly in his Yorkshire accent, "Here, Michael, take a nibble of this. It will strengthen your heart."

I had never seen the plant, but from then on, the foxglove's medical importance was imprinted in my brain. At the time, digitalis leaf, a medication used for various forms of heart disease, was derived from the foxglove. It was a less purified form of what is now commonly called digoxin.

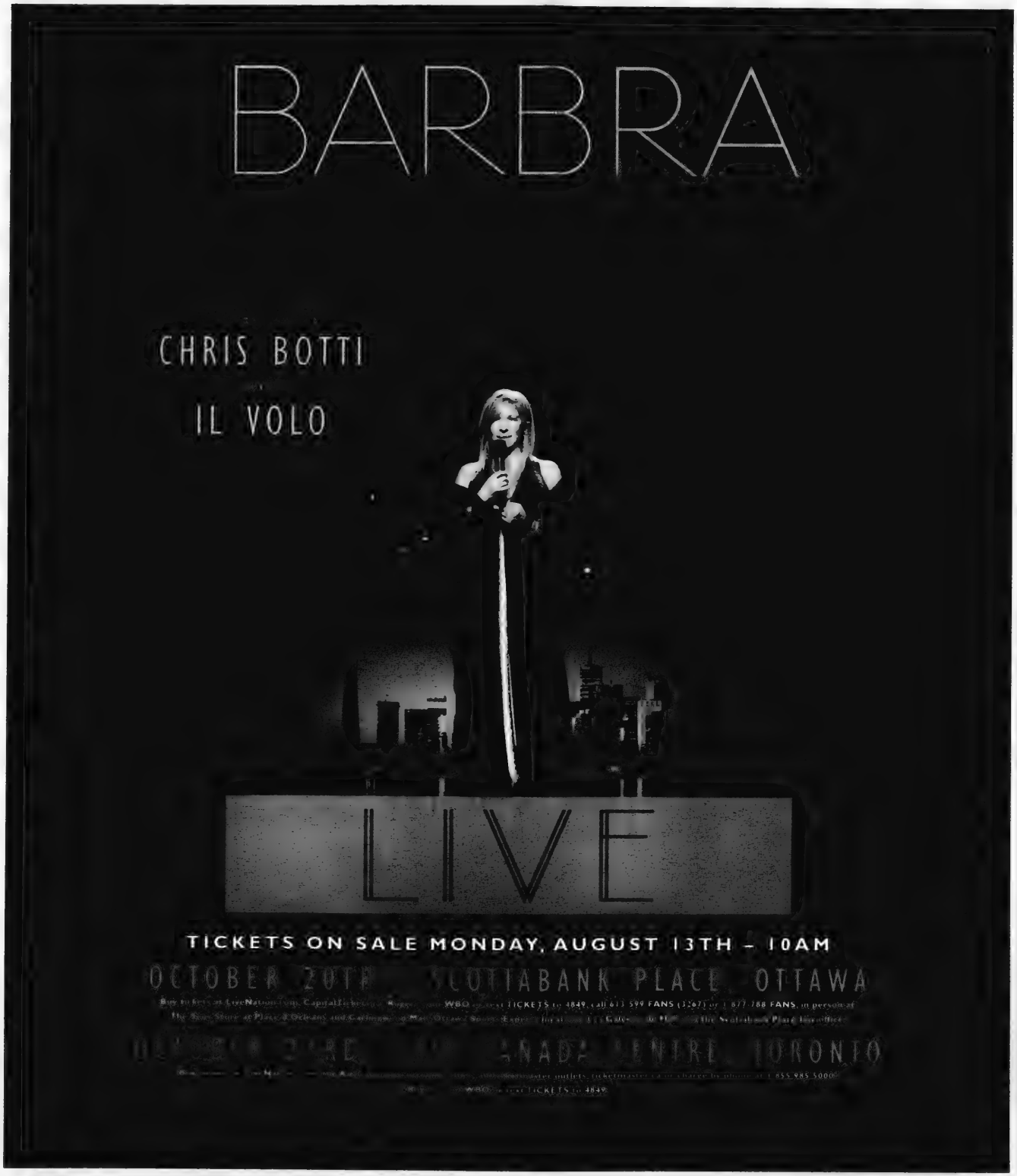
Digitalis was introduced into medical practice by William Withering (1741-1799) an English medical botanist. The foxglove plant, digitalis purpurea, had been known for centuries as a folk remedy for the treatment of dropsy, or congestive heart failure, and other conditions. In 1785, Withering published his classic work, *An Account of the Foxglove and Some of Its Medical Uses: with Practical Remarks on Dropsy and Other Diseases.* His observations changed the course of medicine, and although digitalis is used less in current medical practice to treat heart disease, I have frequently used it in the past and observed its often dramatic life-saving effects. My personal foray into gardening has occurred late in life, but I have witnessed professionally the important therapeutic impact that raising plants can have on elderly people, including those with cognitive impairment and cancer.

The short-story writer O. Henry captured poignantly the life-affirming impact of what was believed to be a lingering vine leaf on a pneumonia-stricken woman in *The Last Leaf.* The patient's ultimate recovery is at the expense of an old painter who, as his last heroic artistic effort, paints a leaf on the wall facing the window to give the illusion of a still-living leaf, only to contract fatal pneumonia as the price paid.

In the palliative-care unit where I work, there is an active plant group that, with a recreation therapist and dedicated volunteers, helps patients nurture their plants.

One elderly gentleman with advanced malignancy had always raised his own vegetables. His plant project was to grow some tomatoes while he was in the unit, and the joy that he experienced watching his carefully tended blooms yield their produce was a testimony to the life-affirming power of plants living and thriving through our human efforts.

*Dr. Michael Gordon is medical program director of palliative care at Baycrest and co-author with Bart Mindszenthy of Parenting Your Parents (Dundurn Press). His latest book, Moments that Matter: Cases in Ethical Eldercare, follows his previous book, Brooklyn Beginnings: A Geriatrician's Odyssey. All can be researched at his website: http://www.drmichaelgordon.com.*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## This Week

### National

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# Nearly half of Israelis oppose Iran strike

**Asher Zeiger**
The Times of Israel

**JERUSALEM** — Almost half of Israelis oppose a strike on Iran's nuclear facilities to halt its nuclear drive, Israel's Channel 10 reported on Sunday.

A poll conducted by the Dialogue Institute under the supervision of Kamil Fuchs, a professor of statistics at Tel Aviv University, found that 46 per cent of respondents said Israel should not attack Iran's nuclear facilities, 32 per cent advocated an Israeli strike and 22 per cent offered no opinion.

The institute, a non-profit organization based at Temple University in Philadelphia that fosters interreligious and intercultural scholarship and co-operation, published the survey results amid heightened debate among senior Israeli policy officials about the necessity of a military strike to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Ehud Barak have made increasingly vociferous statements about the urgent imperative to stop Iran.

**Benjamin Netanyahu**

The poll also showed that Israeli support for Netanyahu has waned in the past three months. According to the poll, only 34 per cent expressed satisfaction with the prime minister, as opposed to 58 per cent who said they are dissatisfied. The remainder had no opinion. A similar survey conducted in May found that 46 per cent were satisfied with the prime minister's performance.

The same survey found Israelis prefer Republican Mitt Romney to incumbent Barack Obama as the next U.S. president, by 34 per cent to 31 per cent.

Channel 10 attributed the prime minister's decreased support to the public's perception that he has failed to stand up to the haredim on the issue of a universal military draft, which many secular Israelis, as well as those in the national-religious camp, strongly support.

*TimesofIsrael.com*

# Baird makes surprise visit to Jerusalem

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird made a surprise visit to Israel Monday morning, stopping at the Kotel to pray with Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, the rabbi of the Western Wall.

Baird had been on a four-day Middle Eastern trip to Jordan and Lebanon to meet with regional leaders and discuss the impact the crisis in Syria is having on those border countries. He pledged Canada's support to assist with the humanitarian crisis emerging.

He had not indicated Israel was on his itinerary prior to leaving Ottawa on Aug. 10.

Baird was scheduled to conclude his visit to the region on Monday.

At the time of writing, it was unclear whether Baird had scheduled any last-minute meetings with Israeli leaders as well during his brief visit.

Queries to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were not returned by *The CJN*'s deadline.

Reports from Israel indicated Baird was on a personal trip to the holy site.

A Monday morning statement from Rabbi Rabinowitz's office said Baird was in Israel to show support for the Jewish state and to express "his admiration and friendship for the people of Israel and the hope that the friendship with his country would continue and be strengthened."

**Continued on page 32**

**John Baird and Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz**
*[Office of Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz photo]*

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*Israeli software key to Mars rover's development – see page 34*

## Canada

### Hospital Fundraiser

**TORONTO** — Former Canadian senator Jerry Grafstein and his wife, Carole, will host a fundraiser Sept. 10 at their home for the Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation and the North York General Hospital Foundation featuring former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani as guest speaker. Proceeds will benefit children's care facilities at both hospitals equally, organizers said.

## World

### Essayist Rakoff Dies

**NEW YORK** — Canadian-born essayist and humourist David Rakoff died Aug. 9 in New York City after a two-year bout with cancer. He was 47. Born in Montreal and raised in Toronto, Rakoff was perhaps best known as a contributor to *This American Life* on Public Radio International, but he also published three books and was a frequent contributor to a number of high-profile publications.

### El Al Airfare Bargain

**NEW YORK** — Thousands of travellers bought bargain-basement-priced tickets to Israel on El Al Airlines after a third-party mistake sent the price plummeting. The tickets, sold Aug. 6, were going for as low as $335 round trip, the New York *Jewish Week* reported. El Al said the prices were a third-party mistake, but all tickets would be honoured, despite what some social media users were claiming. People were alerted to the deal by travel website Dan's Deals. El Al said it wasn't sure how many tickets were sold at the low fare.

### Duke Heschel Coup

**DURHAM, N.C.** — Duke University has acquired a collection of the papers of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, including correspondence, publications, documents and photos that have never been available to scholars, Duke said Aug. 7. Rabbi Heschel, an influential 20th-century religious leader, was involved with the U.S. civil rights and anti-Vietnam War movements. He famously marched with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, Ala., and is credited with coining the civil rights slogan, "We pray with our legs."

### Former Canadian Avoids Some Charges

Laszlo Csizsik-Csatary

**BUDAPEST** — Suspected war criminal and former Montrealer Laszlo Csizsik-Csatary of Hungary won't be charged with the murder of 300 Jews in 1941, Budapest prosecutors said.

Csizsik-Csatary's alleged complicity in the murder of some 15,000 Jews in 1944 is still being investigated.

Accusations that Csizsik-Csatary, 97, helped send the 300 to their deaths at the Kamyanets-Podilsky camp in Ukraine are "groundless," the Budapest municipal prosecutor's office said Aug. 8.

He wasn't at the deportation and lacked the authority to be responsible for it, a spokesperson said.

The prosecution is probing allegations that in 1944, Csizsik-Csatary, a senior police officer, was responsible for deporting 15,700 people to Nazi death camps from the Jewish ghetto in Kosice, Slovakia.

Hungarian police arrested him last month based on the findings of an investigation by the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC). Efraim Zuroff, director of the Wiesenthal Center's Israel office, told JTA he would check if Hungarian prosecutors had interviewed any witnesses before dropping the charges. Zuroff said an 84-year-old Holocaust survivor had accused Csizsik-Csatary of arranging for four of her brothers to be pulled out of a labour camp and murdered at Kamyanets-Podilsky.

Police arrested Csizsik-Csatary 15 years after his return to Hungary. He had lived in Canada almost 50 years and worked as an art dealer before being stripped of his citizenship. Britain's *Sun* newspaper reported on the SWC investigation last month, but Budapest's chief prosecutor said July 17 it "contains no new evidence." Csizsik-Csatary was nonetheless arrested July 18.

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# Israeli Sunday school partners with Hillel

## *Kachol Lavan expecting 10% increase in enrolment*

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

While some private Jewish schools struggle to keep enrolment figures from slipping, Kachol Lavan, the supplementary school for Toronto's growing Israeli community, is enjoying an annual increase in registration.

With three locations in the Greater Toronto Area, Kachol Lavan's principal Ariel Zaltzman is expecting about 350 students in September– about 10 per cent more than last year – to join the seven-year-old Sunday school program that serves children from junior kindergarten to Grade 8.

Always striving to attract more families, Zaltzman was all ears when Hillel of Greater Toronto's Israel programming director Shirin Ezekiel, approached him with an idea for a new program for university students with young families.

"For the last 3-1/2 years, I've been working with [Israeli] post-doctoral students who are here with their young families for maybe five to seven years, [as well as] former students who have decided to stay because they got work opportunities," said Ezekiel, who is also a former Israeli and the mother of a three-year-old boy.

"We'd been using the Hillel building and resources to have Shabbat dinners and holiday stuff, since most of us here are without extended family. But we're also parents, so we want to give our kids the same experience we had," Ezekiel explained.

"So we started doing activities around the chagim and it felt like a natural step to offer programs for the kids. As the kids are growing, we're worried about them [retaining the Hebrew] language and what culture and traditions we're providing them with."

When she told Zaltzman about her idea and guaranteed that a few families in the downtown area would be interested in a Sunday school program geared for kids between the ages of one and four, he was eager to put something together.

"I was very happy when Shirin approached me and told me there was a group from Hillel that… wanted to retain the Hebrew language, to retain the Israeli culture," Zaltzman said.

Continued on page 14

**Shirin Ezekiel, right, with her husband Tsahi Hayat and son Itamar, helped create a new pre-school program for Kachol Lavan.**

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# Research for life choices

In this week's *CJN*, we publish an interview by *The Times of Israel* correspondent Raphael Aren with the revolutionary Jerusalem scholar Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz.

In his typically pointed and iconoclastic manner, Rabbi Steinsaltz expounds upon the far-reaching personal potential to be found in study of and familiarity with, at least to some degree, the Talmud, which for him can be an effective and even magisterial way to develop human character and particularly Jewish, human character.

"Dealing with Talmud is like doing psychoanalysis. *At least you're beginning to understand what you are,*" Rav Steinsaltz told Aren. (Our emphasis) "No part of Jewish culture, on any level, is without some sort of connection to the Talmud, he added."

Later in the interview, Aren summarizes one of the rav's key messages about the study of Talmud: "Once a student understands that learning Gemara is not necessarily about the actual subject the rabbis are discussing but understanding axioms, he can tackle any other problem."

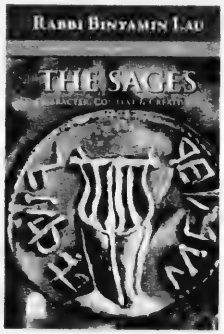
When he speaks about study of the Talmud, Rav Steinsaltz ought to be listened to. He is one of the world's pre-eminent talmudic authorities, as Aren points out.

Koren Publishers Jerusalem Ltd. recently published an elegant new English translation of Rav Steinsaltz's Hebrew edition of the Talmud. (Elsewhere in this edition of the paper, Prof. Martin Lockshin reviews it.)

The main reason that Rav Steinsaltz has laboured for decades to provide a more accessible but no less authoritative version of the Talmud was, as he once succinctly phrased it to "let my people learn." As with all great teachers, he has provided pathways for individuals to walk on their own. He has opened windows through which people might look and possibly see new and startlingly revelatory things.

Because so many of us formed early opinions about Judaism as a severe culture primarily of prohibitions, we tended to back away in later life from even casual curiosity about investigating more of it. So many of us made decisions about the way in which we would live Jewishly without actually knowing too much about the options available. In no other realm of our lives, however, would we make decisions, let alone momentous ones, without first doing the research, without getting the basic information on the subject.

And yet, when it comes to leading a Jewish life – I am categorically not referring here to the leading of a religiously observant life – so many of us simply cast aside the rich history, literature, heritage, customs and values of our storied people without first researching what it is we are casting aside.



Rav Steinsaltz has dedicated the larger part of his life to providing us with personal learning opportunities and resources to do that preliminary research. The new Koren Talmud Bavli is one quite spectacular resource.

There are countless others, although not on as grand a scale as the Talmud Bavli. For example, Maggid Press, a division of Koren Publishers Jerusalem Ltd, has recently published a three-volume work by Rabbi Binyamin Lau called *The Sages.*

Rabbi Lau is a scholar, educator, social activist, pulpit leader and lecturer. As he explains, *The Sages* "attempts to trace the development of Jewish thought as formulated by the sages of the Second Temple period."

It is a ground-breaking work. Generally speaking, the Orthodox world has not delved into the context, the history of the time, or the personal natures of the sages whose teachings have been passed forward from generation to generation. But Rabbi Lau does precisely that. Using the tools of academia, itself controversial within the traditional world, Rabbi Lau studies and explains the ideas of the Second Temple sages "against the background of their character and their historical context."

Similarly ground-breaking in the realm of Torah study is the collected divrei Torah of the scholars at Yeshivat Har Etzion, *Torah MiEtzion: New Readings in Tanach.* The yeshiva, founded in 1968 by the late Rav Yehuda Amital along with Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein, is at the very heart of "new" Torah study that has been called a "unique, analytically rigorous, creative interpretive method that is infused with a profound quest for meaning."

The majority of the essays in *Torah MiEtzion* were originally published in the parshah series of the Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash (www.vbm-torah.org), an online locus of study that has been affiliated with the yeshivah for some 20 years.

We have, today, so many tools to help us choose what, if any, Jewish path to walk, to help us know "what we are."

## SeeJN

### *FEEDING THE NEEDY IN SOUTH TEL AVIV*

**African asylum and jobs seekers receive food at Levinski Park in south Tel Aviv from their neighbours. The residents around the park have become known as *marak* Levinski (Levinski's soup). They come to the park with pots and plates filled with food to hand out to the hungry who form a long line in order to eat, sometimes their only meal of the day.**

***[FLASH90 photo]***

# Queen's Park gives approval for 'Al-Quds' rally

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

Queen's Park has approved an "Al-Quds" rally on the legislature's grounds that Jewish groups say offended Canadian values and was antisemitic when held last year.

The rally is scheduled for Aug. 18 and is part of a larger campaign to protest "the usurpation of the Holy Land by the Zionist regime." The Al-Quds rallies, which have been held in a number of Canadian and American cities, were the creation of the late Iranian Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Avi Benlolo

Jewish groups are disappointed that Queen's Park's Sergeant-at-Arms Dennis Clark has granted approval for the demonstration. They had argued that last year's event violated Queen's Park's terms of use and this year's application should have been denied.

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) called the organizing Al-Quds committee pro-Iran and anti-Israel.

"Allowing this committee to import the hateful dogma of the despotic Iranian regime to the grounds of the Ontario legislature is an insult to all Canadians who are offended by a group of fanatics who pervert our cherished ideal of free speech to spout venom and to promote a profoundly anti-western, anti-democratic theology," said Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of FSWC.

"It is truly unfortunate that the principles of tolerance and inclusion do not extend to the target of their unbridled hatred – Canada's Jewish community, which remains astonished that such groups are welcome in our public spaces."

FSWC called last year's rally an "endorsement of hate" and "a matter of public safety."

The group said that it "will continue to monitor the situation and pressure police, media, politicians and community leaders to review the laws that permit hate and the support of repressive Iranian-style sharia law free reign in Ontario's public spaces."

"This is no longer a debate about free speech versus hate speech," Benlolo said. "This is an insult to all Ontarians and a simple matter of right and wrong."

Frank Dimant, CEO of B'nai Brith Canada, said that "'Al-Quds' organizers have taken great steps to keep their identities hidden from the public, and in the name of privacy, the government will not disclose their identities, despite the very public nature of this event.

"It is simply not appropriate for the government to shield the identity of the organization behind this public rally.

"Given last year's demonstration where hateful remarks were made by speakers and organizers who singled out Ontario's Jewish community for contempt, such a rally has no place at the seat of Ontario's government. Since the event is in fact a jihadist call to action for the destruction of the Jewish State of Israel and its transformation into one ruled by Islamist sharia law, the very concept of marking 'Al-Quds Day' is offensive to the principles Ontarians live by.

Steve McDonald, a spokesperson for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) held out the hope that the sergeant-at-arms could reverse his decision.

"He still has the opportunity to take our advice" and deny permission for the rally, to take place, McDonald said.

CIJA had provided the sergeant-at-arms with information about last year's rally, in which speakers called Israel and Zionists cancerous, barbarians, parasitic and malevolent.

"We explained why we think vis-à-vis its own policy that it was violated last year and why we expect it will be violated again this year," he said.

"If they allow them to proceed, we'll be watching closely," he added.

Clark told *The CJN* that he met with organizers of the rally and told "them what they can or can't do. It has to be lawful."

However, "It's important that we don't censor events, as long as they stay within the law.

"If they step over the line, we're going to monitor it closely," with members of his staff and Toronto police on hand. "Police will "determine if it's in the best public interest to do something then or later. Public safety is paramount," he said.

Clark said he's aware of last year's rally and of concerns it will be repeated. But, he continued, "we go by their intent today. They say they will play within the rules and ensure that nothing will cross the line."

As for B'nai Brith's request that he identify the event's sponsors, Clark said "we just don't release the names of the organizers. It's up to them to let people know who they are."

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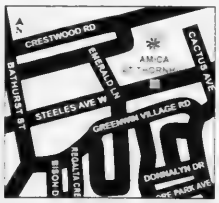


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# Urdu news service to carry Israeli items

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

*Weekly Press Pakistan* (*WPP*), a Toronto-based news service, has entered into an agreement with the *Tazpit News Agency* to carry stories from Israel, some of them translated into the Urdu language.

*WPP* publisher Tariq Khan said *Tazpit* will provide him English-language stories and he will translate others and include them in his Urdu-language commentaries.

"It's a good source of information about Israel," Khan said. "I am very proud that people for the first time are coming to know about Israel, what Israel is doing."

*Tazpit* director Amotz Eyal said the collaboration should expose millions of readers to news and information coming from Israel.

"I am confident that this joint venture will be beneficial to Israelis as well as Pakistanis and will promote understanding between the two parties," he said.

Khan said *WPP* has been attempting to present its audience with news from Israel that breaks the Urdu-speaking community's misconceptions about Jews and the Jewish state. There is no reason non-Arab Muslims should share the hostility to Israel of Arab Muslims, he said.

***'I am confident that this joint venture will promote understanding between the two parties'***

In last week's edition, *WPP* carried a *Tazpit* story highlighting the Lollapalooza music festival that will take place in Tel Aviv next summer. Another featured a historic look at the Tu b'Av "Valentine's Day" festival, while a third unattributed story celebrated the 89th birthday of Israeli President Shimon Peres.

Featured at the top of the news agency's web page (http://weeklypresspakistan.com/) was a story illustrated by a menorah and Star of David that asked, "Why are Jews so powerful? A Pakistani perspective." The story cites the Jewish contributions to a number of fields, including medicine, science, and popular culture, and attributes Jews' disproportionate successes to education.

**Tariq Kahn**

Khan said he entered into the arrangement with *Tazpit* after meeting Eyal in June. "I looked into his website, and when he arrived, we had a frank discussion. He's a good person, a young man with a good team."

The Israeli government has been deficient in making its case to people in South and Central Asia, where Urdu is widely spoken, Khan said.

Khan, who worked for years in various news agencies in Pakistan before moving to Canada, said he never received any news releases from the Israeli government. "Israel was not at all interested in non-Arab Islamic agencies," he said. "I never received a single word from Israel."

Pakistanis' knowledge of Israel is framed strictly by the conflict with the Palestinians, he continued. "People know only the conflict. I'm trying to promote the better aspects of Israel in Urdu."

Khan himself has been involved in several meetings with Toronto Jews to try to foster better relations between local Muslims and Jews. A recent get-together at a Toronto library saw 40 Jews and Muslims enter a "get to know one another" dialogue on a number of non-political topics. Khan co-chaired the meeting with David Nitkin of EthicScan Canada.

Khan hopes to expand the next meeting, sometimes in the fall, to include youngsters under 15.

# Egypt's security forces awaken to jihadist threat

The killing of 16 Egyptian border guards in the Aug. 5 attack on an army outpost near Rafah in the northern Sinai by 35 militants – global jihadists and radical Bedouin among them – sent shock waves through Egyptian society.

"Israel has been warning for years now that terrorists from global jihad groups based throughout the Middle East, alongside Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, are using Sinai as a launch pad for attacks into Israel," wrote Yaakov Katz in the *Jerusalem Post*. "Until now, likely because the attacks were aimed only against Israel, the Egyptians have done hardly anything about this. Now, that might begin to change." Still, Katz assumed that it could take weeks if not months to see evidence of such change.

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

Yet just three days later, in apparent co-ordination with Israel, Egypt acted decisively, sending Apache helicopters against suspected militants, and, according to Egyptian officials, killing 20. This was far from the first time that Bedouin and others in the Sinai had attacked Egyptian security personnel there. But there had never before been such a concerted, brazen assault and one that resulted in so many Egyptian fatalities.

The international media, preoccupied with the ongoing carnage and chaos in Syria, were forced by the scale and significance of the attack and Egyptian response to pay attention to what was transpiring in the Sinai.

Even though the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Hamas in Gaza immediately charged that Israel's Mossad was behind the murder of the Egyptian soldiers, most Egyptians just didn't buy it. In a society where anti-Israel conspiracy theories are rife and readily believed, this was quite a departure. But in this case, the evidence that Bedouins and jihadists were the perpetrators was simply overwhelming.

On Aug. 6, Egypt's state-run news agency, MENA, reported that according to a security official "Islamist elements who infiltrated Egypt from the Gaza Strip through tunnels are behind the attacks, along with other Islamists situated in the areas of [northeastern] Sinai."

The following day, according to another Egyptian news agency, Morad Mowafi, head of the Egyptian General Intelligence Service, said the terrorist group behind the attack is spread between Egypt's Sinai and Gaza. Reacting to the accusation that Egyptian authorities had information of a pending attack, but failed to act on it, imperiling its own soldiers, Mowafi reportedly admitted, "Yes we had detailed information about the attack, but we never imagined that a Muslim would kill a Muslim on the hour of breaking the fasting in Ramadan." What he didn't say was that the intelligence had come from the Israelis, who had also warned their own citizens vacationing along the Red Sea about the threat of terrorist attacks.

The failure of the Egyptian authorities to act on the intelligence led President Mohamed Morsi to replace Mowafi and the governor of the lawless northern Sinai region. But Morsi himself was feeling the heat from angry Egyptians. After all, just days before the Sinai attack, he had embraced Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Cairo and promised to ease the passage of more Palestinians from Gaza into Egypt through the Rafah border crossing.

As the governing authority in Gaza, Hamas bears responsibility for security and was left in an embarrassing position when it was revealed that Palestinians and others from Gaza, although from more radical salafist groups, had been involved in the assault on the Egyptians. For his part, Morsi did not attend the funeral for the slain soldiers when his security services warned that, given the outrage of ordinary Egyptians, his safety could not be guaranteed.

**The burnt-out wreckage of the Egyptian military vehicle commandeered by the terrorists who killed 16 Egyptians and then tried to enter Israel.** *[Flash90 photo]*

It was not lost on the media, especially in Israel, that, as bad a turn of events as this was for Morsi, as well as for the Muslim Brotherhood and its Gaza-based offshoot Hamas, at least Israel benefited, if only in the short term, from enhanced security co-operation from Egyptian military forces, which are finally reacting to the threat jihadists pose to their own country.

*Paul Michaels is director of research and senior media relations with the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

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# Hatred thwarts what could be

The brutal events last week at the Gaza-Sinai-Israel intersection were a sordid reminder that the primary crude that flows thick and black in large amounts throughout the Arab Middle East is inter-communal hatred.

Oil is the other one.

Terrorists from Gaza crossed into the Sinai and killed 16 Egyptian soldiers as the soldiers were eating their fast-ending Ramadan meal. The terrorists, armed with considerable lethal weaponry, then commandeered an Egyptian troop carrier and burst across the Israel border at Kerem Shalom intent on murdering as many Israelis as possible.

The terrorists did not live to carry out their homicidal plan. The IDF stopped them a short distance from the border.

In a rapid-fire set of inter-related moves, Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi reacted quickly to the slaughter of the Egyptian soldiers. It attacked a cluster of putative terrorists in Sinai, closed the border with Gaza, ordered the sealing of the tunnels from Gaza into Sinai, demanded the extradition of certain Hamas men from Gaza to Egypt, replaced the chief intelligence officer, the defence minister, chief of staff and other security officials.

Under the pretext of the attack in Sinai, Morsi has taken over control of the vaunted elite Egyptian military establishment. The personnel moves are still being assessed by Israel.

In an attempt to avoid responsibility for the murder of the Egyptian soldiers, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, predictably, blamed Israel. To a willing body of attentive media, he said: "The attack's method confirms some sort of Israeli involvement aiming to achieve political and security goals, cause tension on the border with Egypt and destroy joint efforts to end the Gaza blockade."

In an interesting sidebar dripping with equal parts irony and humanity, that could only accompany a story in the Middle East, it is worth noting that Haniyeh's sister was recently in Israel. And not quite as a tourist.

She accompanied her gravely ill husband to the Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikvah. Haniyeh's sister and his brother-in-law entered Israel from Gaza at the Erez checkpoint and then travelled by Magen David Adom ambulance to the hospital in Petah Tikva. Haniyeh's brother-in-law was hospitalized in Israel for about a week. The Israeli medical team saved his life. He and his wife, Haniyeh's sister, then returned to Gaza.

The life-saving treatment for the Gaza couple in Israel is not a rare occurrence. It happens quite frequently. But for the fact that Ismail Haniyeh strives daily to destroy the country, the hospitals, the doctors and the nurses who saved his brother-in-law's life, it would happen even more. That it does not is the result of the ongoing, Haniyeh-like hatred that thwarts what could be.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Histadrut secretary general Yisrael Kessar ordered the labour federation's industrial leaders to break all commercial ties with apartheid South Africa once existing contracts had expired. The move came after revelations that a firm owned by the Histadrut's Koor Industries had bought steel and scrap iron from South Africa worth $25 million.

*Editorial Advisory Board:* **Maurice Benzacar, Michael Brown, Donald Carr, Rabbi Michael Dolgin, Jake Goldstein, Jeffrey Kopstein, Keith Landy, Lou Ronson, Alan Sandler, Rabbi Philip Scheim, Mike Shriqui, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, Ehud Telem, Nelson Wiseman.**

## Zionists affected by U.S. segregation

That Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the father of Revisionist Zionism, was concerned about American blacks is not news ("Ze'ev Jabotinsky's little-known anti-racist legacy," Aug. 2). He wrote in 1910 that there was not "anywhere in the civilized world," including Russia and Romania, "the kind of inequality" that existed in "democratic" America, and that lynchings in the American South were worse than the pogroms in Kishinev. His early novel, *Virginia*, revolves around the complicated psychology of an American southern woman raped during a slave rebellion and her Swedish husband. In some respects, Jabotinsky wrote, Jews were better off in czarist Russia than in the United States.

What Rafael Medoff fails to mention in his article on the (72nd, not 70th!) anniversary of Jabotinsky's death is the context for his subject's feelings. Most of the early Zionists were profoundly affected by American segregation and deeply moved by *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which Jabotinsky called, the single "book which most directly influenced history." Former Israeli prime minister Golda Meir was similarly appreciative of it, and the book was one of the few novels in founding prime minister David Ben-Gurion's library. The founders of the state on the right and the left were acutely sensitive to prejudice and inequality anywhere, which they invariably saw as analogous to the experiences of the Jewish People. They understood from their own lives why a Jewish state was an imperative, but their perception did not blind them to the suffering of others.

I wrote about all of this some two decades ago in my book, *The Israeli-American Connection: Its Roots in the Yishuv, 1914-1945.*

**Michael Brown**
**Toronto**

* * *

## The Olympics

It should come as no surprise that the Palestinian Authority would object to the request for one minute of silence to commemorate the massacre of the 11 Israeli athletes butchered in the 1972 Munich Olympics. After all, this is a society that names its streets and parks after suicide bombers and celebrated the death of thousands of Americans during the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center.

Commendations should be given to U.S. President Barack Obama, our federal government and the Italian delegation to the 2012 London Olympiad who supported the request for one minute of silence. Also to be applauded is Brian Williams of CTV and Bob Costas of NBC, who voiced their support when the Israeli athletes walked into the London stadium.

I am not surprised that Canada's Dick Pound has remained silent. During past Olympics, he refused to acknowledge letters criticizing the International Olympic Committee for not punishing and expelling Iran for failing to compete against Israeli athletes. I would have expected more from an Olympian and a high-ranking IOC member.

**Bert Raphael**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

* * *

## Gov't cuts to archival program

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) has eliminated the $1.71-million National Archival Development Program and made drastic cuts to its staffing due to the recent federal budget ("Archivists denounce federal budget," June 14). The cuts – a total of $10 million over three years – will lead to the loss of specialized professionals who process the records and care for them so they can be made available in person or digitally to researchers in Canada and around the world. It takes more than simple scanning to keep these important documentary resources available to researchers in perpetuity.

### *LET THEM GO...*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

Genealogy is much more than formulating a family tree for one's amusement – there are much more serious reasons for doing this type of research, including finding lost or estranged relatives, such as survivors of wars or of the Holocaust; genetic research, such as tracking genetic diseases in families in order to avoid spreading these; finding a bone marrow match in families (genealogical research has saved lives), and finding siblings or relatives unwittingly separated as a result of tragedies or catastrophes.

One of the things that might have been done to help avoid having to make such drastic cuts is to have increased the fees for researching and mailing documents to those who request them. I would ask this government to please reconsider the recently implemented devastating budget cuts to LAC.

**Merle Kastner**
**Vice-President and Programming Chair**
**Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal**

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# 'The Talmud has the quality of sanity'

**Raphael Aren**
The Times of Israel

Which book should be at the core of Jewish education? Most educators would probably point to the Bible without thinking twice, but Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz happens to disagree. While not doubting the importance of Bible study, he would prefer that the Talmud, or Gemara, stand at the centre of the Israeli school system.

"It's a central pillar for understanding anything about Judaism, more than the Bible," said Steinsaltz, one of the world's best-known Talmud scholars. "The Talmud is not a divine gift given to people. The Jewish People created it. But on the other hand, it created the Jewish People. In so many ways, we're talmudic Jews, whether we believe in it or not."

Does one have to believe in God to appreciate Talmud study? Steinsaltz doesn't think so. "Do you have to believe in Shakespeare?"

No other book has shaped the Jewish People as much as the Babylonian Talmud, said Steinsaltz, 75. He should know. He spent nearly five decades writing a comprehensive commentary on all of the Gemara's 63 tractates, which deal with everything from civil, criminal and ritual law to Jewish history, ethics and mythology.

"Dealing with Talmud is like doing psychoanalysis. At least you're beginning to understand what you are," he said. "No part of Jewish culture, on any level, is without some sort of connection to the Talmud."

The Talmud records the legal and religious discussions thousands of rabbis had over centuries until it was compiled in about 500 CE. It constitutes the foundation of Jewish law, practice and customs to this very day and forms the core curriculum of Orthodox yeshivas.

But Talmud study would be helpful even outside the yeshiva world, Steinsaltz believes. Replacing the Bible with the Talmud as the key book taught in Israel's schools could help the Jewish state become a more balanced and stable society, he said.

"The Talmud as a book has the enormous quality that the world needs now more than anything else: sanity," Steinsaltz told *The Times of Israel* recently in his study, located on a serene street in Jerusalem's Nahlaot quarter.

"The Talmud is the book of sanity. And when you study it, it confers a certain amount of sanity," Steinsaltz said, suggesting that the most fanatical rabbis are rarely great Talmudists. After all, the Gemara consists mainly of logical and rational, back-and-forth discussions about legal issues, aimed at arriving at a factual truth, he points out. What could be more sane than that?

"It was a big mistake to make the education in Israel based so much on the Bible," Steinsaltz said, between puffs on his pipe. "Because the Bible was written by prophets. If you read the Bible, you somehow become, in your mind, a little prophet. That's the way Israelis speak to each other – they don't have conversations, they all have complete and unlimited knowledge. Learning Talmud would bring a big change to the Israeli mind, because it deals with and is connected to dialectic."

Talmudic discussions are indeed often methodological attempts to arrive at a just conclusion on the basis of scrutinizing a legal problem. But the Gemara is not always "rational." Sometimes it delves into the supernatural. Certain segments speak, quite literally, of the power of demons or magic amulets. One particularly baffling segment describes how several sages created vegetables and other food items for their own consumption pretty much ex nihilo, by merely uttering some magical formulas.

Steinsaltz, a white-bearded all-round scholar who has published more than 60 books on subjects ranging from Jewish mysticism to zoology, has many responses to such challenges. One of them refers to *The Screwtape Letters* by Christian writer C.S. Lewis, a novel describing the correspondence between a senior demon and his apprentice. One of the first lessons the senior demon teaches his student is to make the humans believe demons have horns and a tail. "Because if the humans see you, they will never recognize who you are," Steinsaltz quoted with a smile.

"I don't know why we shouldn't believe in demons," he said. "We see enough of them walking around in human form, don't we?"

Witty stories aside, Steinsaltz, is well-versed enough in modern science to confidently posit that whoever believes in the latest physical theories should not be bewildered by Jewish mysticism.

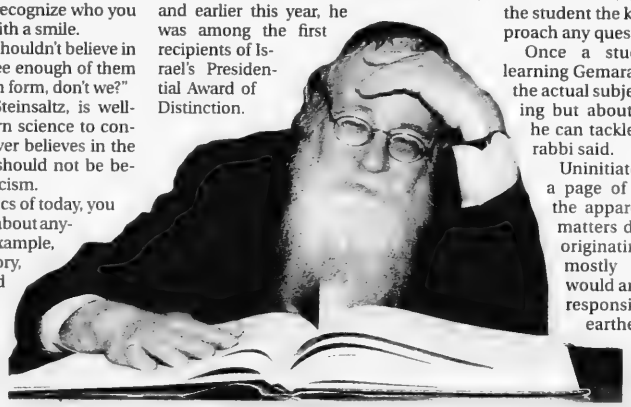
"If you study the physics of today, you are no longer astonished about anything," he said. As an example, he mentioned String Theory, which – grossly simplified – speaks of at least twice as many dimensions as the classical model of Einstein's relativity, and which physicists predict will replace the world's current understanding of the universe. "The cucumbers in the Gemara will sound to you nice, sane and pretty much real-life after you read it."

Steinsaltz's first name, "Adin," means gentle or tender in Hebrew, which characterizes him well: he smiles and is friendly, and speaks so quietly that it almost sounds as though he's whispering. During our interview, he patiently answered every question – often interjecting personal anecdotes and quotes from Plato to Pushkin into his responses – until his aides intervened and politely threw me out.

Born in Jerusalem to secular parents, Steinsaltz studied mathematics, physics and chemistry before embarking on a rabbinical career. At 23, he became Israel's youngest school principal. His claim to fame, however, is his groundbreaking commentary to the almost 6,000 pages of the Babylonian Talmud, a labour of 45 years. He completed the monumental project two years ago, providing a commentary that helps Hebrew speakers decipher the complicated text of the Gemara, which was written in ancient Aramaic and without punctuation.

In what has come to be known as "the Steinsaltz edition," the classical medieval commentary of Rashi was given a different place on the page, and this was one of the reasons that parts of the haredi world deemed Steinsaltz's commentary unacceptable. Some hardliners shunned Steinsaltz and his text: the late Rabbi Eliezer Menachem Shach, for example, called him a "heretic" and forbade students to consult his commentary or even debate him.

But the ban did not hold. Many prominent Orthodox rabbis had plenty of good things to say about the Steinsaltz Talmud, and today it can be found on countless bookshelves around the world. According to the website of Shefa, the organization publishing and promoting Steinsaltz's works, students include Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman, celebrity lawyer Alan Dershowitz and former Italian prime minister Giulio Andreotti. In 1988, Steinsaltz received the Israel Prize, and earlier this year, he was among the first recipients of Israel's Presidential Award of Distinction.



**Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz**

For Steinsaltz, learning Gemara is more than merely studying. As he writes in the preface to the new Koren edition, released this summer, his work aims to allow Jews to study the Talmud, "approach it, and perhaps even become one with it."

What does that mean, becoming one with the Talmud?

"It's a matter of identification," Steinsaltz said, puffing on the pipe again. Sometimes people see or read things but remain estranged from them, even if they fully comprehend the content. For some Talmud students, a superficial knowledge of the material might be enough, but his goal is to allow readers to be able to "get involved" with the text, he said.

"The Talmud is a language of thinking. In order to be fascinated by it, you have to somehow either acquire it or admire it," he says.

As you'll have gathered by now, Steinsaltz himself is totally sold on the Talmud's value: "In certain ways, it is far more relevant than mathematics," he said. "Because most of mathematics has no relevance to anything, not in this world and not in the world to come."

Many a mathematician has attacked Steinsaltz for such statements, the kind he has been making in hundreds of articles and lectures over the years. He's unrepentant. Despite his knowledge and appreciation of natural sciences, he considers that people trying to convince laymen of the importance and helpfulness of mathematics are "con men," he said. "It's funny, but even the mathematics you need for making a satellite is not very high mathematics," he insisted.

Yet the Talmud, Steinsaltz argued, is eternally relevant.

"If you learn Gemara, you don't really know what to do as a Jew today," he admitted, since it mostly recounts discussions whose conclusions – if there are any – are not necessarily binding in contemporary religious law. "But, as in mathematics, some of these things are the basics, and you build on them later." In other words, the Talmud's dialectic discussions teach the student the know-how he needs to approach any question that may arise.

Once a student understands that learning Gemara is not necessarily about the actual subject the rabbis are discussing but about understanding axioms, he can tackle any other problem, the rabbi said.

Uninitiated people, glancing at a page of Talmud, might scoff at the apparent obsolescence of the matters discussed, many of them originating from a pre-modern, mostly agrarian society. Why would anybody care today who is responsible for the damage to an earthen vessel caused by oxen on the loose?

"Some of the questions are about oxen, and some are about the breaking of shards. But these are only examples," Steinsaltz said. Every old book suffers from outdated examples, and even at the time it was written, the Talmud was "not always up-to date," he allowed.

But the deeper imperatives remain. When the Gemara deals with the laws of damages, it uses oxen and shards, but the same principles its uses can today be used for cars and iPods or anything else. It's about primary damages and secondary damages, intentional damages and unintentional damages, those that could have been avoided and those that were bound to happen, and so on.

"If you don't get it beyond the shards and the cow, then you didn't really learn Gemara," Steinsaltz said. "Everybody who thinks that an ox is an ox is himself an ox."

*TimesofIsrael.com*

***Please see related story on page 17***

# Believable and not-so believable Jewish film characters

"The sun is warm, the sky is blue..." It's the silly season that hits Vancouver every July and August, when the sun finally comes out.

We got into a discussion of movies in which non-Jewish actors play Jews.

We know that actors are, well, actors, and given a part, they'll take on any persona called for. So of course a non-Jewish actor called on to take a role as a Jewish character will do what it takes to make the role not just credible, but totally believable.

*Jean M. Gerber*

*in Vancouver*

Here are some favorites.

Prompted by a beefcake picture of Daniel Craig as James Bond (and who doesn't wish 007 was just a teensy bit Jewish? After all, his first name *is* Daniel), one immediately pictures him as the assassin in *Munich*, where he was given the immortal line: "The only blood I care about is Jewish blood."

Umm, moving on to *Defiance*, in which Craig plays Tuvia Bielski, who flees with his brothers to the forests of Belorussia after his town is massacred. Now there's a real-life hero, slashing his way through Nazis to save terrified Jewish villagers during World War II.

My husband swears that Craig started his career playing Motel the tailor in *Fiddler on the Roof*, but I think he's just jealous.

How about that arch villain/victim Shylock in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*? We came up with portrayals of him by two very different actors. Laurence Olivier played Shylock as a sympathetic character in a 1973 film, doing everything in his power to make us feel the man's pain at losing his daughter and his livelihood to his arch enemy. A much more nuanced Shylock was brought to us by Al Pacino in 2004, working way out of character and making us feel for Shylock in spite of his flaws (Shylock's, not Pacino's).

Another nomination, memorable for other reasons, was Fagin, played by Alec Guinness in a 1948 version of *Oliver Twist*. I have seen part of that movie, and the portrayal of Fagin, who certainly was not a sympathetic character in the original, was nothing short of cartoonish. His characterization would have been right at home in a Nazi stereotype worthy of a Streicher cartoon. Since I had admired Guinness in many roles, when I saw that film clip, I was horrified, and I've never looked at Obi-Wan Kenobi again in the same way.

Sadly, Guiness was a truly great actor. I hope in his later career he regretted his ugly antisemitic portrayal of Fagin.

To give the devil his due, the film was banned for a time, but Guinness' damage was done. Imitators followed his version for some time.

Then there's Meryl Streep. That woman can play anything, and that includes her turn as a rabbi in the DVD version of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*. If I come back as an actress – a most unlikely occurrence – I want to come back as another Streep. Her accent as the rabbi who delivers a eulogy at the start of the movie was amazing. So was the eulogy.

Or how about the really buff Brendan Fraser (*The Mummy*) playing a Jewish student in *School Ties*? One can believe him as an athlete – the Jewish part, not so much.

Speaking of that era, the 1950s, one must mention Gregory Peck in *Gentlemen's Agreement*. He was only pretending to be a Jew, but June Havoc who played a secretary pretending *not* to be Jewish, actually was. Are you following this?

And no list of non-Jewish actors playing Jewish roles would be complete without mentioning Moses, portrayed by Charlton (National Rifle Association) Heston. When he rolls up the jello waters, you just know he'll save the nation. I fear, however, that eventually he came to believe that he actually was that powerful.

As I say, that's called acting.

One could go on: other suggestions were Adrian Brody as *The Pianist* and Jessica Tandy as Miss Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy*.

I close with John Goodman, the Jewish wannabe. In *The Big Lebowski*, he refuses to bowl on Shabbos. When it's pointed out that he isn't Jewish, he argues that he's converting. Hah!

Yes, ironies abound. Daryl Zanuck, for instance, made *Gentlemen's Agreement* after being refused entry to a club because they thought he was Jewish – he was not.

And that's Hollywood!

# Memory, memorials and irony

I understand that science knows very little about the brain and how it functions. Thankfully, when injured, it's flexible enough to regain function in unused sectors. But when it comes to clarifying the processes of memory, scholars are at a loss.

How do we remember and why do we remember?

For human beings, memory is critical, both for individuals as well as for the collective.

Memory guards our past and converts it into a heritage, without which we cannot claim a future. It's not just a matter of seeking continuity as individuals or as a community. It's also about addressing our human need for legitimacy and authority. Our very existence and distinctiveness as a species seems to stand on this connective tissue of memory.

It appears so elusive, yet, without understanding the physical mechanism, we can look to its social mechanism. We have a variety of human social institutions that ritualize and confirm collective memories of key happenings. We celebrate personal or national events in a variety of ways through religious and national festivals that enable us to maintain and reflect upon certain memories that are essential to our distinctive identities.

This past summer, we marked two momentous and tragic moments in history. Both had been undeclared.

Seventy years ago, on July 16, 1942 in France, 13,152 Paris Jews were gathered in the Vel' d'Hiv roundup and taken to the death camps. Fewer than 100 survived. The roundup was conducted by the French police, not the Nazis. This year marked the first commemoration of that event in France. It stands as a primary example of the processes of history, forgetfulness, memory, responsibility and memorial.

On the other hand, we have the anniversary of the 1972 Munich Massacre and the absence of any sense of responsibility – in the sense of responding to it – from the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Forty years ago, 11 Olympians were kidnapped and massacred. They happened to be Israeli nationals. Therein lies the tale. If they were from any other country... but then they would not have been targets if they had been from any other country. Not only did Israel make a plea for a minute of silence at the opening ceremonies of this year's Games, but the victims' surviving relatives openly called for some recognition, some format for a moment in time.

Eventually, countries such as Canada and the United States joined the appeal, but the IOC refused. Despite all the contrary facts and arguments, it said the Games weren't the appropriate venue for such a memorial. What nonsense! They held memorials for 9/11 and in Vancouver for a dead luger. What liars.

The 11 Israelis who were murdered died as Olympians, symbols of all the values of the Olympics. They came to represent their nation in peace, in a sporting event, putting aside political divides and issues, to show the world that it's possible. But the murderers undermined that very Olympic spirit, and by not holding a memorial, the IOC gave a victory to the murderers! It allowed them to blackmail the Games, to hold them hostage once again, and to thus reduce those very Olympic values. Never again will we be able to watch these games and claim that they stand for peace over politics, or that we can overcome what divides us. (As if we ever could after the 1936 games.)

*Norma Baumel Joseph*

*in Montreal*

So what do we learn?

The collective does not want a memory with Israelis in it. Holding a memorial would have claimed these 11 Israelis as truly Olympian. By refusing to do so, the world community has said that they remain Israeli, not Olympian. Why? This is the face of the new antisemitism. It is not anti-Judaism. The disdain and odium is directed against all things Israeli now.

Thus, I found it quite ironic that at those very same Olympic Games this summer, something Israeli woke up the audience and the world.

When the American women's team won the gymnastics' gold, did you notice the last number? Alexandra Raisman, a Jew, sealed the victory for the U.S. team with a floor performance that had everyone clapping rhythmically, joyously in the gym. The whole crowd was with her as the judges gave her the needed score for a great victory. And the tune that brought the house down while she performed? *Havah Nagilah*, that great old *Israeli* song.

# *Turkish Jewish scholar promotes Ladino*

Karen Gerson Sarhon is fighting a rearguard action to save Ladino – once the lingua franca of Sephardi Jews – from utter extinction.

Founder and director of the Istanbul-based Ottoman-Turkish Sephardic Culture Research Center, she is frankly glum about Ladino's prospects.

"It's dying," said Sarhon, a 54-year-old former English teacher who established the institute in 2003 under the auspices of the chief rabbinate to document, collect and transmit the rich cultural treasury of the Jews of Turkey. "My generation is the last Ladino-speaking generation."

***Sheldon Kirshner in Istanbul***

Nonetheless, Sarhon, who has written two MA theses on Ladino, is doing her level best to nurture it.

She edits *El Amaneser* (*The Dawn*), one of the last remaining Ladino newspapers. A monthly with a circulation of 4,000, including 300 overseas subscribers, it appears as a one-page supplement in *Salom*, the official organ of Turkey's Jewish community.

She has also compiled a data base of 80 hours of spoken Ladino, culled from native speakers.

Ladino was at its peak in the 19th century, when it was the language of communication in the far-flung Ottoman Empire, which stretched into the Balkans and the Middle East.

"Ladino was the most important element of Jewish identity in the Ottoman Empire," said Sarhon. "Few Jewish women could speak Turkish. Jewish men who knew Turkish spoke it with a heavy Jewish accent."

A form of 15th-century Castilian Spanish, with words borrowed from Hebrew, Turkish, Arabic, Greek and French, Ladino was transmitted orally. Its speakers were Jews expelled from Spain in the late 15th century.

Sometimes called "*El Espanol Maestro*," or "Our Spanish," Ladino was also referred to it as "*Djudesmo*."

Ladino basically developed three dialects, reflecting the countries to which Spanish Jews fled in the wake of the great expulsion. Western Ladino emerged in the Balkans: Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Romania. Oriental Ladino sprouted in Turkey, the successor state of the Ottoman Empire. Haquitiya sprang up in North Africa, mainly in Morocco.

For centuries, Ladino was written in Hebrew characters, its alphabet having been devised by Rashi, the medieval rabbi and rabbinical commentator.

With the advent of the Turkish republic in 1923, Ladino began using the Latin alphabet.

In retrospect, Ladino has suffered a long decline.

Two hundred and fifty thousand Jews were fluent in it a century ago, compared to 40,000 Jews worldwide today. Some 200,000 Jews, however, have a rudimentary knowledge of Ladino.

"They can say a few words," said Sarhon, who learned Ladino at home from her parents.

In Turkey, there are upward of 8,000 Ladino speakers in a Jewish population of about 18,000. Sami Kohen, an 83-year-old journalist who writes a foreign affairs column for the daily newspaper *Milliyet* and once edited his father's Ladino newspaper, is a member of that declining group. "I speak and read Ladino," he said. "But my children don't."

In Israel, where 100,000 Jews of Turkish descent and their children and grandchildren live, there are 25,000 Ladino speakers.

There are also pockets of Ladino speakers in France, Bulgaria, Belgium, Canada, the United States and Latin America.

According to Sarhon, Ladino is withering because it has lost its function as the "home language" of Ottoman Jews.

The first blow was struck by the Alliance Israelite Universelle, a Paris-based organization founded in 1860 and dedicated to providing Jewish children with elementary school and vocational training in French. By the dawn of the 20th century, there were 115 such schools in the Middle East, with the bulk in Turkey, Morocco and Tunisia.

In Turkey, French displaced Ladino. "Jews speaking only Ladino were considered uneducated and looked down upon," said Sarhon. "French had status. It was the language of the elite."

This trend was hastened by the creation of the Turkish republic, which encouraged the use of Turkish. "It became shameful to speak Ladino outside the home," she said. "My father learned Turkish when he was inducted into the army in 1941."

During the 1930s, in a further bid to encourage the use of Turkish, the Turkish government shut down Alliance Israelite Universelle schools.

"With this development, the prestige of Ladino dropped even more," she said. "By the 1970s, Ladino was regarded as a jargon rather than a language. The expectation was that it would be dead in 10 or 15 years."

**Karen Gerson Sarhon**
*[Sheldon Kirshner photo]*

**El Amaneser is printed in Ladino.**

The Holocaust was a bitter blow as well, resulting in the deaths of some 100,000 Ladino speakers.

In the 1980s, fate intervened and handed Ladino something of a reprieve as Sarhon and like-minded Turkish Jews began exploring their Sephardi culture and Ladino heritage.

By the age of 19, she spoke Ladino fluently, having learned it in order to perform in high school plays.

In Israel, meanwhile, an institution to perpetuate Ladino was opened under the patronage of Yitzhak Navon the then Israeli president. The quincentennial of the arrival of Spanish Jews in the Ottoman Empire gave Ladino yet another boost.

The Cervantes Institute, founded by Spain to promote Spanish language and culture in foreign countries, was another step in promoting Ladino, she observed.

Apart from *El Amaneser*, Ladino periodicals are published today in Israel (*Aki Yerushlayim*), Belgium (*Los Muestros*) and France (*Aki Estamos*). *La Lettre Sepharade* ceased publication in France several years ago.

There are also digital Ladino publications in Argentina and Izmir, Turkey.

Additionally, a handful of Ladino books, ranging from dictionaries to cookbooks, are published annually in countries such as Turkey and France. Ladino language courses are taught at Israeli, U.S. and European universities, but not at Jewish day schools.

Despite an upsurge of interest in Ladino studies of late, Ladino's future remains hazy and uncertain, Sarhon said, noting that her 15-year-old daughter is not a Ladino speaker. As she put it, "We speak Turkish and English at home."

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# What to do after you move out; sponsorship and support woes

**Family Matters**
by
**John Syrtash**
B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Counsel
Garfin Zeidenberg LLP
Family Lawyer & Mediator
for 31 years

**Question:** My wife and I recently decided to separate after 21 years of marriage. Every time we try to discuss the details of the separation, we argue. I therefore decided to move out of the matrimonial home in the hopes of resolving things more amicably at arm's length. I'm staying with my brother for the time being but am looking for an apartment.

Has my moving out compromised my rights to the matrimonial home?

**Answer:** You have not compromised your rights provided you act quickly to officialize your actions by having a family law lawyer inform your wife in writing of your intentions and take the necessary steps in court in the absence of a signed separation agreement. If you don't do that — and simply continue to live away from the matrimonial home for months or years without any formal legal agreement with your wife — you could have problems. You may indeed be compromising your rights, especially if your child or children continue to live in the home with your wife and especially if the house is registered solely in your wife's name.

The very fact that the two of you are unable to carry on a conversation about separation details without arguing suggests very strongly that you should both hire a competent family law lawyer to carry on that conversation for you. That does not mean that you are foregoing the right and ability to speak for yourselves. On the contrary — you are re-opening lines of communication that are now blocked.

## Residents of Vaughan face lengthy delays

And if you're hoping for a quick resolution, you hopefully don't live in Vaughan when you separated. If you are a resident of Vaughan at the time court proceedings are initiated on your behalf, your case will probably take several months longer to come to trial than if you were a resident of Toronto. Nothing personal against the fair city of Vaughan, which I call home. It's just not the best place to reside in when you have legal proceedings pending due to current lengthy delays.

**Question:** I am a Canadian Citizen. I sponsored my newly wedded husband to come to Canada. Within two months he split and I'm heartbroken. Do I have to wait one year to get divorced? Am I on the hook for him if he goes on welfare?

**Answer:** You have to wait one year of separation until a court can grant a divorce judgment. However, you can commence your divorce action at any time within the year. This is important since when the one year is over, by starting the action early you will save about two months waiting time in the process.

Secondly, when you sponsored your husband to come to Canada you signed a contract with the taxpayers that if he goes on welfare you are on the hook to repay what he took from the public purse. So start praying that he doesn't go on public assistance.

There are a growing number of cases where both men and women (equally women) pretend to many a Canadian citizen. Then shortly after getting landed immigrant status and arriving in Canada they leave the marriage. They simply deceive their partners and Immigration Canada by using the marriage as a vehicle to short-circuit the immigration application process.

The end result is heartbreaking for those Canadians who truly thought they'd met their match, sort of like Puccini's Madame Butterfly in reverse. Women are often emotionally or even physically abused and then abandoned by such phony immigrants. Men often spend large sums on mail-order type brides and then find that the woman had not the slightest intention of continuing with the relationship. By victims reporting such cases, the RCMP and Immigration Canada are beginning to successfully prosecute such individuals.

*Mr. Syrtash is Counsel to Garfin Zeidenberg LLP, Suite 800, 5255 Yonge Street (at Norton) just north of Mel Lastman Square, Civic Centre Subway station, Toronto, ON M5G 1E6. John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 642-5410, Cell (416) 886-0359. Visit www.freemychild.com; www.spousalsupport.com; www.garfinzeidenberg.com.*

*Neither Garfin Zeidenberg LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion.*

**Sponsored by the Community for Jewish Culture of B'Nai Brith Canada.**

# Zareinu to take part in provincial study

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Zareinu Educational Centre of Metropolitan Toronto will be part of a provincial study that will assess agencies that help children with developmental challenges.

The study, being conducted by the Whetstone Group consultancy under the direction of the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services, is slated to begin later this month.

It "will be used to inform policy and program development for children and youth with special needs" said ministry spokesperson Courtney Battistone.

She added that the other two organizations in the study "are yet to be confirmed" and that "there is no plan for additional partnerships with or additional funding for any of the organizations being reviewed."

Mitch Parker

Zareinu receives assistance from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and also raises money through numerous charitable initiatives.

Mitch Parker, Zareinu's clinical director, told *The CJN* the study will help Zareinu gather essential data on how well it is delivering service to its clients.

Reached by phone on vacation in Michigan, he said the study would help evaluate "the quality and efficacy of our services and then report back to the government."

He said that at this point, he isn't sure how the government plans to use the results or whether they might translate into more provincial funding for Zareinu.

Parker said he received word in June that the province had tabbed his organization to be included in the study. The province has been talking about conducting a study for the last few years, he said.

"We'd been having repeated meetings with members of various ministries about trying to put Zareinu on the [province's] radar screen," he said. "As a result, the government seems to have heard us and are going to take a look."

For its part, the province says it's looking into how to help institutions such as Zareinu better deliver specialized education and services to children and youth with developmental challenges.

"The study will look at how these agencies delivered services in an integrated and multidisciplinary way," Battistone said.

She added that the ministry will "examine in detail organizations in Ontario that specialize in coordinated and integrated programs for children and youth with special needs in an educational setting; include an inter-jurisdictional and literature review summarizing co-ordinated and integrated service plans for children and youth with special needs in an educational setting that are relevant to Ontario, and then recommend how outcomes for children and their parents receiving integrated multidisciplinary services in a school setting could be best measured for potential future application to program evaluation and research."

The study should be submitted to the ministry next spring.

Parker said Zareinu is indebted to former Canadian Jewish Congress CEO and provincial Liberal candidate for Thornhill Bernie Farber for helping connect the institution with "contacts at the ministry."

Farber is a longtime supporter of the school.

Zareinu provides therapy and special education to children with a wide range of physical and developmental challenges from birth to 21 years in a Jewish environment.

For more information, visit http://zareinu.org/.

**ISRAELI CAMPERS: Yaldeinu, an organization that raises funds to provide children with Jewish education and camping experiences, and the International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem (ICEJ) recently hosted a group of Israeli children at Camp Gesher, a Zionist overnight camp in Ontario. The children qualified for the program by excelling in their studies and volunteering in their communities. Pictured, back row from left, are Hila Die, Yaldeinu volunteer Liat Papular, Yaldeinu founding director Michael Ettedgui, Eilon Shitrit, and ICEJ Canada executive director, Donna Holbroock, and front row from left, Noy Alon, Milita Margolin, Hadar Haklai and Bar Ashual.**

# United Jewish Appeal

The information below illustrates clearly how donations made to United Jewish Appeal's 2012 Annual Campaign break down, and how, with the generosity and vision of our donors, and our more than 100 partner agencies, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is continuing to assist the Jews of Toronto, the people of Israel, and Jews in need across the globe.

United Jewish Appeal
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

| | |
|---|---|
| **TOTAL CAMPAIGN** | $60,500,000 |
| Provision for uncollectable pledges | $(2,500,000) |
| UJA Campaign expenses | $(6,779,125) |
| Corporate partners revenue | $625,000 |
| Financial transactions | $(500,000) |
| Shortfall/surplus from prior years | $(645,000) |
| **NET FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM CAMPAIGN** | $50,700,875 |
| Additional revenue from Jewish Foundation, capital recovery & other unrestricted revenues | $1,831,000 |
| **TOTAL NET FUNDS AVAILABLE** | $52,531,875 |

## COMBINED SUMMARY OF ALLOCATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| ISRAEL AND OVERSEAS | $13,843,409 |
| NATIONAL COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY | $3,086,700 |
| JEWISH EDUCATION & TUITION ASSISTANCE | $12,241,000 |
| SOCIAL SERVICES, IDENTITY & CULTURE | |
| Assisting the Vulnerable | $5,657,209 |
| Culture | $1,096,000 |
| Newcomer Integration | $1,425,927 |
| Seniors | $407,671 |
| Welcoming Community | $463,561 |
| Youth & Young Adult Identity Programs | $2,659,200 |
| Subtotal Social Services, Identity and Culture | $11,709,568 |
| JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRES | $921,100 |
| COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & SERVICES | $3,089,732 |
| FEDERATION & JEWISH FOUNDATION OPERATIONS | $6,513,825 |
| DEBT PAYMENT | $800,000 |
| RESERVE | $326,541 |
| **TOTAL FUNDS ALLOCATED** | $52,531,875 |

**Below is a list of our major recipient Agencies whose grants are included within the various budgetary categories:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Jewish Agency for Israel (Israel & Overseas/Israel Engagement) | $5,949,609 |
| Jewish Family and Child (Assisting the Vulnerable) | $4,722,700 |
| Centre for Israel & Jewish Affairs (Israel & Overseas/National Collective Responsibility) | $4,050,000 |
| Jewish Federations of Canada–UIA (Israel & Overseas/National Collective Responsibility) | $3,007,500 |
| Associated Hebrew Schools (Jewish Education) | $2,700,000 |
| Eitz Chaim Day School (Jewish Education) | $2,000,000 |
| TanenbaumCHAT (Jewish Education) | $1,950,000 |
| JIAS Toronto (Assisting the Vulnerable/Newcomer Integration) | $894,209 |
| Hillel (Youth & Young Adults Identity Programs) | $1,106,711 |
| Netivot Hatorah Day School (Jewish Education) | $950,000 |
| Camping Subsidies and Incentive Grants (Youth & Young Adults Identity Programs) | $942,239 |
| Joe Dwek Ohr Haemet Day School (Jewish Education) | $775,000 |
| Canada Israel Experience (Israel & Overseas/ Youth & Young Adults Identity Programs) | $692,000 |
| Supplementary Schools (Jewish Education) | $580,000 |
| Special Education (Jewish Education) | $560,000 |
| Joint Distribution Committee (Israel & Overseas) | $546,000 |

Visit JewishToronto.com/BudgetReport for more information on how your dollars help impact the lives of so many in our community and around the world.

# *Emissaries from Israel set to arrive in Toronto*

**Fourteen young emissaries from Israel will arrive in Toronto next week for a year of interaction and education with Jewish students in the city. Part of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Israel Engagement program, the emissaries, known as "shinshinim," will billet with local families and take part in programs at Jewish schools, synagogues and other community institutions. They replace an outgoing team of 12 emissaries who head back to Israel to begin their military service. The shinshinim program derives its name from the first letters of the Hebrew words "Shnat Sherut," denoting a year of service after high school. The goal of the project is to give Toronto kids a sense of contemporary Israel. Pictured, top row from left are, Shani Barzilay, Or Cohen, Yehonatan Ben-Ishai, Inbar Erez, Ben Yael, Adi Novak, Re'em Korine, Noa Tubiana and Shoval Rozenberg; middle row, from left, Alon Reichman, Mor Ani, and Nevo Ben Ya'akov, and front row, Gal Baruch, left, and Gefen Chazen.**

# School not just for Israeli community

**Continued from page 3**

"Kachol Lavan will open programs in any areas where we see a demand."

Ezekiel sent out an email to a few young Israeli families to get a feel for how big the demand was.

"What happened was that the families I had connected with forwarded the email to their friends, and suddenly I was getting emails from all kinds of people saying they wanted more information," she said.

The next step was to meet with Michal Hass, one of Kachol Lavan's teachers, who will be joining University of Toronto in September as an instructor of modern Hebrew.

After polling some of the interested families about what kind of programming they wanted for their kids, Hass began working on a curriculum that combined culture and tradition.

"When I saw the curriculum, I was shocked. It contained books and music that we grew up with as kids. It was everything we had envisioned – a cultural connection," Ezekiel said, adding that the program was a hit with the families as well.

## *Kachol Lavon teams up with Hillel*

Initially, Ezekiel and Zaltzman hoped to attract enough children to fill one class, but with weeks until the program starts in September, there are already enough children, about 30, to fill two classes.

Zaltzman insisted that although Kachol Lavan promotes Israeli culture, "this is not just for the Israeli community. It's for everybody, for the whole community."

There are about 60 students from non-Hebrew-speaking families in its programs, and about 70 from Russian families who came to Toronto via Israel.

He added that within the last three years or so, there has been a shift within the Israeli community.

"The Israeli community wants more to engage with the local community," he said.

As a result, the school, which operates as a joint initiative of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Schwartz/Reisman Centre and the Israeli Forum, will offer time for prayer to those who are interested in adding a religious element to the largely cultural, secular program.

"I got many emails this year from families who want their children to say the prayers. Why? Because they were not born in Israel, they will probably stay here and they need to know what's going on in the [Toronto] Jewish community," Zaltzman said.

"This year, there will be an extracurricular activity in the morning, before school starts. After the holidays, there will be a session of prayer. Whoever wants to come, come. Whoever doesn't want, doesn't have to."

He hopes the fact that he's giving the participants a choice, rather than forcing it on them by incorporating it into the regular curriculum, will be more effective.

Ezekiel said she also noticed that young Israeli families are catching on to the idea that becoming a part of the broader Jewish community in Toronto means embracing religious Jewish traditions.

"When we were asking people what they wanted to get out of the program, everybody said, 'Culture, culture, culture – the books, the songs, etc.' But then, they also said, 'What about the Jewish holidays, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur?' They understand that they need to make an effort because it's not like in Israel, where it's Rosh Hashanah everywhere."

She said in areas like Thornhill, where there is a higher concentration of Jews, you get more of a sense that there is a Jewish holiday, but downtown, it's not as obvious.

"Especially downtown, you have to make an effort. They realize now that it is a challenge," Ezekiel said.

In addition to the Sunday school program, Kachol Lavan also offers choir programs for adults and children, Israeli folk dancing, Hebrew classes for non-Israelis, a Grade 6 bar/bat mitzvah program and a Holocaust education program for Grade 7 and 8 students.

For more information, visit www.kachol-lavan.com.

# U of M law students tour Israel

**Myron Love**
Prairies Correspondent

**WINNIPEG** — A group of first-year University of Manitoba law students saw a "different side of Israel" on a recent tour of the country sponsored by the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (CFHU).

During the three-week tour this past May, the students learned about the Israeli legal system, its constitutional developments and its interaction with international law.

The students' agenda included lectures about the role of the Supreme Court in Israeli society; laws that protect intellectual property in Israel; Jewish and family law; the basic nature of international law generally, and trade law in particular, as well as current challenges involving the mix of politics and business in the area of trade relations.

"We were able to visit the Supreme Court of Israel, test-drive electric cars at Better Place [a company that aims to bring affordable electric cars to the mainstream] and hear from a legal adviser to the IDF counterterrorism division," said Alexandra Miles, one of the students who went on the tour.

Bryan Schwartz

"Each of these experiences, along with many others, presented a different side of Israel and reflected the struggles that the nation faces and the solutions that are being implemented to address those issues."

The tour was part of the Mishpatim program, which was founded last year by U of M law professor Bryan Schwartz, in conjunction with the Winnipeg chapter of the CFHU. Schwartz, who has been on U of M's faculty of law since 1981, is the inaugural Asper Professor of International Business and Trade Law.

Schwartz, who led the tour, said that "Israel has had to face many of the challenges – often at an especially intensive and complicated level – that Canada has had in respecting individual and minority rights in general, and in the particular context of addressing security threats, including terrorism.

Miles said the trip was an invaluable opportunity to get to know Israel's legal system and in particular, its nascent constitutional framework. "The program provided a wide variety of experiences that coalesced to demonstrate the unique features of Israeli society," she said.

For student Caroline Reimer, the tour was a "life-changing experience. It exceeded my expectations," she said.

"We are hoping," Schwartz said, "that the lessons learned will give Canadian students much to think about in terms of lessons to be emulated or avoided in addressing some of the comparable problems in Canada – itself a society with traditional peoples, such as First Nations citizens, many newcomers from all over the world, and interested in developing a culture of risk-taking and innovation."

Last year, the inaugural year of the program, the group consisted entirely of U of M law students. This year, the 23-person group also included two Asper School of Business students and three law students from the University of Saskatchewan.

The students heard lectures from an Israeli terrorism expert, an Arab Israeli clerking at the Supreme Court and a Druze professor. They visited Hebrew U, the University of Tel Aviv, the Technion, the Bahai Centre in Haifa, a Jewish Ethiopian absorption centre and a workers hotline, an NGO dedicated to protecting workers' rights.

"We are very grateful to the provincial government for its financial support this year, which is linked to its interest in having our students exposed to the various comparisons and lessons to be learned from Israel's own successes and setbacks," Schwartz said.

He added that the second tour has been more successful than the inaugural one because it "introduced students in both law and commerce to a wide range of issues that intertwine law, politics, sociology and economics. Our speakers and material were diverse in perspective.

"The hope is eventually to have a program that has a Manitoba core, but accessible to students across Canada in both law and business."

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2012
Schwartz/Reisman Centre
Lebovic Jewish Community Campus / 9600 Bathurst St.

9:30 AM - REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST
10:00 AM - WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

10:15 AM SESSION 1
PROFESSOR ELIE PODEH
PROFESSOR SHALOM SABAR
PROFESSOR HAYA LORBERBOUM-GALSKI

11:30 AM SESSION 2
DR. MARGIT COHN
PROFESSOR HAYA LORBERBOUM-GALSKI
DR. YEHUDA GOODMAN

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM LUNCH

1:30 PM SESSION 3
DR. YEHUDA GOODMAN
PROFESSOR SHALOM SABAR
DR. MARGIT COHN

2:45 PM WRAP UP

THURSDAY, SEPT. 6, 2012
Tamari Hall, Lipa Green Centre & Prosserman JCC Sherman Campus / 4588 Bathurst Street
7:00 pm Registration / 7:30 pm Keynote Presentation / 8:30 pm Reception Following

KEYNOTE SPEAKER PROFESSOR ELIE PODEH
The Arab Revolutions: Between Spring and Winter
This lecture will assess the implications of the Arab Spring on the Arab world, with particular emphasis on the changes in Egypt following the January 2011 Revolution.

ISRAEL TODAY
TRIUMPHS & CHALLENGES

OUR HEBREW U FACULTY
ELIE PODEH is a professor at the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies. Areas of interest are inter-Arab relations, Arab-Israeli relations, Egypt, culture and education in the Arab world.

SHALOM SABAR is a professor of the History of Art and Jewish Folklore. His interests include Jewish folk art, ketubot, objects and customs related to Jewish life and Jewish ceremonial art at home and synagogue.

MARGIT COHN is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law. Her interests include human rights within Israel, the Israeli High Court of Justice, and application of the law to various religious communities.

YEHUDA GOODMAN is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology; areas of interest include psychological anthropology and the anthropology of religion, in particular religious conversion and the religious/secular interface in the Jewish world.

HAYA LORBERBOUM-GALSKI is an Associate Professor of Cellular Biochemistry and head of the research committee for the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada (IMRIC). Her research involves cancer mechanisms and treatments and the body's immune responses.

TICKET INFORMATION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6: Individual $20 +HST / Couple $36 +HST
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9: Individual $90 +HST / Couple $160 +HST
THURSDAY, SEPT. 6 AND SUNDAY, SEPT. 9: Individual $100 +HST / Couple $180 +HST
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# דער יידיש ווינקל

## דזשערי קעין

**מאַני ליב**
**דער פּרינץ 'טשארמינג' פון דער יידישער ליריק.***

אזוי האָט איציק מאַנגער אים גערופֿן. "יעדער כאַטש, וואָס ער האָט אַנגעריר כינע פֿינגער, האָט געמוסטן ווי־ברירן מיט אַזא דיקציאָנטירטער מעלאָדיסקייט, וואָס איז געווען אַ חוצפּה אי־בער חוצפּה."

מאני ליב איז געווען איינע פון די פֿאָטן וואָס כּען האָט געוואָלן די "יונגע". אָט דער דרייצער דור פֿאָטן האָבן געזען די חעלט דורך די אויגן פון עמיגראַנטן וואָס לעבן אַרוף די גאַסן פון אַמעריקע, נישט קאַסריליוקע אָדער וואַרשע. זייער נעוואָג האָט זיך נעזונגען אַנדערש וי דאָס וואָס כּען האָט געהערט אין דעם לירק פון די עלטערע יידיש פֿאָטן. צוליב דער גרופּע "יונגע" האָט מען נעפֿונען ראובן אייזלאַנד, זיסע לאַנדרי, י' שוואַרץ, כּשה ליב האַלפּערן און ה. ליפּחיץ.

מיר ברענגען אָן פֿאַר נאָר איינע פון מאַני ליבס לידער. כּיר האָפֿן אַז איר חעט נעפֿינען אַנדערע פון זיַנע לידער אין באַלאַדעס אוך זען פֿאַרוואָס יידיש פֿאָטן אוך ליינער האָבן אים פֿאַרנעסטעלט צו דער חעלט וי אַן עקזעמפּלאַר פון די חונדער אוך וואָרט כישופּקייט וואָס נעפֿינט זיך אין אונדזער יידישער פֿאָטזיע.

נעכט העם סניידער-מידל-מאָטיוו אין דער יידישער פֿאָטזיע. ס'נעפֿינט זיך אין די לידער פון פּרל, וויטשעוסקי, ראָזענפֿעל ביז מאַני ליב, איבער קליינע זיך אַ ביסל אַנדערש. חעט מאַני ליבס "אוף דער פֿינפֿטער עוחנזיי":

*ארוף דער פֿינפֿטער עוחנזיי, אין אַ וויַסן מויער,*
*אין אַ וויַסן כויער, אוֹיפֿן דרייַצנטן שטאָק,*
*ניַינן מיידלעך אוך וואַרטן אין דער כליכקייט פון טרוירער*
*ארופֿן פֿרלן סינגאַל פֿונעם אָחטן-גלאָק.*

*נאָך דער גלאָק שלאָפֿט פֿויל אין אַ זומפּ פון שטחדן,*
*אוך דער שאָג ליגט קראַנק אין דעם שטיין פון חעטן,*
*אוך די נאָדלען חייַנען אוך באַוויַינען חחדן,*
*אוך דאָס וויַיִ שאָרכט, שאָרכט אין די מיידלישע העטן...*

*וויַסער וויַיִ, ראָזע וויַיִ, פֿיאָלעטער אוך כלאָער,*
*אוך די נאָדלען חייַנען דין אוך טויב,*
*אוך די זון אוריף די פֿענצטער אין דער כליַכקייט פון טרוירער*
*קריכט אין די היסע זייַלן נרינעם שטויב...*

*אוך די נאָדלען חייַנען אוך באַוויַינען חחדן*
*אוך דאָס וויַיִ שאָרכט, שאָרכט אין די מיידלישע העטן,*
*אוך דער שאָג ליגט קראַנק אין די חחדן פון שטונדן*
*אינבער מיידלישע העטן, אינעם שטיין פון די חעטן.*

דער סאָציאָלער מאָטיוו איז אַ טראַדיציאָנעלער מאָטיוו אין דער יידישער פֿאָטזיע. מאַני ליב מידט אים נישט אויס. פֿאַרקערט, ער ליַטערט אים, דערחייבט אים. דאָס וואָס איז אַמאָל נעחנן אַ קרכיך, אַדער אַן אויסנעשריי, חערט פֿאַרוואָנדלט אין דינסטער מעלאָדיע."

*נעמטן פון: מאַני ליב, לידער אוך באַלאַדעס, רעדאַקטירט פון שמשון מלצר, י.ל. פרץ פֿאָלאָג, תל־אביב, 1963

*ארב איז האָס כעדאַקטן חעגן אונדזער חיינקל לאַזש חיסן, חדוך פאַסט אַדער כליין- פאַסט: info@cjnews.com*

# A daf a day

**Rabbi N. Daniel Korobkin**

On Aug. 1, about 93,000 people gathered in the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey to complete the Talmud together. Since 1923, when the young Polish Rabbi Meir Shapiro first proposed the idea, Jews around the world have been studying a daily *daf* (two-sided page) of the Babylonian Talmud, day in and day out, rain or shine. Since there are 2,711 of these *dafs* in the Talmud, it takes about 7-1/2 years to complete this daily, or *daf yomi*, cycle. This month's celebration was the 12th, and by far the largest, such completion.

Large Jewish communities throughout the world held local celebrations and joined the Jews in New Jersey via video link. In Toronto, some 2,500 people assembled at the Sony Centre downtown. The feeling of packing a theatre with Jews of all ages and stripes, and joining the throngs in New Jersey on the screen, was pure inspiration. As we all completed the last lines of Tractate Niddah, everyone broke into singing and dancing.

Our joy was not just because we felt a sense of educational accomplishment. This was also a victory for the Jewish People over our enemies. Despite all their efforts over the centuries, we remain the thriving "people of the Book," a book that has kept us alive all this time.

At our synagogue, we have three daf yomi classes every day. Most days I enjoy the intellectual challenge of having to figure out what these 2,000-year-old sages were conveying, but at times it's been quite taxing on my aging brain cells to clear out the cobwebs so early in the morning. Fortunately, many in the class are themselves accomplished scholars and keep me on the straight and narrow.

***Rabbinic Reflections***

More than any political cause, more than any organization, Torah study has kept our people united and alive over the centuries. This was palpable Aug. 1 in New Jersey and at the Sony Centre. Jewish literacy can only be accomplished through committed study of our texts. If you seek Jewish literacy, if you want to ensure Jewish continuity for the next generation, nothing is as effective as dedicating a portion of your day to studying Talmud.

And it isn't just for Orthodox Jews. The Talmud collects the greatest wisdom of Rabbi Akiva, Hillel, Rav Ashi and hundreds of other voices that shape the Judaism of today. Join a *daf yomi* class. If your synagogue doesn't offer one, ask your rabbi to start one.

But here's the best reason to learn the *daf*: Fred Stoll was a kind, lovable man who had a great following of admirers in the Toronto Jewish community. He built a beautiful family of multiple generations. On Aug. 1, Fred attended the party at the Sony Centre, since he had attended the *daf yomi* lectures for the past 15 years and finished the entire Talmud for his second time. He had no formal yeshiva training, just a love for learning. That next Friday, a few hours before the new cycle of the Talmud was to begin, Fred passed away peacefully. He had been struggling with his health for two years, but something kept him hanging on. Of course, it may have been his wonderful multi-generational progeny who gave him a continued reason to live. But it also may have been a drive to finish the Talmud just one more time before having the curtain fall on a wonderful life.

The Talmud gave Fred life. May it do the same for you.

*Rabbi Korobkin is senior rabbi of Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation.*

# *Going out of business*

In the past few months, three long-time Jewish establishments that combined have served the Toronto community for close to 150 years have closed down. The rapid changes in the economy have made it increasingly difficult for "mom and pop shops" – in this case a bakery, a bookstore and a restaurant – to compete.

This is most unfortunate for the community and, more importantly, for the affected businesses and their employees. Besides the economic costs, there's the personal pain and feeling of loss of years and years of hard work, only to be left with little to show for it. These closings are just a microcosm of the economy as a whole. The jobless rate remains stubbornly high, with economists predicting this will continue for many years.

***Money Matters***

***Rabbi Jay Kelman CA***

While there is some debate as to the nature of protection that society can and should offer businesses from competition, the mainstream Jewish view is that it should provide very little. While some Jewish courts might enjoin a second pizza store from opening if there aren't enough customers to support two, that represents a minority view. "Let the best business win" is the strategy that serves the greatest public good. All agree that if a new entrant just lowers profits of the competitors, no protection would be afforded.

In deciding economic policies, the benefit of the many must take precedence over the needs of the few. Progress does come at a cost. Competition is good for the consumer, but that good can at times, sadly, be achieved only at the expense of the few. Free trade has brought enormous economic benefits, and Israel, for example, has spent much effort in negotiating such agreements, helping to turn it into an economic powerhouse. One hears voices opposing free trade – from politicians concerned about some local businesses, or from environmentalists who oppose (in theory) almost all forms of economic development – but rarely, if ever, will an economist express opposition.

What Jewish law does offer businesses that are struggling to compete is protection against predatory pricing – selling below cost, thereby driving out the competition, at which point losses and more can be easily recovered.

The only "protection" the community can offer most businesses is patronizing them. Our tradition teaches that all things being equal, we should support our co-religionists. This feeling of brotherhood should come naturally to us. Likewise, we should make a special effort to buy Israeli products.

However, this show of support need only go so far. If the quality is inferior or the prices higher, one is not expected to forego better alternatives. Yet it would seem that, especially today with the difficulty of competing against megastores, it behooves us to support our own if the cost is only slightly higher. We should be willing to slightly inconvenience ourselves and to pay a little more to help support our own, even if we feel this is only delaying the inevitable.

The competitive nature of today's marketplace makes it incumbent that our community do its utmost to offer ancillary services such as employment counselling, internships and interest-free startup loans to enable people to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

*Send comments to rabbijay@torahinmotion.org.*

# Modern readers will appreciate the *Koren Talmud Bavli*

*Views & Reviews*

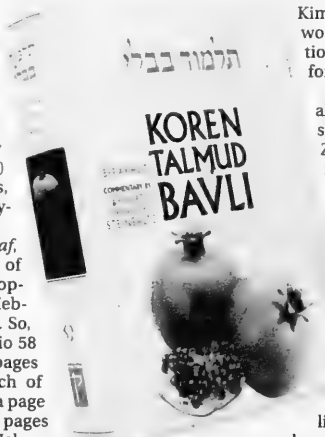
*Martin Lockshin*

The team at Koren Publishers of Jerusalem is making another bold effort to capture part of the market for high-quality English translations of Jewish religious literature. Joining up with Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz of Jerusalem, the author of the most successful modern Hebrew annotated translation of the Babylonian Talmud, Koren has produced a handsome first volume of the new English-language *Koren Talmud Bavli*, tractate Brachot, which deals with laws of blessings and prayers.

The volume makes available to the English language reader the excellent tools that Rabbi Steinsaltz is famous for in his Hebrew work: maps, illustrations, helpful historical notes, and language notes that draw upon the skills of experts in Persian, Greek, Latin, classical Hebrew and Aramaic – all of which are necessary for an accurate understanding of the Talmud's unique language. For the benefit of beginners, both the Hebrew/Aramaic text of the Talmud and the commentary of Rashi are printed with vowel points.

The publication is timed for a niche market: Jews who study the *daf yomi*, the daily folio (a folio being the two sides of a page) of Talmud on a fixed schedule. The 7-1/2-year cycle began again this past Aug. 3 with Brachot. Koren has announced plans to keep pace with the *daf yomi* schedule in publishing the rest of the volumes. All volumes, including this one, will be available in print or through an iPad app.

Koren's major competitor is the 73-volume Schottenstein Talmud, the most impressive achievement of the haredi publisher Artscroll. That English-language Talmud has gained acceptance in modern Orthodox and haredi circles in North America to a far greater extent than Rabbi Steinsaltz's modern Hebrew Talmud.




First in manuscript, and then with the invention of the printing press, many versions of the Talmud were produced over the years. The layout of the page (*tzurat hadaf*) of the 19th-century Vilna edition (published by the Widow and Brothers Romm) became, in many religious circles, the only acceptable text for studying Talmud.

Out of deference to *tzurat hadaf*, Schottenstein prints every page of English translation and notes opposite the relevant page of the Hebrew/Aramaic of the Vilna edition. So, for example, the two pages of folio 58 in the Vilna edition require 11 pages of English in Schottenstein. Each of those 11 pages appears opposite a page of Hebrew, so folio 58 takes 22 pages in Schottenstein. In Koren, the Hebrew page is not repeated, so the original and the English (with slightly shorter notes) take up only nine pages total. That's why Brachot appears in two fat volumes in Schottenstein but in one slightly slimmer volume in Koren.

The Schottenstein volumes ignore historical issues due to their strict adherence to the Vilna edition. (All my examples in this review are from that same folio 58.) For example, the Talmud instructs that when you see a Jewish sage, you should say a blessing thanking God for giving of His wisdom to "those who revere Him," but if you see a gentile sage, the appropriate blessing thanks God for giving of His wisdom "to flesh and blood." That's the way these blessings appear in traditional prayer books. But in the Vilna Talmud, the text of the second blessing thanks God for giving of His wisdom "to His creations." Koren helpfully explains the origin of this variant in the Vilna Talmud: "The censor made this change to soften the contrast between... ['] Those who revere him ['] . . . emphasizing their connection with God, and... ['] Flesh and blood, ['] which indicates no such connection. The formula... ['] To His creations, ['] indicates that non-Jews have a connection to God as well." In Schottenstein, no explanation is provided for the fact that the text of this blessing in their Talmud differs from the one in the prayer book (including all Artscroll prayer books).

The censor's hand in the Vilna Talmud led to a Babylonian rabbi castigating a Jewish man for having intercourse improbably with "an Egyptian woman." Of course, the original text read "a gentile woman." Koren restores the uncensored text; Schottenstein sticks with "Egyptian." In Schottenstein, another fourth-century Babylonian rabbi is accosted by a "Sadducee." The Sadducees, a Jewish sect, ceased to exist in the first-century. Schottenstein does not explain this anachronism. Koren restores the original Hebrew word of the passage "*min*," accurately translating it "heretic." (The censor had removed that word, mistakenly assuming that it was an insult to Christians.)

In addition to being unconcerned about historical issues, Schottenstein seems indifferent to scientific precision. For example, Koren has a reference to God making Ursa Major, Orion and Pleiades. In Schottenstein the reference is to "Ash, Kesil and Kimah," with a note that these Hebrew words are "the names of three constellations," as if there were no English names for them.

The differences between the editions also involve values. The Talmud tells the story of the second-century sage, Ben Zoma, who recited a blessing upon seeing a large crowd of people, thanking God for, "creating all these [people] to serve me." Ben Zoma then explained, "How much effort did Adam exert before he found bread to eat? He plowed, sowed, reaped . . . sifted, kneaded and baked, and [only] thereafter ate. And I wake up and find all of these prepared for me." Schottenstein's notes explain (approvingly) that Ben Zoma was part of the tiny class of people who are the true purpose of creation, those who will establish close relationships with God. Other people are here on earth "to serve such individuals by cultivating the land... (If the men of learning had to do all this . . . such preoccupations would leave them no time to study Torah or perform mitzvos.)" Koren avoids this hierarchical interpretation and interprets Ben Zoma's remark as promoting the value of universal interdependence: "Human society benefits from a division of labour and each individual benefits from the service of the entire world."

For English-speaking Jews with modern sensibilities who care about history, science and precision, the *Koren Talmud Bavli* is the obvious choice.

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# Flying home to Camp Kadimah

**Michael B. Soberman**
Special to The CJN

The best part of any trip is coming home! Unless, of course, the trip you're taking is to your second home.

For 22 years, my second home was Camp Kadimah, a small Zionist summer camp in Barss Corner, N.S. Each year, I would count the days until I could return there for what were the most formative experiences of my early life. Quite simply, I am who I am because of that place and all the people I met there.

So why did I, a Toronto-born-and-bred Jewish guy, go all the way to Nova Scotia to find a Jewish immersive experience? Were there not Jewish camps closer to home? The answer is simple… tradition!

My parents went to this camp and wanted their children to have the same positive Jewish experience. But at age 14, I fought fiercely not to go. But thankfully my parents were victorious and I reaped the benefits. The single negative moment was when I asked my parents, "Why did you not send me when I was seven years old?"

Determined to ensure the same mistake was not repeated, I began preparing long before my first child was born. Before becoming engaged to my wife, Rebecca, I invited her on a trip to Nova Scotia, and by design, we stopped to visit this quaint, little camp. There I explained to her that my children would attend only this camp. If she did not agree, then our future together might not be a certainty. Thankfully she agreed that our children would attend Camp Kadimah. What she did not know was at what age!

At age two and again at age six, we schlepped our daughter, Jordyn, to Camp Kadimah to visit, to get acclimatized (brainwashed) that this was *her* camp. Then as she approached her seventh birthday, I recalled the very question I asked my parents – but I was worried she might not love camp as I did. Was she too young? Could she really manage three weeks away from home, her parents and little brother? Then I remembered the magic of Camp Kadimah and how such a special place could mesmerize any Jewish child.

Her experience, I am glad to report, was a success. My daughter has fallen in love with the place I never stopped loving. She is friends with my friends' children, the same way I am with my parents' friends' kids. She insists on singing *Birkat Hamazon* after every meal, hums Israeli songs and is looking forward to her next maccabiah (colour war). She cheered for Israel during the Olympics and was so proud during the Haganah night activity at camp that she made it to Israel.

How my daughter identifies as a Jew and a human being is now being shaped by a little Zionist summer camp in Nova Scotia – and I have never been more proud of her. I only hope that she does not ask me, "Daddy, why did you not send me when I was five years old?" If she does, then in two short years, we will have to pack our three-year-old son, Joshua, and send him off to camp, something I am not sure my wife will agree to, at least not yet!

**Jordyn Soberman and Darah Ross**

But at some point in the not too distant future, Joshua is sure to follow in his sister's footsteps and begin spending his summers by getting on an airplane destined for the Maritimes – flying home again to Camp Kadimah.

*Michael Soberman attended Camp Kadimah from 1980 to 2000. He is currently the national director of Canada Israel Experience, a department of Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA.*

# *Will the circle be unbroken?*

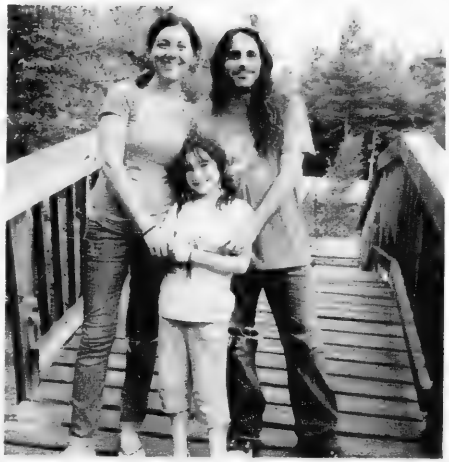
**Candace Alper**
Special to The CJN

Thirty years ago, I was a nine-year-old girl from Dundas, Ont., on my way to a place that I had never heard of – Camp Gesher, near Cloyne, Ont. I spent the first of six consecutive summers with people in the place that I would spend the rest of my life crediting for shaping my worldview and my identity as a Jewish girl, later teenager and today, Jewish woman and parent.

Not every one is lucky enough in her lifetime to say that something truly was bashert in a life-changing kind of way. For me, this was it. In my house, we were not particularly observant or affiliated with a synagogue that had a summer program. I only ended up at Gesher because I had a cousin from Ottawa there, and they had room for me midway through the season.

At Gesher, I lived out every summer as part of a closely knit community that honoured and celebrated our culture, heritage and commitment to Israel and the world. We lived together, contributed to the care of our space, we learned, we sang, we danced. We welcomed Shabbat with a celebration at the beach as the sun set over the lake. These special moments have been so meaningful and represent to me the spirit of our community.

The impact of my summers at Gesher lasted throughout each year and carried me through to opportunities and leadership roles in my Jewish community. I was active in BBYO, went on Anguish to Hope, a program that gives Canadian Jewish students the opportunity to witness the remnants of Jewish life that existed in prewar Europe,



**Candace, Eric and Hannah Alper at Camp Gesher**

and volunteered for the Shoah Foundation, for which I interviewed Holocaust survivors. I led an Israel Experience program that took 40 teenagers to Israel for the first time. All of this and more, I attribute to my time at Gesher, for fostering in me the need to be part of this community.

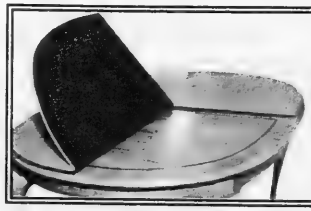
Flash-forward 30 years. My daughter, Hannah, is nine years old and it's her turn now. To ease her nervousness about being away from home, I shared my memories of experiences and friends that are with me still. My Gesher friends left comments on Hannah's blog (www.callmehannah.ca) that read like love letters to camp, sharing hopes that separately and together we pass on to our children.

As I filled her duffle bags, I filled her with my hopes and she was off. Then it hit me: had I set up an expectation for her to feel, have and find what I did, to the point that could lead to disappointment? Would she think she disappointed me if she didn't feel what I did? These are the things that consumed me and kept me up all night in the days after she left.

I didn't need to worry. During Alumni Weekend, I could see that my daughter was beginning to make her own memories. We arrived just before Shabbat. After a joyful and tearful reunion, the first thing Hannah said was, "I want to stay until the end." We spent the weekend with Hannah living my Gesher and her Gesher together. We joined my past with her present and future as we sang, danced and shared memories. At this point, it is important to note that "*gesher*" is the Hebrew word for "bridge."

On the outer walls of one of the cabins it was painted, "Let the circle be unbroken." How true. These are the things that traditions and communities are made of and built on.

*Candace Alper is a wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend, aunt, granddaughter, Mompreneur and volunteer (not always in that order).*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# CJA campaign aims to increase donor numbers

**Janice Arnold**
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — While the amount of money given to Montreal's Combined Jewish Appeal (CJA) has remained one of the highest per capita among North American Jewish communities, the number of donations has dropped over the past decade.

Evan Feldman, general chair of the 2012 fundraising drive, said CJA's donor base has shrunk by more than 5,000 over the last 10 years, suggesting that a smaller number of people are having to make larger contributions in order to meet campaign targets.

The good news is that although a determined effort to find new givers launched in 2010, that trend has started to reverse, he said.

This year's campaign will be officially launched Aug. 22 at Place des Arts, where Academy Award-winning actor Jon Voight, an outspoken supporter of Israel and opponent of antisemitism, will be the guest speaker.

In 2001, CJA received 20,937 donations, despite a difficult campaign due to the shock of the 9/11 attacks. By 2008 when the recession hit, the total was 17,337.

The decline began to level off in 2010 at 16,251 donations, due in large part to the campaign leadership recruiting more than 1,750 new donors.

The majority of those people – 68 per cent – gave again last year – when another 2,100 new gifts were recorded.

In dollar terms, this new money was significant. The new donations in 2010 amounted to about $750,000, and when called upon again in 2011, those donations had increased to $1.1 million. Last year's 2,100 new donors were contributed a total of $850,000.

Nevertheless, the total number of donations reached a decade low of 16,207 in 2011.

**Combined Jewish Appeal 2012 general chair Evan Feldman, centre, gathers with senior members of the campaign team, from left, division chairs Jacob Greenbaum of YAD FedNext, Heather Adelson of Women's Philanthropy, Karen Soussan of Campagne Sépharade and Lloyd Feldman of YAD.** *[PBL Photography]*

Feldman, who at 44 is, to his knowledge, the youngest ever general campaign chair, acknowledges it's an open question what the result will be by the time the drive officially ends in November.

At the formal closing of the 2011 campaign, Federation CJA was projecting that it would collect $41.1 million. No campaign dollar goal has been set this year.

Feldman said the falling number of donors could be attributed to well-known demographic changes in the Montreal Jewish community. The proliferation of other philanthropic causes is also probably having an effect, he said.

A wild card in this year's campaign is the provincial election and a possible change of government. Feldman agreed that if it looks like the Parti Québécois will win, the community's mood might shift. Concerns about the economy and personal assets could be heightened.

Among the incentives being offered new donors (and their canvassers) is that for each one, a hot kosher meal will be given to the needy. The cost is being covered by the Women's Philanthropy campaign chair, Heather Adelson.

The approximately 800 volunteers who solicit donations are being told that their mission is nothing less than "the survival of the Jewish community of Montreal."

The canvassers' guide prepares them to counter possible objections from prospective donors, such as having given to another organization, the campaign's administrative costs being too high, or questioning CJA support for certain programs or the level sent to Israel.

Feldman, who works in a family housewares and hardware business, became involved with the federation about a dozen years ago, mainly at the urging of his aunt, Laya Feldman, a longtime volunteer.

One of his stipulations was that he not ever have to ask people for money. More than a decade later, as the father, with wife Osnat, of three pre-teen children, Feldman realizes just how crucial fundraising is to vitality of the community.

Feldman and Adelson are heading one of the youngest campaign teams in recent memory, a reflection, he thinks, of his cohort's realization that their generation must step up.

"CJA makes the broadest and deepest impact on the community in a relatively short period of time," he said. That's the message he will try to spread to as many Montreal Jews as possible, especially those who don't realize where the funding comes from for so many of the community's institutions and programs.

As for spending priorities, Feldman said, "The number 1 focus of the campaign is strengthening Jewish identity, whether through formal or informal Jewish education, camping or trips to Israel," he said.

The Aug. 22 campaign opening will include a musical performance by Hagit Yaso, a winner of *Kochav Nolad*, Israel's version of the TV show *American Idol*.

Another major event during the campaign is the women's division's Choices. American comedian Carol Leifer, writer and producer of such TV programs as *Modern Family*, *Seinfeld* and *Saturday Night Live*, is the scheduled guest speaker for the Oct. 16 evening. It will be held at the Embassy Plaza in Laval.

# Baird open to idea of legal options against Iran: Cotler

**David Lazarus**
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — Foreign Minister John Baird was receptive to counsel that Canada should seek more international support for using legal options against Iran, Liberal human rights critic Irwin Cotler told *The CJN* after meeting with Baird recently in Ottawa.

Back from a visit to the Middle East earlier this summer, Cotler has been writing, meeting with Israeli leadership (including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu) and lobbying to increase efforts to counter Iran's strategy of "denial, deception and delay" in furthering its nuclear ambitions.

"It is clear to me this is what Iran is doing," Cotler said in a recent telephone interview. "What we really need to implement is a series of legal and juridical remedies."

Based on findings by the all-party Canadian foreign affairs committee and the international Responsibility to Protect (R2P) coalition, which Cotler chairs, Cotler told Baird Canada could work with such like-minded nations as the Netherlands, Italy, Australia, Germany and potentially others in seeking to hold Iran accountable.

The coalition's conclusions were, Cotler said, "to the effect that Iran has already committed the crime of incitement, prohibited under the [UN] Genocide Convention and international law; and Canada and other state parties to the Genocide Convention have a legal responsibility – not just a policy option – to hold Iran and its leaders to account."

Cotler has also argued that Iran could be brought before the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

At the diplomatic level, Cotler told *The CJN*, Iran is essentially mocking the work of "P5+1" nations (the five United Nations Security Council members – United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China and France, "plus" Germany) in trying to keep Iran in check through negotiations.

"In fact, I would say that Iran is using negotiations as a *means* to nuclear enrichment" and "weaponization," he said, "by denying, deception and delay."

Even if you accept the idea, as some do, that Iran would not necessarily use a nuclear bomb even if it had one, mere Iranian possession of one would "completely alter the strategic calculus," Cotler said. "Iran would still constitute a clear and present danger."

Cotler has been elaborating on the issue wherever he can and recently delineated 13 "undertakings Iran must be called upon to do" to satisfy concerns about the nuclear question and lead to "abandonment of its nuclear weapons pursuit."

He also is seeking more international co-operation against Iran's frequent state sponsorship of international terrorism by Hezbollah and other groups, adding that such international effort should use the expertise of Israel, "the leading target of this Iranian wave of terror."

One obvious way includes enhancing sanctions against Iran, Cotler said.

The recent bombing of an airport bus filled with Israeli tourist in Burgas, Bulgaria, reflects "the lethal convergence of Hezbollah operatives and Iranian instructions," Cotler has written.

On another issue, Cotler said Baird was also open to the idea of making representations to Russia to finally "come clean" on the fate of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews during World War II.

"The smoking gun as to his fate is known to be in Russian archives, so the burden is on them," Cotler said.

Cotler is also continuing to work on the case of Ouda Tarabin, an Israeli Bedouin in Egyptian custody since 2000 for allegedly entering Egypt illegally.

## *Niagara region, Ontario*

# Breathing new life into a small community

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Alan Marcus, the president of St. Catharines' Congregation B'nai Israel, is determined to breathe life into the small-town Jewish community by capitalizing on the influx of Jewish retirees to the area.

"I live in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and I see a lot of Jews who are not members who either weekend here or have moved down here," said Marcus, who has been the shul's president since January.

"I'm trying to convince my congregants that we are not a sleepy, dying, small-town congregation. I hope I'm right," he added with a laugh.

Marcus, who was born in Montreal, raised in Toronto and moved to Niagara with his wife about 20 years ago, became an active member of the 87-year-old synagogue about eight years ago.

Marcus said he sees the value in bringing together the 1,000-plus Niagara region Jews.

He said one of the biggest challenges he faces in his role as shul president is "overcoming the inertia because the older members just assume this is a dying congregation and assume that as everyone dies off, that will be the end of it."

Over the years, many young families have moved away and as a result, Jewish-run businesses have also been lost, he said.

"Jewish farmers and small merchants have gone, but what we've gained are retirees and the knowledge generation that comes through Brock University and the medical complex."

Set to open next year, a new state-of-the-art hospital being built in St. Catharines and affiliated with Hamilton's McMaster Medical Centre, is attracting doctors and specialists to the area.

Marcus wants to reach out to the new Jewish Niagara-region residents who were attracted to the area either by the new hospital or the lower cost of living compared to big cities like Toronto.

Alan Marcus

"I've been telling people that we really need to pull out all the stops and create a community centre and shul that people will see as a reason for wanting to live down here," Marcus said.

B'nai Israel member Miriam Gersho, who moved to Niagara Falls from Toronto in 1980 for a job, said she initially thought that when she retired, she'd move back to Toronto.

"But I fell in love with this place and I have no need or desire to go back."

She said she feels fulfilled by the Jewish community in Niagara region, which was established when a German tailor moved his family to St. Catharines in 1855.

"When I lived in Toronto, I never paid much attention to the Niagara region. I didn't know it had a vibrant Jewish community and so much to offer."

And now, she added, others from Toronto seem to be catching on.

"We noticed that we've been getting new members from Toronto, and we'd like to encourage that to continue. Our membership is getting older and we'd like to welcome new people."

She said although the Jewish community in Niagara consists mostly of retirees, there have been a few younger families who have recently chosen to settle there.

A young family that immigrated to Canada from Russia a few years ago chose to settle in Niagara Falls because of the more affordable housing prices compared to Toronto and because working from home was an option.

She said they also considered that the shul offered a Hebrew school program for their preschool age child.

The fact that Rabbi Eliyahu Courante, who has been serving the Conservative shul's 150 members for the past 10 years, is young and Russian-speaking – he briefly served as the chief rabbi of Siberia and the Russian Far East – also appealed to them, Gersho said.

Gersho praised Marcus for his vision and drive to attract more Jews to become active through the shul and community centre, which are housed in the same building.

"What's different about him is that he recognizes that a synagogue is more than a sanctuary, more that the services. He has wonderful ideas for living Jewishly."

Perhaps the most drastic change on the horizon for B'nai Israel is a shift toward becoming an egalitarian shul.

"As of now, there are no women in the minyan, but we are very close to getting over that hurdle and that should make quite a difference," Marcus said.

"Many people in the Niagara region are people who have intermarried, people who are Reform, who don't join B'nai Israel because it's not egalitarian. But we're moving in that direction."

Clearly, Marcus isn't content to let the 110-year-old congregation die out.

"We have a group of people who are actively out there, looking for young people who they can attract to our Hebrew school, the JCC, and the modernizing of the rituals in the synagogue. I'm pushing on a lot of different fronts."

For more information, visit www.jewishstcatharines.com.

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The Canadian Jewish news

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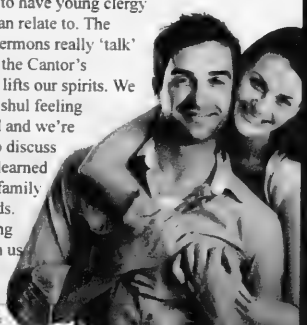

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on the occasion of the shloshim of the passing of her mother,
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Canadian Friends of the JCT
Stuart Hershkowitz
Senior Advisor to the President
Jerusalem College of Technology

# Wallenberg stamp to be issued in 2013

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Canadians will soon be able to mail letters bearing the image of one of the most renowned of the Righteous among the Nations: Raoul Wallenberg.

Last week, Canada Post announced it would issue a Wallenberg stamp on Jan. 17, 2013, exactly 28 years after the country posthumously bestowed honorary citizenship on him.

Raoul Wallenberg

It will mark the first time an honorary Canadian receives the distinction.

The Swedish diplomat and humanitarian helped save tens of thousands of Jews by issuing passports and setting up diplomatic safe houses while stationed in Nazi-occupied Hungary during the Holocaust.

On Jan. 17, 1945 the Soviet army liberated Budapest and subsequently captured Wallenberg, imprisoning him in the Soviet Union where he reportedly died less than two years later.

There has been much speculation about why he was arrested by the Soviets and where and when he died while imprisoned, but no motive for his capture has ever officially been released.

In a statement last week, Canada Post president and CEO Deepak Chopra said the plan to create the stamp is "a fitting way to mark [Wallenberg's] courage and his contributions to our country, and we are proud to add him in our stamp program."

Steven Fletcher, minister of state for transport, described Wallenberg as "a shining example of incredible courage" for his actions during World War II.

He would have turned 100 on Aug. 4.

Wallenberg is also an honorary citizen of Israel, the United States and Hungary.

Israel's ambassador to Canada, Miriam Ziv, commended Canada Post for its decision to issue the stamp.

"A commemorative stamp for Raoul Wallenberg is not just a symbolic act. It will help raise the profile of a person whose courage served as a beacon of light during such a dark period," Ziv said in a statement.

"The stamp's release... will conclude a series of commemorative events and educational programs. The Embassy of Israel is proud to be part of a wider network of partners, including the government of Canada, the embassies of Hungary and Sweden, and Jewish organizations across the country. Activities taking place in Canada are part of a global initiative marking the 100th anniversary of Mr. Wallenberg's birthday."

Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) also lauded the news.

"Under any circumstances, this is a very fitting tribute, but at a time when we are in desperate need of individuals who can serve to inspire Canadians about speaking truth to power, taking the high road and moving beyond their comfort zones to make a difference, there's an added dimension of significance," Fogel said.

Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies Canada, said he was "delighted" to know the stamp would be coming.

"Commemorating Wallenberg's legacy of courage and moral fortitude in the face of absolute evil is an inspired decision by Canada Post. His efforts to save close to 100,000 Jewish Hungarians from the horrors of the Holocaust continue to be celebrated around the world," Benlolo said.

A spokesperson for Canada Post told *The CJN* that the design of the stamp has yet to be determined and that it is still too early to know how many stamps or how many versions would be issued.

He said more particulars about the stamp would likely be revealed closer to the New Year.

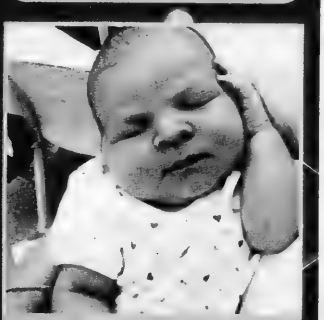
# Mazel Tov

## מזל טוב

Mazel tov to Helen & Jack Grunbaum on their 60th wedding anniversary from their children, five grandchildren and great-grandson. We love you very much.

Jenna & Loren Greenspoon and the entire family are thrilled to welcome Jonah Cooper. Proud grandparents are Marla Shapiro & Robert Berger, Allan & Rachel Greenspoon.

Gypsy & Jordan Fisher of Victoria, B.C., announce the birth of Gabriel Ravid on July 26. Proud Grandparents are Joanne & Barry Fisher and Hugh Wilson.



David & Laraine Fleishman announce the birth of second granddaughter Madison, a little sister for Samantha. Proud parents are Mark & Lisa Holman.

Flo & Burt Dalfen, Ella & Ricky Sacks announce the engagement of Steph & David. Siblings, nephews and grandparents share in the excitement.

Robin & David Yehuda will be celebrating their wedding in London, England, this winter. Proud parents are Linda & Peter Nobel, Michele & Howard Stern.

Email your digital photos to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click the "Family Moments"

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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

Social Networking @ The Canadian Jewish News
for the :-) generation

**Deadline reminder: Aug. 20 is the deadline for the issue of Aug. 30. Aug. 27 is the deadline for the issue of Sept. 6. Please note all deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or email whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, Aug. 16

**FRUMBA**

Try Frumba, a cardio dance class for women set to Jewish, Israeli music, 7:15, Pride of Israel Synagogue, 55 Lissom Cres. Call 416-226-0111 for tickets.

## Saturday, Aug. 18

**ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL**

Orillia Country Shul, 151 Creighton St. S., Atherly, near Orillia, resumes its summer services at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 18, **Rabbi Micah Streiffer.** Aug. 25, **Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld.** All are welcome. 705-327-7069.

**JEWS OF MAURITIUS**

**Henry Wellisch** discusses his personal exodus after the Holocaust to Mauritius, Shaarei Beth El Synagogue, 186 Morrison Rd., Oakville, 416-573-9440. Services begin at 10:30 a.m.

**PARSHAH AND PEIROT**

**Rabbi Jennifer Gorman** discusses the Torah portion at 9:45 a.m. After Shabbat morning services, **Rabbi Sean Gorman** discusses "Dressing for Shul." Pride of Israel Synagogue. 416-226-0111.

**BETH TIKVAH TORAH**

**Michael Bernstein** discusses the Torah portion, Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 9:45 a.m., 3080 Bayview Ave.

## Sunday, Aug. 19

**YIDDISH POET**

**Simcha Simchovitch** shows a DVD of his recent trip to Poland, where he received an award for his Yiddish poetry, The Lodzer Synagogue, 12 Heaton St. Minyan at 9 a.m., brunch at 9:30 a.m., program at 10 a.m. $5. 416-636-6665.

**PJ LIBRARY STORY TIME**

PJ Library holds a story-time event, 10 a.m. at Wood Valley Park, 2 Marc Santi Blvd., Vaughan. A tour of the Kavanah garden follows the story. Another story time will be held Aug. 26. In case of rain, the story time will move into the Schwartz/Reisman Centre. Free but registration required at the following website: www.pjlibrary905.ca.

## Tuesday, Aug. 21

**UJA CAMPAIGN LAUNCH**

Oscar winner **Jon Voight** is the guest speaker at UJA Campaign's 2013 launch, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 7:30 p.m. $45. 416-631-5705 or www.ujaevents.com/registration/voight.

**CONCERTS IN THE PARK**

The Casablanca Orchestra performs tonight at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre, in Earl Bales Park, 7 p.m. Aug. 28, Shul of Rock performs. In case of rain, the performance moves to the Earl Bales Community Centre.

## Other News

**SHOFAR WORKSHOP**

**Rabbi Michal Shekel** presents a workshop on the shofar, **Aug. 26,** 11 a.m.,with a brunch following, Or Hadash Synagogue, 451 Botsford St., Newmarket. 905-898-2220.

**Continued on page 23**

**CLASS ACTS**

# *Lawrence Park student tops in TDSB last year*

## *18-year-old finished with 99.7 per cent average*

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

Sean Goldhar, 18, was one of two top scholars in the Toronto District School Board this past year.

The recent graduate of Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute finished school with a 99.7 per cent average, the same as Run Ze Cao, of Martingrove Collegiate Institute.

Goldhar, who has spent up to 20 hours a week playing Junior A hockey, said that balance is "a big thing" for him.

"You read ahead and prepare before the class. That way the class would help solidify [what you've learned.]"

His English mark – 98 – was his lowest.

In an interview at his home, at a media event organized by the TDSB, Goldhar, who graduated with eight awards, said he typically spent two to three hours a night on homework.

"Absolutely, I had to work hard," he said. "I love studying, and I love reading and learning. It's the farthest thing from a chore. It's a lot of fun."

This summer, Goldhar is working in a cancer research lab at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Medical school has always been a dream of his, he said, but now that he's had a taste of research, he's thinking of pursuing a PhD as well as an medical degree.

His parents are also both in the sciences – his father, Steven, is a physician, and his mother, Barbara, is a physiotherapist.

In September, Sean will enter the life sciences program at the University of Toronto.

Despite his academic accomplishments and numerous academic and athletic awards, Sean is very humble about his achievements, Barbara said.

Sean and his twin sister, Laura, are typical kids, she added.

Laura also graduated with honours from Lawrence Park and was recruited by St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y,. to play National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tennis.

Barbara said she and her husband always told their children to "set the bar high" and to do whatever they do to the best of their abilities."

**Sean Goldhar received the Governor General's Academic Medal for graduating with the highest average in his school.** [*Frances Kraft photo*]

**Continued from page 22**

**BAYT YOUTH FAIR**

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation is holding a youth fair to highlight its own youth programming and businesses catering to youth, **Sept. 9**. For both applications, contact **Rich Winkler,** 905-886-3810, ext. 135 or www.bayt.ca.

**THE CUTTING VEG**

The Cutting Veg, a community-supported agriculture program, delivers organic produce to Toronto-area synagogues throughout the summer and fall. For more information, visit www.thecuttingveg.com/CSA or call 647-388-7444.

**THE SHIRA SINGERS**

The Shira Singers, who perform for seniors in the GTA, are looking for new choir members. Call **Yair**, 905-886-1755.

**THEATRE TOURS**

Beth Emeth Theatre Tours is going to Stratford **Sept. 12** to see *42nd Street*. Bus and matinée, $100. Call **Tema Wasserman**, 905-770-0355.

**KAVANAH GARDEN RETREAT**

An all-day workshop featuring yoga, meditation, drumming, Pilates, movement and drama will be held **Aug. 26**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Shoresh's Kavanah Garden, 18 Lebovic Campus Dr., Vaughan. $100 (financial assistance available). To register: http://tolifetolife.eventbrite.co. For more info, send an email to: drjuliasegal@gmail.com.

**MOSAIC OUTDOOR CLUB**

Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America for Jewish outdoor enthusiasts is holding a Labour Day retreat in Colorado, **Aug. 30-Sept. 3**. For more info, visit www.mosaicoutdoor.org or call 1-888-MOSAICS (667-2427) to register.

**JUMPSTART HEBREW**

JumpStart Hebrew is a program for children entering JK to Grade 2, **Aug. 27-31** at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Children will be introduced to Hebrew through art, music and play. Email **Karen Goodis**, karen@bethsholom.net or www.bethsholom.net.

**MELTON MINI SCHOOL**

Melton Adult Mini School offers core courses Wednesday evenings: Dramas of Jewish Living (history) and Ethics of Jewish Living. Text-based and interactive, the curriculum is developed by Hebrew University. Call 416-789-7400 or www.melton-toronto.org.

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Torah Tots at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham is open for fall registration.905-886-0420, ext. 227.

Temple Sinai Nursery School is holding an open house **Sept. 6,** 5:30 p.m., with bouncy castle, pizza dinner and games. RSVP 416-487-3291 or www.templesinai.net/study/nursery.

**HIGH HOLIDAY TICKETS**

High Holiday tickets for services at Shaar Shalom Synagogue are now available to the public. Call 905-889-4975.

Chabad of Markham is offering tickets for non-members. Call 905-886-0420, ext. 221.

## JF&CS GROUPS

**BEREAVED PARENTS**

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. The clubhouse is closed for renovations; all activities in the Earl Bales Community Centre. Hairdresser/barber, Aug. 16, 9-11 a.m. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m. first class free.; Wednesdays, social bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts. Call **Morty**, 416-783-6078; 416-630-6487.

**The Bridge Club** at Forest Hill Library is seeking new members. Call **Lea** (evenings), 416-487-7630.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Active Seniors & Boomers, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. Sept. 6, **Iain Scott** discusses the Metropolitan Opera, 1:30 p.m.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526, **Colin Blayney.** Join **Josh Matlow** Sept. 5 at 8 a.m. for the launch of a month of free events: walking tours, fitness classes and speakers.

**Bernard Betel Centre** 416-225-2112. Aug. 21, **Warren Green** discusses "Jewish Survival By Way of the World's Second-Oldest Profession," 10 a.m.; Aug. 23, **Judi Weiss** discusses "Fighting Age-Related Stereotypes," 1:30 p.m.

**The Sunday Nighters,** a social group for seniors begins Sept. 9. Couples and singles welcome. Call **Al Federman,** 416-635-0563 or **Hanita Chencinski,** 416-922-1400.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

**Kevin Courrier** teaches a course on "Love and Hisses: Debating the Movies," Aug. 22, 29.

**Iain Scott** discusses opera. Aug. 22 **Joan Sutherland**, 1 p.m.

Drop-in duplicate bridge, Thursdays 12:30-3:30 p.m. Current events discussion, Thursdays, 12:45 p.m.

The movie *Arranged* will be shown Aug. 20, 1 p.m.

Treasures in Jewish literature, books are available for loan for the next series. First review Sept. 11.

A new club is being formed for people over 55, featuring outings, exercise and speakers. First meeting Aug. 21, 1:30 p.m. Call **Bernice,** 416-633-7034, or **Terrie**, 905-709-1090.

The best of Hebrew University's thinkers, keynote speaker **Elie Podeh** discusses "The Arab Revolutions: Between Spring and Winter," Sept. 6. www.registerhebrewu.com.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

The adult daytime choir runs all summer, Tuesdays 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

*Kids Who Can*, photos by 13 photographers from Easter Seals summer camps is at the gallery until Sept. 9.

Miles Nadal JCC holds an open house Sept. 5, 12-8 p.m. Free fitness demos, activities for kids and tours.

Ongoing group and private swim lessons, ext. 530; aquatics@mnjcc.org.

Personal training for youth and adults, ext. 506; jasone@mnjcc.org.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

## SCHWARTZ REISMAN CENTRE

9600 Bathurst St., Vaughan. 905-303-1821. www.srcentre.ca.

NCSY hosts Shabbat parties, Aug. 17, Aug. 24, 5:30 p.m. with songs and crafts for all.

The daycare is still accepting registrations.

Save the date: Sept. 9, the best of Hebrew University's thinkers speak at the centre. www.registerhebrewu.com.

Open house, Sept. 10-12.

**BACK TO SCHOOL: Members of Na'amat Canada-Toronto recently spent a day packing 1,200 backpacks with school supplies for children in shelters and 200 bags for their mothers. In the evening, children were invited to help, and they packed another 100 bags.**

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***SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN***

# *Theatre's artistic director journeys to Poland*

**Myron Love**
Prairies Correspondent

**WINNIPEG** — It was an emotional time in late May and early June for Steven Schipper, the longtime artistic director of the Manitoba Theatre Centre (MTC).

Schipper and his wife, Terri Cherniack, arrived in Poland on May 29 for a roots journey to Schipper's parents' hometown. En route back, during a stopover in England to see some theatre productions, Schipper learned that he had been inducted into the Order of Canada.

"It's a humbling experience to be named to the Order of Canada," Schipper said. "This is an award I share with my family, friends and co-workers at MTC."

He also expressed his appreciation to BBYO (B'nai Brith Youth Organization) in Montreal, where, he said, he learned the leadership skills that contributed to his success in the theatre world.

Schipper, who is celebrating his 25th year at MTC (23 as artistic director – he was associate artistic director for the first two years), is the son of Holocaust survivors Jack and Regina Schipper, who still live in Montreal, and were originally from the town of Rzeszow in southeastern Poland near Krakow.

Schipper said his mother's nuclear family survived the war in Siberia. His father and a brother survived thanks to one of their father's employees, a man named Franek Gwiewek, who came up with two sets of forged identity papers for them.

"After the war, my parents were forever sending Franek and his family packages of clothing and other goods," Schipper said.

Sponsored by the Grubert family, Jack Schipper came to Winnipeg after the war. In 1950, he moved to Montreal where he met Regina.

"My zaide had a sawmill in town on land he owned," Steven Schipper said. "For years, my father has been working on regaining his family's land or getting compensation. He has been back to Rzeszow a couple of times to visit Franek and in pursuit of his claim. I have wanted to go back with him, but we hadn't been able to work that out."

The impetus for Schipper to go to Rzeszow himself came from his friend, Ruben Potash, also the son of Polish-born Holocaust survivors. Potash joined Schipper and Cherniack for the early part of the trip before heading off on his own.

"My father wasn't able to join us," Schipper said, "but we were able to Skype him from a lawyer's office in the town."

The Schippers' journey started in Krakow where they stayed the first night in a hotel in the old Jewish quarter. The next day, with Potash, they drove to Rzeszow.

"We had a wonderful tour guide and translator," Schipper said. "She arranged for us to meet with the archivist in Rzeszow."

The archives, he noted, are housed in what used to be Rzeszow's largest synagogue, half a block from where his mother's family lived and across the street from where the Jews of Rzeszow were assembled for their execution.

The Schippers then met with the son of the lawyer who's working on Jack Schipper's compensation claim – the son is also a lawyer.

**Steven Schipper, left, is seen with Jozef Chmaj, who was a neighbour of Schipper's parents in Poland before the Holocaust.**

"It's a sensitive issue in Poland," Schipper said. "If the Polish government compensated all such claims immediately, the result would be national bankruptcy. We are in the process of locating an expert witness who can testify in our support. We are hopeful that we can resolve our case satisfactorily."

Schipper said all the Poles he and Cherniack met were warm and generous. "The overwhelming sentiment is that they were victims, too," he said. "What can one say to that?"

One of their other stops in town was to visit a former neighbour of his father's family who still lives on a small plot of land that was once part of his family's land holding.

"Jozef Chmaj is one of the happiest and funniest guys I have ever met," Schipper said. "He gave us some honey from his beehives. He also grows berries and sells eggs."

Schipper said Chmaj is grateful to his family because Schipper's grandfather once provided the money to pay for surgery for Chmaj's grandmother.

The land his father's family owned, typical of landholdings in the region, was about the size of a Costco store and its parking lot, Schipper said.

Chmaj accompanied the visitors into the nearby forest where there are mass graves of thousands of Rzeszow Jews who were murdered by the Nazis. There is only a small sign pointing to the sites, which are a 10-minute walk into the forest, Schipper noted. There are three mass graves – one with 3,000 victims, the others with about 2,000 victims each. Schipper recited *Kaddish* at the graves.

The Schippers returned to Krakow and then visited Auschwitz-Birkenau and the former Schindler factory, now a museum that tells the story of the people of Krakow before, during and after the war.

"The time we spent in the museum was very moving," Schipper said. "The museum contains an electronic book that lists the Righteous Gentiles who saved Jewish lives during the Holocaust. It was an emotional moment to see that Franek's name was among them."


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# *Cheese processor now under OU certification*

**Myron Love**
Prairies Correspondent

**WINNIPEG** — Bothwell Cheese, Canada's largest independently owned cheese processor, is beginning to roll out its line of Orthodox Union-certified cheeses across Canada.

"We are getting calls for potential new clients from across the country, and even a few from New York asking about the availability of our products," said Steven Gettis, the company's director of sales and marketing.

"We are very proud to have achieved this [OU] certification and thrilled about the prospects of introducing our cheese to new customers," said Ivan Balenovic, the 75-year-old processor's president and CEO, in a statement.

"We have always had exceptional factory standards, and this certification by a well-respected third party provides further verification. Many of our loyal customers have been requesting kosher cheese, and we're delighted to make it available."

Bothwell, located in the small community of New Bothwell, about 30 kilometres southeast of Winnipeg, has actually been producing kosher cheese in small quantities for special orders since the early 1980s. A mashgiach would come in as required – perhaps every second week.

However, as of the beginning of January, an OU mashgiach has been on site every day. The company wanted to sell off its remaining non-kosher cheeses that were already in the pipeline before rolling out its new kosher products, Gettis said in explaining the delay.

Bothwell Cheese produces 28 different cheese varieties, as well as cheese curds, shredded cheese and cheese powder. The company uses only fresh, locally produced milk in its products and no modified milk ingredients, fillers or preservatives. Dairy farmers still deliver their milk directly to Bothwell, one of the few remaining Canadian artisanal cheese makers that are still thriving today.

The processor has contracts to supply all the national Canadian supermarket chains with its cheeses.

"Our sales have tripled since 2001," Gettis said.

The company is particularly proud of the number of awards Bothwell Cheese has earned in recent years. The company has won first prize in the British Empire Cheese Competition for the past five years in a row for its marble cheese.

Among Bothwell's cheeses are gouda, edam, swiss, munster, cheddar, horseradish, mozzarella, red hot chili pepper, marble and jalapeno, to list a few.

Gettis noted that although most of the cheeses are now kosher, there are still three or four that are not because of their ingredients (such as the company's red wine cheese).

"We are working with the OU to source kosher alternatives for those ingredients," he said.

**Steven Gettis, Bothwell Cheese's director of sales and marketing, with samples of the company's kosher cheeses.**

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# Geneticist says nanotechnogy will extend life

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

Genetics researcher Gil Atzmon foresees a time when doctors will use existing nanotechnology to prolong life well beyond 120 years, by injecting patients with small replacement particles whenever they detect a cellular problem.

It may take 20, 30 or 40 years, he said, "but it will happen."

"From a biblical standpoint, we were designed to live to 120," Atzmon said in a telephone interview from his office at Yeshiva University (YU), where he is an associate professor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. "The question is how to do it."

Gil Atzmon

Average life expectancy, which is increasing by three months a year in western countries, was predicted to be 81.5 years in Canada (84 for females and 79 for males) this year.

Atzmon will be in Toronto next month for the launch of the fourth year of YU's Torah Mitzion Beit Midrash Zichron Dov. He will speak next month at a program at Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue of Toronto, titled "The Length of Our Days: Judaism & Immortality."

He clarified that his research doesn't deal with immortality, but rather with "trying to figure out what it is that distinguishes people" who live two or even three decades beyond the average life expectancy.

Part of the answer is genetic and part is epigenetic – related to other factors, such as environment – on top of the genetic factor, he believes.

However, he added, among the centenarians he and his colleagues have studied, "30 per cent are obese or overweight. They smoke like regular people. There are more couch potatoes than mountain runners... We don't have any vegetarians. They eat meat, drink wine, they smoke and don't do exercise.

"And still they live to 100. So they probably have some genetic shield. It doesn't mean all those things that the doctor says to do won't improve your life. They will. But if you have the gene, you live longer."

The author of more than 60 scientific papers, with a PhD in population genetics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is trying to figure out what the shield is, he explained. "How can we develop this shield, so average people that didn't get it from their parents might have a better [long-term] survival rate?"

Among the characteristics associated with longevity are higher HDL (good cholesterol) levels and a "happy" personality, Atzmon said. However, he added, there are thousands of pieces to the puzzle. "There is no one central mechanism."

The 48-year-old native of Kibbutz Ein-Tzurim said he isn't doing anything differently in his life as a result of his research. In his favour, however, he had one grandmother and two great-grandparents who lived to 100.

In another area of research, Atzmon is studying 16 groups of Jewish people worldwide to look for a common genetic background.

Results so far have shown Jews share the same percentage of their genome, which is higher than the percentage they share with non-Jews in their part of the world.

"[But] it doesn't mean we found the Jewish gene," Atzmon said. An earlier study of his indicates that the Jewish population split geographically some 2,500 years ago, "close to the destruction of the first Temple."

As well, he added, he and his colleagues found a component of the genome indicating common roots in Israel or the Middle East. "You can see the migration of the Jewish population around the world through the genome."

*The Sept. 9 program will be hosted by the BAYT's adult education committee. Torah Mitzion's rosh beit midrash Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner and sgan rosh beit midrash Rabbi Baruch Weintraub will speak on related topics. For more information, call 416-783-6960 or send an email to info@torontotorah.com.*

# Time to rethink chemotherapy?

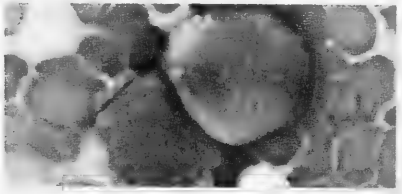
**Karin Kloosterman**
Israel21c.org

For cancer patients undergoing treatment, the ups and downs can feel like living through one of those B-level movies where the zombies just never seem to die: victories of remission can quickly end in disappointment as the cancer returns once more.

Why this happens has long puzzled scientists around the globe, but a new multi-centre team in Israel whittles the problem down to the roots of where cancer begins.

The Israeli researchers built a unique "family tree" of leukemia cells from living cancer patients to understand more about how cancer cells divide, spread and can outlast chemotherapy treatments.

This will likely have profound implications for the way leukemia and other cancers are treated in the future, the researchers expect.



**Leukemia cells dividing** ***(Photo courtesy of Public Library of Science)***

In the medical journal *Blood*, Israeli researchers – including Noa Chapal-Ilani, Prof. Ehud Shapiro and Dr. Rivka Adar from the Weizmann Institute of Science and Dr. Liran Shlush from the Technion-Israeli Institute of Technology – explain that tracing cancer stem cells back to where they began sheds light on how cancer reappears.

Until now there have been two main theories about why some cancers return after treatment. The Israeli study results may just put this debate to bed.

One theory is that chemotherapy can't kill each and every cancer cell. The few cancer cells left behind eventually divide out of control again, leading to a relapse. The other theory is that while chemotherapy may be good at killing run-of-the-mill cancer cells that divide rapidly, it fails to vanquish slow-dividing cancer stem cells. This second theory is supported by the evidence.

Investigating the genetics of leukemia cells with the aid of computational biology, the researchers came to a new conclusion: "We know that in many cases, chemotherapy alone is not able to cure leukemia. Our results suggest that to completely eliminate it, we must look for a treatment that will not only eliminate the rapidly dividing cells, but also target the cancer stem cells that are resistant to conventional treatment," said Shapiro.

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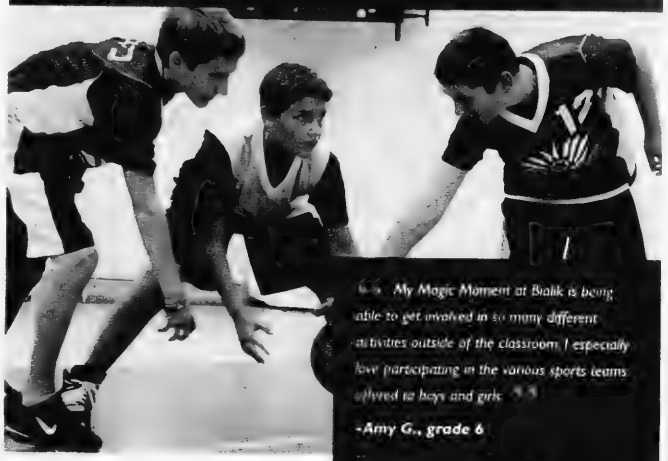

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*Joining our administrative team as the Director of General Studies at Bialik Viewmount is Sheldon Diamond. Sheldon brings with him many years of experience in both the public and day school systems as an educator and as an administrator, and we welcome him to the Bialik Family. If you would like to get to know Benjy or Sheldon better, we encourage you to call (416) 783-3346 to speak with or to set up a meet and greet with them.*

*Benjamin Cohen*

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## Israel wary over Morsi's sweeping changes

**Gabe Fisher and Stuart Winer**
The Times of Israel

**JERUSALEM** — Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi's sudden firings of Cairo's military elite on Sunday has created an uncertain period for Egyptian-Israeli relations, according to a senior diplomatic source quoted on Israel Radio on Monday.

Morsi fired defence minister Mohammed Hussein Tantawi and chief of staff Sami Anan, forcing them into retirement, and cancelled the military-declared constitutional amendments that gave top generals wide powers, Egyptian state TV reported.

Morsi also ordered the retirement of the commanders of the navy, air defence and air force.

While the new military leadership is aware of the need to co-operate with Israel on security issues, it may not be aware of the "vitality" that characterized the connection between Israel Defence Forces officials and the former leaders of Egypt's defence establishment, the official said.

The source went on to say that Jerusalem is watching developments in Cairo with "great concern." Since Morsi's government doesn't communicate with Israel, little can be known of Egypt's plans, the source said.

Although the newly installed defence minister, Abdul Fatah Khalil al-Sisi, has not opened communication channels with Israel since assuming his post on Sunday, he spoke on Monday with Hamas' prime minister in Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh, who congratulated al-Sisi on his new appointment. Haniyeh reportedly pledged that Hamas would continue to maintain security and co-operation ties between Gaza and Egypt.

Earlier on Monday, a senior official in Jerusalem told *Ma'ariv* that the changes ordered by Morsi will not harm security collaboration between the Israeli and Egyptian armed forces.

Assuaging fears that unfamiliar military leaders in Cairo might not co-operate with Israel, the official said that defence minister Tantawi's replacement, al-Sisi, "is well acquainted with Israel's security elite – from Defence Ministry policy director, Amos Gilad, to the prime minister's special envoy, Yitzhak Molcho, and of course, Defence Minister Ehud Barak."

Gilad and Molcho met with al-Sisi during recent visits to Cairo, and al-Sisi also met IDF planning directorate chief, Maj.-Gen. Nimrod Shefer during his two visits to Egypt this summer, *Ma'ariv* reported.

Israel was surprised Sunday by Morsi's ouster of military strongman Tantawi, Anan and other security chiefs, and is wary of the consequences of the power play, other Israeli security sources said, following Sunday's "civilian coup."

The move cemented Morsi's authority over the armed forces in what was seen as a move similar to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ouster of dozens of his generals. However, Erdogan achieved control over the army in a gradual process; Morsi has done so in a matter of days.

An unnamed Israeli official was quoted on the *Walla* news site as saying that the immediate consequence of the shakeup was that no one in senior Egyptian military positions would now dare take any steps that they feared would not find favour with the Muslim Brotherhood president. Such a shift would inevitably adversely affect Israel, given that Tantawi and Anan were in close ongoing contact with their Israeli counterparts. The two also had long-term relations with senior American officials, including Defence Secretary Leon Panetta.

Morsi, by contrast, has not acknowledged any direct contact with Israel since his election two months ago. He sent a brief letter of thanks to President Shimon Peres last month, in response to two missives from Peres. But when the President's Office publicized the letter, Morsi's spokesman denied having sent it.

**File photo of a recent meeting in Cairo between Hamas leader in Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh, left, and Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi.** ***[Flash90 photo]***

One of Israel's leading Arab affairs analyst, Ehud Yaari, described Morsi's move Sunday as a "civilian coup" against the army. The move underlined the new reality that the president and army no longer rule Egypt jointly, but rather that the army is now subject to the orders of the presidency, Yaari said.

Morsi was said on Sunday to be preparing to launch an intensified crackdown on terrorist cells in the Sinai, a week after Islamist terrorists killed 16 Egyptian security force troops at their base near the Israel border, commandeered an armoured vehicle and smashed across the border into Israel, where they were blown up by the Israel Air Force.

Israel gave Egypt permission to deploy forces in excess of limitations set out in the Israel-Egypt peace treaty in order to carry out the crackdown. "The question is, after the military operation, will Morsi take the troops back out again," said Yaari.

Political sources in Jerusalem said that if Morsi's new appointees do not co-operate with Israel, then Israel will start to take independent action to thwart terrorist attacks from Sinai, Channel 10 reported.

*Timesofisrael.com*

## Boxing legend's daughter visits Israeli hospital

JTA

**JERUSALEM** — Rasheda Ali, the daughter of legendary boxing champion Muhammad Ali, visited Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem Aug. 9 to learn about its work in treating brain degenerative diseases.

Muhammad Ali, 70, suffers from Parkinson's disease.

Rasheda Ali toured the centre accompanied by the managers of BrainStorm, an Israeli biotechnology company developing adult stem cell therapies for neurodegenerative disorders such as Lou Gehrig's disease, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's. She serves on BrainStorm's advisory board and is an internationally known advocate for advancing research in this area.

Ali praised Hadassah Medical Center's work in the area.

**Rasheda Ali visits a lab at Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center.** ***[Oren Nahshon/Flash90 photo]***

The Staff of
**The Canadian Jewish News**
extends its heartfelt condolences
to our colleague and friend

**Brian Stoneman**
**and to his entire family**
on the passing of his beloved mother,

**Hilda Stoneman**

***May her memory be for a blessing.***

# Jews seek ways to help Sikhs after shooting

Charlotte Anthony
JTA

**MILWAUKEE** — Almost as soon as she heard the news about a deadly shooting at a Sikh temple near Milwaukee, Elana Kahn-Oren's phone started ringing.

As director of the Jewish Community Relations Council at the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, Kahn-Oren fielded call after call from concerned area Jews asking what they could do to help.

"We have to make sure to be respectful of the Sikh community and to make sure that we find appropriate avenues to express that support," Kahn-Oren told JTA.

A day after the Aug. 5 shooting, federation was offering counselling services, had opened a mailbox to receive donations for assisting with the financial needs of the victims and their families, and was in talks with the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee to figure out a way to bring religious leaders together for an interfaith prayer service.

"Coming together after events like these reaffirms the values of the community," Kahn-Oren said. "This goes against our moral fibre."

The assailant killed six people, including the president of the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin, in Oak Creek, before being shot dead by police. On Aug. 6, police identified the shooter as Wade Michael Page, a U.S. Army veteran with ties to white supremacist groups.

Jacob Herber of Congregation Beth Israel said the Milwaukee synagogue's weekday minyan would be holding a moment of silence to commemorate and express solidarity with the victims, just as the minyan does when Jews are attacked around the world.

"Unfortunately, because we have experienced through much of our history bigotry, hatred and antisemitism, this event is very acute for us in its pain," Herber said. "That's why I think we feel not only the obligation but the real personal, profound emotion of wanting to reach out to the Sikh community."

Linda Holifield, executive director of Congregation Shalom in Milwaukee, said the shooter's targeting of a place of worship was particularly upsetting.

"When one place of worship is targeted, it suggests then that any place of worship could be a target," she said.

Tom Heinen, executive director of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, said the tragedy has really hit home because of the tight-knit nature of the community in Milwaukee.

"Milwaukee is in many respects a large village where many people of many faiths are interconnected personally, professionally and socially," he said. "At a time like this, we need to come together as a community to reassert our common values and to comfort those who have suffered grievous losses."

In response to the shooting, David Koschitzky, chair of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, issued the following statement: "We were shocked and saddened to hear of [the] attack, which authorities believe to be a horrific example of domestic terrorism. The targeting of a place of worship is a particularly heinous act for which people of all faiths should be outraged.

"We stand in solidarity with our Sikh friends and offer our condolences in this time of immense grief."


**Notice of Special General Meeting**
**Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel**

Take notice that the Special General Meeting of CMDA will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 6:00 PM at CMDA Headquarters, 6900 Decarie Blvd., Suite 3155, Montreal, Quebec.

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate for election as Directors:

**Directors to Serve Second Year of Their Term, 2012 – 2013:**

Mayer Diamond, Seymour Eisenberg (Ottawa), Johanne Frenette, Roy Grinshpan (Vancouver), Karen Kofman Labow, Miriam Lang, M.S.W., Michelle Marcushamer (Edmonton), David Matas, C.M. (Winnipeg), Naomi Sheinbaum (London), Susan Tepner Novack, Nava Wainer (Calgary)

**Directors Recommended to Serve a Two Year Term, 2012 – 2014:**

Nicole Allio, Joseph Amzallag, M.Sc., Irwin Beutel, Joseph Bitton, B.Sc., M.Ed., Bernard Chmielash, Sion Harrar, Bernard Lang, M.Eng., Michael I. Levine, Gill Obadia, CPA, CA, Hilda Rosen (Hamilton), Arieh Rossdeutscher, M.Eng., Michael Rozenek, Barry M. Schrier, B.C.L., Norton Segal, Q.C., Vivian Segall, Jack Shalinsky (Victoria), David Singer, B.Comm. (Toronto), Rita Tenenbaum, Richard Wenner, B.A., LL.B. (Vancouver)

**Honorary Board Members Recommended to Serve a One-Year Term, 2012 – 2013:**

Dr. Marc Afilalo, Gerald Berley (Toronto), Rabbi Reuven Bulka (Ottawa), Dean Bye (Huron Park, ON), Gerald Cohen, Rabbi Mark Fishman, Robert Garfield, David Kaminker, PH.Eng. (Toronto), Sheila Kussner, O.C.,O.Q., Arthur Levitt, Sam Litwack (Ottawa), Shirley Moscovitch, Ted Nashman, Joseph Paperman, Rabbi Reuben Poupko, Maurice Sadeh, Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, Rabbi Moshe Stern (Toronto), Dr. Mark A. Wainberg, O.C.,O.Q., Father John E. Walsh, Sylvia Walt (Toronto), Fanny Wedro (Calgary)

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# Netanyahu rebukes Ban

JTA

**WASHINGTON** — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu berated U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for agreeing to attend a Non-Aligned Movement summit in Iran.

"Even if it is not your intention, your visit will grant legitimacy to a regime that is the greatest threat to world peace and security," Netanyahu's office quoted the prime minister as saying Friday in a phone conversation with the secretary general. "Not only does it threaten countries throughout the Middle East, not only is it the greatest terrorism exporter in the world, but it is impossible to exaggerate the danger it presents to Israel."

Netanyahu, who praised Ban in the phone call for his otherwise "fair" treatment of Israel, noted Iran's alleged role in recent terrorist attacks as well as its suspected nuclear weapons program.

**Ban Ki-moon**

Iran is set to host the next Non-Aligned Movement triennial summit on Aug. 30 and 31.

U.S. Jewish groups, including the American Jewish Committee and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, have called on Ban and other non-aligned nations not to attend.

"The government of Iran must receive a strong message from the international community, including many who have suffered directly or indirectly from Iran's support of global terrorism as well as its dangerous pursuit of nuclear weapons capacity, to publicly declare their intention not to attend," the Presidents Conference said Friday in a statement.

The movement, launched in 1961, was conceived as an umbrella for nations opting out of the Cold War between the United States and the former Soviet Union, although many of its member nations ultimately sided with the Soviets.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, the movement has struggled to define itself.

# *Canada pledges $10m in aid*

**Continued from page 1**

Baird was last in Israel in February to attend the Herzliya Conference, a major annual policy conference organized by the Institute for Policy and Strategy of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, a private institution for higher education.

During his current trip to the region, the foreign minister pledged $10 million in aid to various humanitarian assistance programs in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria to help with the needs of more than 150,000 Syrians who have fled their country for border states.

# Israel begins military draft for haredim

JTA

**TEL AVIV** — The Israeli military began drafting haredi 18-year-olds without encountering significant protests one week after a new law requiring haredi military service took effect.

Defence Minister Ehud Barak on July 31 ordered the Israel Defence Forces to compose guidelines for haredi army service within 30 days, and in the meantime implemented the Military Service Law of 1986 with regard to haredim. The law requires every Jewish Israeli to serve in the IDF and includes penalties of up to three years in jail for those who don't comply.

A military source with knowledge of the issue told JTA that one week after the law's implementation, the IDF has yet to encounter any significant problems in putting haredi youths through the draft process. The 18-year-olds are undergoing competency tests in math, Hebrew and general knowledge, as would any draftee.

A young haredi individual enters the army enlistment centre in Tel Aviv. *[Israel Sun photo]*

Previously, under legislation known as the Tal Law, haredi youths had been able to go to an IDF induction centre with a letter from a rabbi exempting them from military service so they could study in a yeshiva. The Israeli Supreme Court invalidated the Tal Law in February.

The court mandated the government to pass new legislation by Aug. 1, but no such legislation has been passed.

# U.S. House considers bill on Jewish refugees

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

The U.S. House of Representatives is considering a bill that would compel the administration to raise the issue of Jewish refugees in any international forum in which Palestinian refugees are discussed.

The bill, sponsored by six Democrat and Republican legislators, would also require the president to report to Congress on the "assistance the United States has provided to Israel to help it accomplish its goal that the interests of Jews displaced from Arab countries are considered in any final settlement of the Middle East refugee question."

Introduction of the bill comes after seven years of lobbying by Jews for Justice in Arab Countries (JJAC), an organization dedicated to ensuring preservation of the rights of an estimated 850,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries.

"We've been working with Congress for many years and we are clearly happy [the bill was introduced] this way," said JJAC vice-president Sylvain Abitbol.

The bill follows on the heels of a non-binding 2008 House resolution that was adopted unanimously, said Stanley Urman, executive director of JJAC. The current bill, introduced by three Republicans and three Democrats, is "binding and has an action component," he said.

To become law, the bill must be passed by the House and Senate and receive presidential approval.

"Right now, Jewish refugees are not on the international agenda. We have been called the forgotten refugees," said Abitbol, former co-president of Canadian Jewish Congress. "After 1948, many Arabs from Palestine left their homes, and yes, they have been refugees. The difference is that we were never called refugees. We adapted to the places where we went, which was not the case for Arab refugees. "We Jews had been living in Arab countries for more than 2,000 years… We're talking about recognition, about justice."

According the JJAC, from 1948 to 2005, the number of Jews in 10 Arab countries dropped from 856,000 to 5,110. The majority of them settled in Israel.JJAC has long advocated that Jewish refugees be discussed in any final status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The government of Israel, which was cool to the issue when JJAC first raised it, now recognizes the moral imperative of raising it in talks, Urman said. Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon, who has Algerian roots, "is demonstrating tremendous leadership on this issue. It's important to him and he will raise it in talks." Last April, Israel's Foreign Ministry hosted a conference on Jewish refugees. Ayalon said compensation for Jewish refugees should be an integral part of any future negotiations or settlement.

Jews from Yemen make their way to Israel

Israel's Foreign Ministry will host another conference on the subject in September.

## Israel Briefs

### *Bomb plot foiled*

Israel foiled a massive plot to carry out a "mega-attack" or wave of several deadly terrorist attacks against Israeli targets. The Israel Police's Northern District's Border Unit and the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) scored a significant intelligence success by uncovering an Israeli-Arab cell smuggling weapons and explosives from Lebanon into Israel. Eleven suspects were indicted in a Nazareth court on charges of aiding the enemy in a time of war, meeting with foreign agents, possession of weapons, conspiracy to commit a crime, attempted drug smuggling and attempted drug trafficking. The cell was made up of three distinct groups, comprising 14 individuals who smuggled in 24 ready-to-use C4 high-quality bombs with attached timers into the northern border town of Ghajar, which straddles the Lebanon border.

### *Site identifies pilots*

A pro-Palestinian website has published the names and photos of 100 Israeli air force pilots said to be in active duty. The list appears on the website of the Free Palestine Movement. It also provides dates of birth and identity numbers of the pilots. The movement's website it said received the data "anonymously" along with a statement that reads in part, the pilots "have chosen to harness their skills in the spreading of mass destruction over towns and villages throughout Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon. State protection renders them immune." The statement urges foreign governments to prosecute the people on the list for "war crimes… The well-being of Israel is temporary and can be undermined." An IDF spokesperson said that the "publication, which is full of errors, is another attempt to undermine Israel's right to defend itself." Names and photos of air force pilots are subject to military censorship in Israel.

### *Lynch perpetrators arrested*

Two Palestinians involved in the lynching 12 years ago of two Israeli soldiers in Ramallah have been arrested and reportedly confessed to their involvement. Marwan Maadi, 51, and Yasser Hatab, 40, were arrested in June. They were indicted last week on charges of murder in the Judea military court. The lynching took place in October 2000 at the beginning of the second Palestinian intifadah, when the two soldiers accidentally drove into the West Bank city of Ramallah. The soldiers were arrested, beaten to death and mutilated by an angry mob of Palestinians who stormed the police station where they were being held. Two other Palestinians convicted of participating in the lynching were released as part of the Gilad Schalit prisoner swap deal, according to *Ha'aretz*.

### *Ship sails for Gaza*

The deputy speaker of Norway's parliament expressed his "respect" for pro-Palestinian activists sailing to Gaza. Akhtar Chaudhry met the 17 activists at Oslo's port Aug. 7, according to the website Ship to Gaza Sweden. The activists plan to reach Gaza in October in defiance of an Israeli naval blockade. "It is a fantastic way to put focus on the longstanding, illegal and brutal occupation and in later years also blockade on Gaza," Chaudhry said, according to the ship's website. Victoria Strand, a spokesperson for the group, told JTA the ship is carrying humanitarian aid. When asked about the group's positions on Hamas, Mikael Loefgren, another spokesperson, said that the ship "opposes Israel's occupation of Gaza and all human rights violations" but "does not oppose any democratically elected government in the region."

*Files from JTA and JNS.org*

# Israeli software key to Mars rover's development

## 'Blue and white flag' on Red Planet

**David Shamah**
The Times of Israel

**TEL AVIV** — Israel has yet to land an astronaut on the moon, but as of last week, there is an Israeli "flag" on Mars – because Israeli software was crucial to the development of the Curiosity rover now exploring the possibility of life on the red planet.

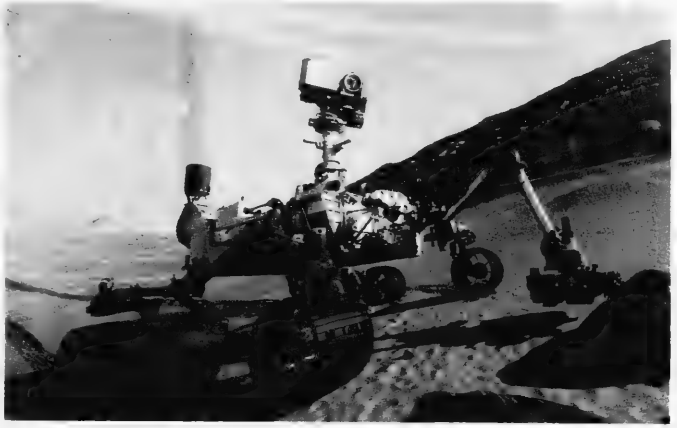
Curiosity is the main feature of the $2.5-billion (US) Mars ScienceLab mission. The technology and sophisticated parts that make up the rover are mainly made by American computer and aerospace companies, such as Intel, Lockheed Martin, and Alliant Techsystems. But the software that allowed NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratories (JPL) to accurately model how the Mars vehicle would perform tens of millions of miles from earth is "blue and white," developed at the Israeli branch of Siemens PLM.

No one has ever been to Mars, of course, and there have been precious few successful space missions to the planet, which have provided all the information available to date. The rover's mission is to constantly send photos and data back to earth for at least two years.

Enter PLM (Product Lifecycle Management) software, used by companies to determine how their designs and products will stand up under real-life conditions. PLM software is used in just about every manufacturing industry, and Siemens, one of the biggest providers of the software, does all its PLM work in Israel, said the company's Israeli CEO, Zvi Feuer.

"We develop PLM solutions for many of the largest companies around the world," Feuer said. "In Israel, for example, with our partner Mckit Software, we develop PLM solutions for companies like Elta, Israel Aircraft Industries, the Israel Defence Forces, Keter Plastics and many more."

One of Siemens' international customers is JPL, which is running the Mars Science Lab mission. Siemens PLM Israel helped develop the system needed to figure out how to ensure that Curiosity could stand up to the harsh conditions on Mars and continue operating in the face of the wind and dust, which appear to be a major feature of the Martian atmosphere.



**Artist's conception of Mars Curiosity rover** *[NASA photo]*

"The manufacturing process generally starts with a CAD [computer-aided design] rendering of the product – in this case the rover – and usually goes on to schematics and the building of a model," Feuer told *The Times of Israel.*

The model is tested using PLM software and adjustments are made in the design and manufacturing process to ensure the best results. In this case, because of the prohibitive cost of building numerous models, JPL initially developed computer simulations for testing with PLM software and only later built an actual model.

The PLM software checked out all relevant systems on the Curiosity, said Feuer, including the robotic arm that digs, scoops, tests and stores samples of soil and rocks.

"We've all seen videos of this arm, and it is very complicated, with many moving parts. The arm shows just how important PLM software is – the design was very complicated and the action is very sophisticated, meaning there is a greater chance of glitches. But we cannot afford any problems, because that would be the end of the rover. You have to check anything and everything that could go wrong."

Besides the mechanics of the robot arm, Feuer added, his company's software examined other aspects of the Curiosity, including the weight it could lift, under what environmental conditions it could continue to function, and how its action algorithms work with the manufactured parts.

After months of hard work, Feuer and the team at Siemens PLM Israel were ecstatic to see the first images of Curiosity from Mars.

"This is one of mankind's greatest accomplishments," said Feuer, "and we are honored to have had a part in it."

*TimesofIsrael.com*


The Canadian Jewish news

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## Haredi eyeglasses blur view of 'immodest women'

JTA

**JERUSALEM** — Haredi men in Israel are buying glasses that will prevent them from seeing the immodest women that threaten their way of life.

The glasses, which are being sold for $32.50 (US), have a special blur-inducing sticker on their lenses that provides clear vision for up to a few metres so as not to impede movement, but anything beyond that becomes blurry – including women.

While it's not known how many have been purchased, the devices have gone on sale recently in haredi Orthodox neighbourhoods of Jerusalem and elsewhere, *The Times of Israel* reported.

The haredi Orthodox community's unofficial "modesty patrol" has developed a range of products to act as a first line of defence against the threat of seeing immodest women, Israeli media reported.

In an effort to maintain their strictly devout lifestyle, haredim in some neighbourhoods have separated the sexes on buses, sidewalks and other public spaces.

# *Murder and medicine from Toronto authors*

**Bill Gladstone**
Special to The CJN

With the Eaton Centre and Scarborough block party shootings in Toronto, and *The Dark Knight* and Sikh temple shootings in Colorado and Wisconsin, gun crimes have been screaming from the headlines all summer. Seems a perfect time, then, to look at Robert Rotenberg's third police procedural crime novel, *Stray Bullets* (Touchstone).

As he demonstrated in his previous books, Rotenberg has an insider's knowledge of the criminal justice system and an encyclopedic knowledge of the city of Toronto, which he puts to impressive use.

A splendid example of this occurs after defence attorney Nancy Parish clandestinely picks up her client, a suspected murderer named Larkin St. Clair, who slides into her car at an arranged intersection and talks to her from underneath a blanket in the back seat: "In a few blocks she crossed the bridge across the Don Valley and the city burst into view, the downtown office towers a forest of gleaming glass. The sunshine glistened off a gold-plated building and spangled across her windshield."

Rotenberg is also good at choosing his moments, such as when the season's first snowflakes begin to fall: that's the moment that opens the first chapter. Larkin and his pal, Dewey Booth, stake out a downtown Tim Horton's doughnut shop where Dewey's ex-girlfriend works. Dewey has just been released from jail, and he's plenty mad because Suzie's found a new boyfriend. Soon the boyfriend arrives, shooting commences, and a child is struck down by a stray bullet. The crime is soon screaming from the front page of every newspaper in town.

So who done it? See how that information is disguised in the above paragraph? Rotenberg does the same thing, and takes nearly 300 pages to give us an answer. Subsequent chapters introduce us to a stream of characters involved in the investigation and the inevitable machinations within the halls of justice: Daniel Kennicott, the first police officer on the scene; Ari Greene, the veteran homicide detective who takes the case; Ralph Armitage, the chief crown attorney who excels in making lousy backroom deals; Suzanne Howett, Booth's ex-girlfriend; the dead child's father and mother; various newspaper and television reporters, all crazed for a story, and a string of witnesses, including one who vanishes because he is an illegal immigrant.

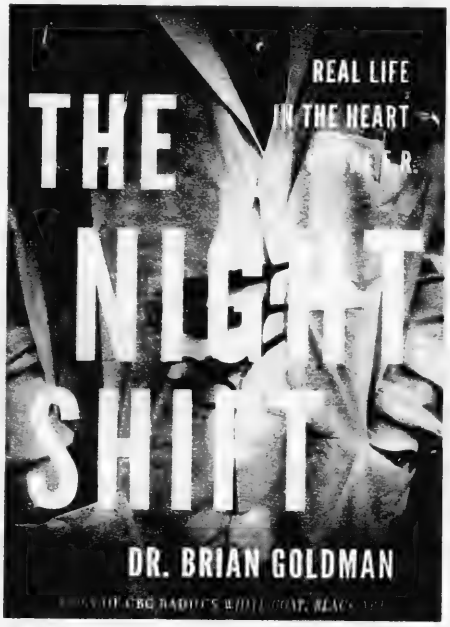
The ensemble cast is no less cosmopolitan than Toronto itself; Rotenberg scores top marks for remaking the city so recognizably in its own image. He adds sufficient background and spice to bring each character to life. He does this much better in *Stray Bullets* than in his previous novels, *Old City Hall* and *The Guilty Plea*. *Stray Bullets* is his best yet.

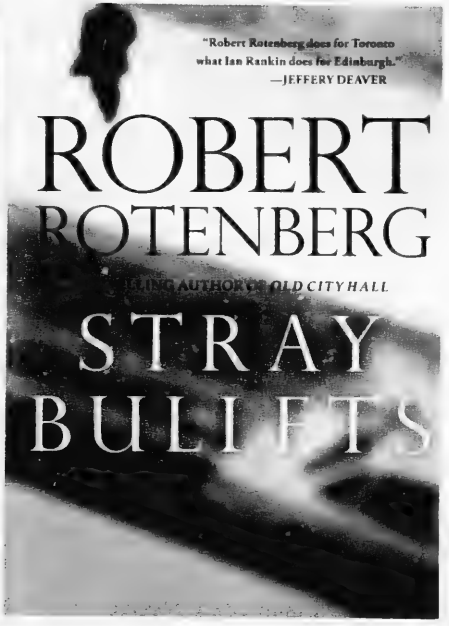
However, it still repeats the flaws of those earlier books. The chapters quick-cut from one main character and scene to the next in a never-ending rotation that can keep the reader on edge for only so long. After that, it gets monotonous. Each bite-sized chapter pushes the plot forward by a baby step or two, but a headlong rush is usually required when approaching the end of a story.

Despite the wonderful sense of "verite" present throughout, certain circumstances seem to challenge our wilfully suspended sense of disbelief. For example, is there really a downtown doughnut shop that actually has a free parking lot with vacant spots? OK, we'll let that one slide. But most people have seen TV series CSI. So why do a couple of seriously bad dudes sit down with drinks at Timmy's, leaving their prints and DNA all over the place before a premeditated shooting spree?

As in Rotenberg's previous books, *Stray Bullets* expertly escorts us through the labyrinthine halls of the criminal justice system, but to no good purpose. Whose life changes as a result? What moral lesson have we learned?

And why should we care about these characters?




Most are not altered by the events of the novel. Detective Greene, in particular, is inert, cool and uninvolved on an existential plane; he does not walk a moral tightrope.

Reading a Robert Rotenberg novel is like having a meal of Chinese food. It may momentarily please your taste buds, but you're hungry again in half an hour. (Published in paperback by Simon & Schuster.)

* * *

***The Night Shift: The Real Heart of the E.R.*, by Dr. Brian Goldman (Harper Collins)**

In this expertly written and engaging non-fiction "medical procedural," a long-established veteran of the emergency room at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital shows us behind the scenes of that scary and intimidating place, the emergency room of a large Toronto hospital.

Dr. Brian Goldman describes a stream of patients that come into his ER hour by hour over a series of simulated nights. Mount Sinai's ER has 472 beds that are usually at least 90 per cent occupied. "Pushing roughly 47,000 patients a year through the ER takes determination, efficiency, guile and some luck," he writes.

One patient, a woman named Leticia who "was about 30 and whip-thin," showed up with a mysterious abdominal pain. Kidney stone? Peritonitis, an inflammation of the abdominal lining? Playing the medical detective, Goldman conducted some quick tests, then arrived at the surprising conclusion that Leticia was pregnant and in labour. "No, it's not possible," was her first reaction, just before she was wheeled into the maternity ward. "Never assume that a woman of child-bearing potential isn't pregnant. Never," Goldman tells his students.

Mario, 84 years old, had a spell of weakness in his left arm and leg while swimming, and a stroke was suspected. While downplaying his symptoms, he also admitted he had fallen the week before. Goldman insisted on a CT scan before giving him the clot-busting drug he might have required. "Thank God we insisted on following the protocol," he wrote. "Mario, it turned out, had incurred a subdural hematoma from the fall, an injury similar to but less lethal than the one that would kill actress Natasha Richardson after a skiing accident in March 2009."

The book presents a parade of similar medical misadventures, along with teaching moments derived from each one. The author, who is the host of CBC Radio's *White Coat, Black Art*, writes with great knowledge and expertise, as well as honesty and humour. At its best, *The Night Shift* seems reminiscent of the intriguing medical mysteries that Dr. Berton Roueche used to write for *The New Yorker*. Many of the stories here seem nearly as gripping. (Published in paperback by HarperCollins)

**'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING**

**The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising** reads as follows:

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The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

***The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.***

# *Long-running show tackled many Jewish themes*

**Rabbi Jason Miller**
JTA

Fans of the long-running Showtime series *Weeds* know that writer and creator Jenji Kohan isn't afraid to pepper the show with Jewish themes. While the show has changed its flavour over the years and gained some critics, many devotees still enjoy the story about a marijuana-selling widowed mother from the suburbs and her family's experiences.

Throughout the different webs of relationships, Kohan, who is Jewish, has managed to bring esoteric Jewish concepts into the series. Perhaps because the show is on the subscription-based Showtime network (it airs on Showcase in Canada), its Jewish essence hasn't been widely covered, but Kohan, who considered attending rabbinical school but wasn't permitted to do so because she's intermarried, has taken on some controversial Jewish subjects in the past eight seasons. Here are the top Jewish references:

•*Unveiling* (season 1, episode 8): It's likely that many viewers thought this was a funeral service at the cemetery, but Jewish fans recognized the ritual as the unveiling of Judah Botwin's tombstone. Once the family returns from the cemetery, Nancy Botwin (Mary-Louise Parker) explains her day to the Drug Enforcement Agency agent who becomes her boyfriend: "It's where they unveil the gravestone. It's a Jewish thing. I know you're thinking, 'She doesn't look Jewish.' I come from Welsh stock... I'm not Jewish. My husband – he's dead now – he was Jewish."

**Mary Louise Parker stars in *Weeds*. Writer and creator Jenji Kohan wasn't afraid to pepper the show with Jewish themes throughout its eight seasons.**

The episode also tackles the controversial topic of Jewish lineage when the Orthodox rabbi tells the Botwin boys, Silas (Hunter Parrish) and Shane (Alexander Gould), that they are not legitimately Jewish because their mother isn't Jewish and they had never converted to Judaism.

The young Shane is hurt by the news and takes out his aggression on his wrestling opponent, whose foot he bites after yelling "Shema Yisrael!"

• *Rabbinical School* (season 2): Nancy's out-of-work brother-in-law Andy (Justin Kirk) decides the best way to keep from returning to military service will be to become a rabbi. He enrols in the fictional Hamidrash L'Torah rabbinical school, where he falls in love with the dean, the attractive Israeli, Yael Hoffman (Meital Dohan). While much of the ongoing rabbinical school experience is silly, some rather serious issues are discussed, including Andy's theological convictions, which come up while he is writing his admissions essay.

• *Euthanasia* (season 4, episodes 2 and 3): The Botwins leave the Agrestic/Majestic community after it burns and relocate to the home of Nancy's father-in-law. There they find Lenny Botwin (Albert Brooks) and his mother, Bubbie (Jo Farkas), who is hooked up to a ventilator. The Auschwitz survivor regains consciousness and asks Lenny to kill her. The Botwin men discuss the wisdom and ethics of euthanizing Bubbie, but in the end, Lenny agrees to have Nancy kill Bubbie.

•*Sitting Shivah* (season 4, episode 4): While shivah is one of the most well-known Jewish rituals, not many television shows have accurately portrayed it. This episode focuses entirely on the Botwin family sitting shivah for Bubbie at son Lenny's insistence. Several laws and customs of shivah are mentioned during the episode, including the understanding that family members should not cook for themselves. A shivah candle is lit, and friends and neighbours come to pay their respect.

• *Levirate Marriage* (ongoing): While Andy mentions the Jewish concept of a Levirate marriage to his sister-in-law Nancy at one point in the show's history, the theme is an ongoing one. The Torah dictates that an unmarried man must marry his brother's widow, but that applies only if the widow has not had children. So even if the law would not apply in Nancy and Andy's case – both because she already has children and she is not Jewish – the constant and sometimes awkward attraction between them seems continually to remind the viewer of Andy's enjoyment and frustration over the hunt.

• *Bris* (season 5, episode 8): Nancy gives birth to Tijuana mayor and cartel leader Esteban Reyes' baby boy, but the father (Demian Bichir) refuses to sign the birth certificate for fear of its effect on his political career. Andy signs the birth certificate as the boy's father and insists on a brit for the baby, whom he promises to raise proudly as his Jewish son. At the brit, baby Stevie is given the Hebrew name Avi Melech.

Kohan has said that she's not afraid to take on inherently Jewish concepts on the show, no matter how esoteric they may be. For the many Jewish fans of *Weeds*, there have been many instances of surprise and pride over the years after unpredicted mentions of a Jewish ritual or theme. As the final season comes to a close, there may just be more Jewish references to come.

Season 8, the final season, currently airing in the United States on Showtime, has not yet been scheduled by Showcase in Canada.

*Rabbi Jason Miller is an educator and blogger. He's president of Access Computer Technology in Michigan.*

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EYE ON ARTS
By BILL GLADSTONE

## ASHKENAZ FESTIVAL COMING TO HARBOURFRONT AUG. 28 TO SEPT. 3

At first glance, the online schedule of the 2012 Ashkenaz Festival seems so incredibly robust and bursting with fine cultural offerings that one may be forgiven for imagining it might take place in New York rather than in Toronto.

But the ninth biennial (every second year) celebration of new Yiddish music, art and culture began right here in Toronto in 1995 and has grown into a diverse international cultural celebration that will feature more than 200 artists from more than a dozen countries this year.

The website (www.ashkenazfestival.com) shows at least 64 performances of various kinds – at least that's when I stopped counting. If you'll pardon the mixed cultural metaphor, the festival is a smorgasbord of Yiddish music, literature, theatre, film, dance, visual arts and more, including:

- **Theresa Tova** and a stellar ensemble present a tribute to **Chava Rosenfarb**, the acclaimed Yiddish writer;
- Theatre Panik presents *The Corpse Bride*, a darkly comic play straight out of shtetl folklore, about a young groom who accidentally weds a corpse;
- Musical performances from Israel's **Yemen Blues Band**, Israel and India's **Shye Ben Tzur**, Uganda's **Abayudaya**, New York's **Basya Schechter**, Montreal's **Socalled**, Russia's **Opal**, Winnipeg's **Finjan**, Mexico's **Klezmerson**, Argentina's **Lerner Moguilevsky**, Central Asia's **Shashmaqam**, and many more;
- Literary talks from Travellers co-founder **Jerry Gray**, **Michael Wex** with a sneak preview of his latest book about Jewish food, **Paul Buhle**, editor of the recent *Yiddishkeit* anthology of graphic tales, and others;
- Films such as *Yosl Birshteyn* about the Yiddish and Hebrew literary master of the same name, and **Buster Keaton**'s *Sherlock Jr.*, featuring a live musical score by Fern Lindzon;
- Children's performers **Sharon and Bram**, who add Yiddish songs alongside their classic repertoire; and much more.

**Theatre Panik presents *The Corpse Bride*, a darkly comic play straight out of shtetl folklore.**

The week-long festival runs Tuesday, Aug. 28, through Monday, Sept. 3, and includes the popular Ashkenaz Parade. Some of the events are ticketed but most are free. For more information and complete events listings, please visit harbourfrontcentre.com/summer or phone 416-973-4000. Harbourfront Centre is located at 235 Queen's Quay W., along Toronto's waterfront.

* * *

**Streetcar Songs:** Yiddish Vinkl presents "Tramvay Lider – Streetcar Songs," featuring the Yiddish poems of **Shimen Nepom**, set to music by **Charles Heller** and sung by Heller with **Brahm Goldhammer** on piano. Shimen Nepom was born in Ukraine in 1890 and later came to Toronto, where he became an acclaimed poet who worked as a streetcar conductor on College Street. Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. Thursday, Sept. 6, 12 noon. $18, includes buffet lunch. RSVP to yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca

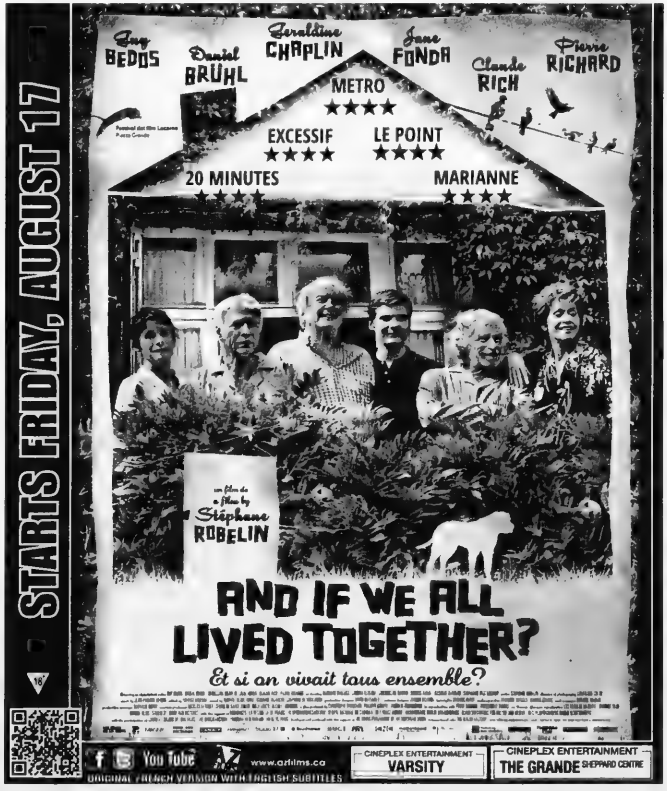
* * *

**Names in the News:** Israeli-born Canadian **Shalom Bard** has been hired as the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra**'s RBC resident conductor, TSO music director **Peter Oundjian** announced recently. Bard, who begins in his new position in September, was previously resident conductor of **Symphony Nova Scotia**, an assistant conductor with the **Herbert Zipper Orchestra of Los Angeles**, and conductor of the **Mooredale Youth Orchestra** in Toronto.

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

- Conductor **Gillian Stecyk** invites you to join the Adult Daytime Choir, a "fun, lighthearted group" that sings all types of music. No audition or experience required; must love to sing. $5 drop-in, runs all summer. Miles Nadal JCC, Tuesdays 1 to 2:30 p.m. gillians@mnjcc.org
- Driftwood artist **Jerry Friedman** opens his studio to visitors during the "Artists of the Limberlost" studio tour. Features 20 artists in seven studios along historic Limberlost Road, 12 km east of Huntsville, Ont., Aug. 18 and 19. www.artistsofthelimberlost.ca

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# Raisman wins second gold, Kiwi sailor wins first

Compiled by CJN Staff

**LONDON** — Jewish-American gymnast Alexandra "Aly" Raisman won her second gold medal of the London Olympics with a first place finish in the floor exercise.

Earlier, she won a bronze medal in women's beam to go along with a gold in the women's team event.

"Today has been a dream come true," Raisman said.

"I'm so glad I got the medal I wanted. It was the best routine I've ever done. My coach said it was the best routine he'd ever seen me do.

"To have won a gold medal, two gold medals [one in the team final], is really special."

Speaking to reporters following her gold-medal performance, Raisman said she supported a moment of silence at the Olympics for the Israelis killed at the 1972 Munich Games.

"Having that floor music wasn't intentional," she said of her choice of the Jewish folk song, *Havah Nagilah*, for her routine.

"But the fact it was on the 40th anniversary is special, and winning the gold today means a lot to me. If there had been a moment's silence, I would have supported it and respected it."

Later last week, New Zealand Jewish sailor Jo Aleh earned a gold medal in the women's 470 regatta.

Aleh, 26 – whose parents are dual citizens of Israel and New Zealand – and partner Polly Powrie finished far ahead of the second-place British duo of Hannah Mills and Saskia Clark in the gold medal race.

Aleh, a former national champion and 2007 world champion, finished seventh at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. She's a member of Beth Shalom, a Progressive congregation in Auckland, according to New Zealand Jewish Council President Stephen Goodman.

Her father, Shuki, flew in from Israel and her mother, Daniella, who lived in Israel for eight years, arrived from New Zealand earlier this week.

Aleh has a half-sister, Shefa, and a half-brother, Yaam, in Israel. Her parents met in Israel after they completed their military service, but were married in New Zealand.

Lee Korzits, Israel's last realistic hope for a medal at the 2012 Olympics, finished ninth in the crucial medal race of her RS:X windsurfing event. Spain's Marina Alabau took the gold, with Korzits finishing sixth overall.

Her disappointing finish means Israel would end the London Olympics without a medal. Israel had won at least one medal at every summer games since Yael Arad stood on the podium in Barcelona in1992, when the judoka won the first-ever medal – a silver – for the Jewish state.

**Aly Raisman**

Earlier, the Israeli men's 470 tandem duo lost their chances of winning a medal. Eran Sela and Gideon Kliger were disqualified in their ninth race, and finished 15th.

The women's duo of Vered Buskila and Gili Cohen also finished 15th in the 470 tandem.

Meanwhile, Australian sprinter Steven Solomon ran out of steam in the 400 metres Olympic final.

Solomon trailed the pack and finished eighth in 45.14 seconds, his second-fastest time and just 0.17 seconds off his landmark semifinal time. The 19-year-old runner had posted two personal best times on his way to becoming the first Australian man in 24 years to qualify for a 400 metres Olympic final.

Solomon, who played soccer at the 2009 Maccabiah before taking up sprinting, said he was thrilled just to make the final.

"I'm really happy," he told Australia's Channel Nine TV. "Although I came last in the final, I got to the final. I gave it absolutely everything I had."

And he heaped praise on his Jewish Ukrainian coach, 78-year-old Fira Dvoskina, who could not travel to London but was coaching him via Skype.

"It just shows what a master she is," he said. "She can still get a 19-year-old into the final."

Also at the Olympics last week, Israeli rhythmic gymnast Neta Rivkin was in ninth place in the qualifying round after performing her hoop and ball routines.

# IOC president criticized at Munich 11 memorial

**Miriam Shaviv**
JTA

**LONDON** — The president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) came under attack from successive speakers at a London memorial for the Munich 11.

Jacques Rogge, who was in the audience during the event on Aug. 6, was blamed for refusing to allow a minute of silence during the opening ceremony of the London Games in memory of the 11 Israeli athletes and coaches who were slain by Palestinian terrorists at the 1972 Olympics.

A petition started by the families of the victims and JCC Rockland in suburban New York generated more than 111,000 signatures from across the world, but failed to move the IOC. U.S. President Barack Obama and international lawmakers also backed the minute-of-silence effort.

"Shame on you, IOC," said Ankie Spitzer, widow of fencing coach Andre Spitzer, who died in the attack. "You have forsaken the 11 members of your Olympic family. You discriminate against them only because they are Israelis and Jews."

Another of the widows, Ilana Romano, told Rogge that he had "submitted to terrorism.

"You will be written down on the pages of history as… a president who violated the Olympic charter calls for brotherhood, friendship and peace," she said at the Guildhall, a medieval-style great hall in central London. Both women received standing ovations.

The Israeli Embassy in London and the National Olympic Committee of Israel organized the memorial along with the local London Jewish community.

Members of the 2012 Israeli Olympic delegation sat on stage for the ceremonies, which were attended by more than 650 people, including representatives of various national Olympic committees. Among the many government officials in the audience were British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, opposition leader Ed Miliband, London Mayor Boris Johnson and Israeli Sports and Culture Minister Limor Livnat.

Rogge, accompanied by the only Israeli representative on the IOC, Alex Gilady, told the audience that remembering the events of 1972 was "painful" and that he "would never forget why we're here."

Pointedly avoiding referring to the Munich minute-of-silence campaign, Rogge – a member of the Belgian yachting team at the 1972 Olympics – condemned terror and said the Munich attack "cast terrorism's dark shadow on the Olympic Games. It was a direct assault on the core values of the Olympic movement."

Rogge's speech was greeted by polite applause from the audience.

Livnat said that those asking for a minute of silence were in tune with the Olympic spirit. Mick Davis, who as chairman of the Jewish Leadership Council and of the United Jewish Israel Appeal is the most senior lay leader of the British Jewish community, told Rogge that "to be silent is to be complicit… to fail to remember is to be complicit,"

Vivian Wineman, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Anglo-Jewry's main representative organization, told JTA that "it is good that [Rogge] should see how we feel." Meanwhile in Canada, MP Irwin Cotler wrote to Rogge urging the IOC to adopt a moment of silence in memory of the slain Israeli athletes. Cotler noted that the Parliament of Canada adopted a motion that he had presented calling for a moment of silence.

Others making the same plea include Obama, Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird, various Parliaments including resolutions by the U.S. Congress, as well as by Canadian, Australian, German, Italian and U.K. parliamentarians. The IOC, he pointed out, had held ceremonies memorializing the victims of the 2005 London train bombings and the victims of 9/11, which had no connection with the Olympic movement. The IOC had also memorialized a Georgian athlete killed in a training accident.

"The refusal of the IOC, therefore, to observe a moment of silence on the 40th anniversary of the Munich massacre – the slaughter of 11 Israeli athletes and coaches for no other reason than that they were Israelis and Jews – is as offensive as it is incomprehensible," Cotler said.

"Accordingly, it is not hard to infer… that not only were the athletes killed because they were Israeli and Jewish, but that the moment of silence is being denied them also because they are Israeli and Jewish," he added.

*–With files from Paul Lungen*

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# *Acclaimed composer and arranger dies at 68*

JTA

Marvin Hamlisch, the acclaimed composer and arranger of dozens of Broadway plays and films, has died at 68.

Hamlisch died Aug. 6 in Los Angeles following a brief illness.

He perhaps was best known for his work on the long-running Broadway musical *A Chorus Line*, which won several Tony Awards and for which Hamlisch won the Pulitzer Prize.

Along with the Pulitzer, Hamlisch earned three Academy Awards, four Emmys, a Tony, four Grammys and three Golden Globes – a rare combination of honours in the entertainment industry. Hamlisch composed more than 40 film scores, including for *Sophie's Choice*, *Ordinary People* and *Take the Money and Run*.

Hamlisch was born in New York to Viennese Jewish parents, and at age seven became the youngest student ever accepted into the city's prestigious Juilliard School. He started on Broadway as a rehearsal pianist and assistant vocal arranger for *Funny Girl*, starring Barbra Streisand, for whom he would later compose *The Way We Were*.

In addition to his work on Broadway musicals and movies, Hamlisch was also a conductor and led symphony orchestras across the United States, including in Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, San Diego, Seattle, Dallas and Pasadena, Calif.

Less well-known is the fact that Hamlisch's Jewish upbringing inspired much of his work and that he was dedicated to doing fundraisers for synagogues and Jewish organizations.

His parents, Austrians Lily and Max, escaped Nazism in 1935. Max jumped from a train headed to Germany, and Lily hid under a car while fleeing to Switzerland before immigrating to America.

"To my mother especially, being Jewish is sacred. She instilled my pride in being Jewish by how she lived," Hamlisch told *The CJN* last year.

"When the Gestapo in Vienna hauled her in for questioning, she secretly kept her Jewish star around her neck under her blouse. Despite my father's pleas that wearing a Jewish star in public was too dangerous, she never took it off her neck. She was a street fighter but always humble in her Jewishness."

Through the years, Hamlisch has done memorable fundraisers for synagogues in Toronto. In May 2011, Hamlisch was honoured at the Cantors Assembly in Toronto during Jewish Music Week.

"I wrote music for the Jewish prayer *Shehechiyana* to celebrate the week and was honoured by the cantors," he said. "It was very moving, and I always want to do as much as I can to keep music alive in synagogues."

*–With files from The CJN*

**Obituary**

**Marvin Hamlisch**

## *OTTAWA CONCERT*

**The Israeli Chamber Project performed in front of more than 350 people Aug. 7 at the National Gallery of Canada. The performance was sponsored by the Embassy of Israel and was part of the prestigious Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival. Comprising young musicians in their 20s and 30s, the group's mandate is to give something back to the country that nurtured its members' talents. Details about the Israeli Chamber Project and its debut CD can be found at www.israelichamberproject.org.**

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# BENEFIT TO CELEBRATE GUITARIST'S LIFE

Sy Benlolo

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Nina Benlolo recalls the last time she saw her brother-in-law, Sy Benlolo, a professional guitarist who was leaving for one of his routine trips to Mexico where he was booked to play a few gigs at local clubs.

"We were like, 'OK, Sy, see you later. Be safe. See you in two weeks.' And then we got a crazy call on a Friday night."

The 40-year-old musician, who had carved out a career for himself playing guitar alongside some of the worlds best-known DJs including Paul Oakenfold and Tiesto, unexpectedly died in April.

"He fell sick in Acapulco, and unfortunately he passed away from some of the medication they gave him. It gave him an anaphylactic reaction," Benlolo said.

In the four months since he died, hundreds of his friends and family have been mourning the loss of a man many described as larger than life, loving, ambitious, talented – and always flashing an infectious smile.

Marc Saltzman, Sy's cousin and close friend, said he hopes an upcoming benefit concert in his honour will help the people who loved him switch their focus from grieving a loss to celebrating a life lived to the fullest.

On Sept. 12, Saltzman, Benlolo and a number of Sy's family members and friends, will be presenting a benefit concert called Sylebration. The event, to be held at On The Rox in Vaughan, Ont., will honour Sy and his two greatest passions: music and children.

Although Sy didn't have children of his own, Benlolo said she considered him a second father to her five children.

Saltzman also saw first-hand the love his cousin had for children and treasured the bond his two boys developed with him.

"He was an amazing cousin to my little guys who adored him. Whenever Sy came over, they freaked out," he said.

"Sy's passion were kids and music," Benlolo said. "In his family, he has a disabled little girl, his cousin, and when Sy was in town, he would go and play music for her because that's what she would respond to.

"That's the kind of guy Sy was. He was the most loving guy. He always had a smile on his face, always eager to help people and he really helped her. She really responded to him."

So when Benlolo learned about the music therapy program at the Hospital for Sick Children, she knew Sy would have approved.The program enables music therapists to connect with patients and families who have difficulty coping with their situation, or have difficulty communicating via other outlets.

"It was so fitting that this is where the money would go to," she said.

Benlolo said the goal for this event is to raise $50,000, and with about a month to go until the big day, they're already 60 per cent of the way there.

"When people hear about the event, people are eager to help," she said.

"Sy was a really popular guy. I always knew he was a well-liked guy, but it was after he died that we realized how well-liked he was and how many friends he had. The attendance at his funeral was record-breaking."

Although Saltzman and Sy "grew up like brothers since we were old enough to walk," it wasn't until their early teens that they started playing music together.

They formed a rock band called Remedy. Sy, who was a diehard Kiss fan and was inspired by Kiss guitarist Ace Frehley, filled the role as Remedy's guitarist, while Saltzman played drums and managed the band. Remedy thrived for years, playing regularly at clubs. At the height of their musical careers, they opened for the Barenaked Ladies, the Tragically Hip, the Goo Goo Dolls and Our Lady Peace.

More than a decade after Remedy was founded, Saltzman decided to quit the band to pursue a career in technology.

The remaining band members went their separate ways, and although Sy tried his hand at joining the family business for a few years, he never fully gave up on his dream to become a rock star.

"In the late '90s he would frequent the club scene and he saw that DJs were becoming a crazy phenomenon," Benlolo said.

"He thought, what would make these DJs way more exciting, in his opinion, is if he could incorporate his guitar playing with the DJs," she said, adding that club owners bought into his vision and Sy was able to forge a successful career playing under his stage name, Sy Sylver.

"Nothing was rehearsed – he would just go up there and do his thing."

"He was more than a guitarist," Saltzman said. "If you've ever seen him live as Sy Sylver, he played without his shirt – he was cut. He played behind his neck... he played with his teeth. He was a showman. He was a performer.

"And when he wasn't on stage, he was taking out Nina's five kids as if they were his own."

Saltzman hopes the benefit concert next month will shine a light on a life that was cut much too short.

"I'm looking forward to raising money for a good cause in Sy's name and I'm looking forward to seeing family and friends come together, not to mourn this time, but to celebrate," Saltzman said.

The benefit concert will feature music from Remedy and Nina Benlolo's 14-year-old son, Justin, will be filling in for Sy as guitarist. The Gardens will also perform, along with DJs, female singers and percussionists Sy performed with over the years.

"I'm happy Remedy is going to be playing again," Saltzman said. "These were songs that meant something to Sy whether they're covers or originals."

The organizers of the benefit even sent a letter to the members of Kiss to ask if they would acknowledge the event in whatever way they choose, perhaps by sending in signed memorabilia for an auction, or a video greeting.

Saltzman said he hopes wherever his cousin is, he'll be at the event in spirit and realize that he did become the rock star he always wanted to be.

"Everything he accomplished from his songwriting to the impact he had on people, to the point where about 1,500 people showed up at his funeral – he didn't realize that he was already a rock star," he said.

"He did more in 40 years than most people do in a lifetime."

For more information about the benefit, visit www.sylebration.com.

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# אז אני צפונית

נינה שנהב
nina.shenhav@gmail.com

"תכירי, זו צביה, אמא של בעלי." טלי אומרת לי בלי להסתכל לי בעיניים, כשהיא נכנסת לבית הקפה בליווי אישה מבוגרת וקודרת. נכון, היא סיפרה לי שאמא של בעלה מגיעה לחופשה מישראל, אבל לא ידעתי שיהיה לי העונג להיפגש איתה היום, בדיוק שבוער לי לדבר על עניינים אינטימיים עם חברתי הכמעט יחידה. אוף.

טלי (לצביה): שבי, אמא, אני תיכף מביאה לך תה חם. רוצה גם עוגה? עוגייה?

אני: איזה נחמד. את קוראת לה - אמא. אני אפילו לאמא שלי לא קראתי ככה.

צביה (לטלי, בעודה מצביעה עלי באצבע מאשימה): מי זאת האשה הזאת?!

טלי: אמא, אמרתי לך שאנחנו נפגשות עם חברה שלי. לא יכולתי לבטל לה.

אני: אז מה, צביה? איך החיים שם בישראל לבד, בלי הבן שלך, בלי הנכדות?

טלי (מביטה בי בזעם): לצביה יש עוד שתי בנות ומלא נכדים. היא שמחה מאוד.

צביה (שוב מצביעה עלי): היא לא נשואה האשה הזאת, נכון?

טלי: אמא, בטח שהיא נשואה ויש לה שני ילדים, ובעלה מאוד אוהב אותה.

(ואז לוחשת לי. כשצביה מפשפשת ברוגז בתיקה) היא חושבת שכל אחת רוצה לגנוב לי את הבן שלה, שילך לעזאזל, שהכריח אותי לקחת אותה לקניות היום.

(ולצביה) אז מה אמרנו, תה עם לימון ועוגת גבינה? אשכנזי מספיק בשבילך?

צביה: אני כבר לא כועסת עלייך שאת ספרדיה. אני רק כועסת על הבן שלי, שלקח אותך. היא (שוב מצביעה עלי). מה הקטע הכפייתי הזה?) היא אשכנזיה?

אני: אז צביה, בת כמה את מותק? עדיין מותר לטוס בגילך? זה לא מסוכן כבר?

טלי (בלחץ): אמא דווקא נירארית נהדר! צעירה ויפה. מותר לה לטוס חזרה לישראל ברגע שתירצה. רק שתגיד, נעלה אותה למטוס. אפילו עכשיו. הרגע.

צביה (מדברת אלי. אלי!): את יודעת איך יודעים מתי טלי משקרת (לא מחכה לתשובה)? היא פותחת את הפה! לא מספיק לקחה לי את הילד לקנדה, לא מספיק אני רואה את הנכדות פעם בשנה, עוד היא מספרת לי שקרים על ימין ועל שמאל ומביאה חברה לפגישת קניות שלנו. ואני דווקא צריכה חזייה חדשה.

טלי: סליחה! אבל אני לא לקחתי את הבן שלך לקנדה. הוא זה שקיבל פה משרה וגרר אותי ואת הבנות. לי לא הייתה שום בעייה להישאר בישראל עם ההורים שלי. נכון, הבאתי לכאן את אחותי, אבל הייתי מאוד קרובה לאמא שלי.

צביה: מה את מבלבלת את המוח. כל הזמן התלוננת - אמא שלי ביקורתית, קמצנית, רעה. כרגיל, את משקרת. ילדה מסכנה שכמוך. מה ייצא ממך בסוף?

טלי (להפתעתי, נופלת על זרועות צביה בדמעות): כל כך התגעגעתי אלייך!

צביה : והתה, מה איתו? את מנסה לחסוך עלי תה ועוגה? ואולי גם חזייה?

**CHOCOLATE DECADENCE**

Cooking spray
1/2 c + 3 tbls sugar
1/4 c milk
1 1/2 tbls butter
2 tbls + 2 tsp unsweetened cocoa
1/2 oz. unsweetened chocolate, chopped
8 tsp semisweet chocolate chips
5 tbls flour
1/2 tsp vanilla
1/8 tsp salt
1 lg egg white

Preheat oven to 350°. Coat 4 ramekins with cooking spray; sprinkle 3/4 tsp sugar into each, turning to coat. Set aside.

Combine 1/2 c + 2 tbls sugar, milk, and cocoa in small saucepan, stirring well with whisk. Bring to boil over medium heat. Cook 30 sec or until sugar dissolves, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; add butter and 1/2 oz. chocolate. Stir until chocolate melts and mixture is smooth. Cool mixture 10 min. Add flour, vanilla, salt, egg white to chocolate mixture, stirring whisking just until blended. Spoon 2 tbls chocolate mixture into each ramekin; top each with 2 tsp chocolate chips. Divide remaining chocolate mixture evenly among ramekins, spreading to cover chocolate chips. Bake at 350° 20 min. or until barely set. Cool 10 min. Invert onto dessert plates. Serve warm.

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## On cjnews.com

*The CJN*'s French-language reporter in Montreal, Elias Levy, writes about:

Karen Soussan, chair of the Combined Jewish Appeal 2012 Sephardi Campaign, who talks about the importance of getting involved with the CJA campaign and the federation's work.

Lebanese-born Arab journalist Denise Ammoun who talks about the possibilities for peace in the Middle East, the subject of her latest book.

Karen Soussan

***Exclusive to cjnews.com***

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa says deliberate forest fires in Israel demonstrate a 'connection' to the land.

"Ecuador" is Spanish for "Equator," and no trip to this small Andean nation is complete without availing yourself of the opportunity to straddle the line that divides the planet's northern and southern hemispheres. Among the main attractions is a large-scale promenade-like complex lined with busts of famous explorers.

# Captain Picard makes trek to Holy Land

**Ron Friedman**
The Times of Israel

**TEL AVIV** — Celebrated British actor Patrick Stewart, of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *X-Men* fame, is to star in something completely different: *Hunting Elephants*, an Israeli film from director Reshef Levy.

Stewart arrived in Israel last week to begin shooting the film in which he plays an eccentric British peer who gets involved with a group of Israelis planning to rob a bank in order to save their family home. The movie also stars veteran local actors Sasson Gabbay and Moni Moshonov.

In a press conference, Stewart revealed that he visited Israel last year for four days and was left with very positive impressions.

"I told my family and friends that I wanted to come back... I am happy to be here, not as a tourist but as part of an Israeli movie production," Stewart said.

Patrick Stewart

***'I am happy to be here, not as a tourist but as part of an Israeli movie'***

The award-winning actor, who is also known for his Shakespearean roles, told reporters that if he were the president of the United States or the prime minister of Britain, he would make the Middle East peace process his top priority. "I plan to leave Israel in a few weeks with a firmer opinion about what's going on here," Stewart said

Stewart's part was originally slated for another British legend, John Cleese of Monty Python and *Fawlty Towers* fame, but Cleese was forced to bow out of the role for health reasons.

"It was a great honour to be given a role that was written for John Cleese. I have to see how I can make it my own. I always wanted to be funny. Now I have a chance," said Stewart.

*Hunting Elephants* began shooting in July in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. It is produced by Ehud Bleiberg, who was behind the critically acclaimed comedy *The Band's Visit*, which also starred Gabbay.

*Timesofisrael.com*

***Urban Writer***

***Avrum Rosensweig will return***

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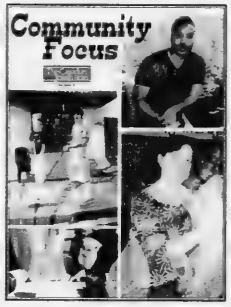
## This Week

### National

**Circle of Care** prepared to deal with aging population. *Page 3*

**Toronto man** reunites with family he thought had perished. *Page 14*

### Community Focus




**Community is** made up of individuals. *Section B*

### Arts

**Party band** set to liven up Ashkenaz. *Page 41*

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# Community 'outraged' at United Church

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Canadian Jewish community organizations expressed outrage at the United Church of Canada's Aug. 17 decision to boycott products from Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

The boycott motion, put forward at the church's 41st General Council, which took place in Ottawa last week and ended on Aug. 19, stemmed from a report by its Working Group on Israel/Palestine Policy.

The 29-page report, released in May after two years of consultations and visits by the group's members to both Israel and the West Bank, called on the church to boycott all products made in West Bank settlements, but it stopped short of asking for a total boycott of all Israeli goods.

The United Church is Canada's largest Protestant denomination, with an estimated 525,000 members and 2.8 million adherents, according to figures from the church and Statistics Canada.

The church's Aug. 17 vote approved a final set of resolutions that included a call for church members "to avoid any and all products produced in the settlements," requests that the Canadian government ensure that "all products produced in the settlements be labelled clearly and differently from products of Israel," and requests that products produced in the settlements "not be given preferential treatment under the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement."

Other resolutions relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict singled out the settlements as a principal obstacle to peace in the region, called on Israel to suspend settlement expansion, and expressed regret for previously asking Palestinians to acknowledge Israel as a Jewish state as a precondition to peace.

Details of how the boycott will be applied will be determined in the coming weeks and months, church officials said.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) was furious with the church's boycott stance, as well as its expression of regret for previously calling for Palestinian recognition of Israel's Jewish character.

**Continued on page 20**

# *Israelis prepare for possible war*

**Israeli postal workers distributed gas masks to residents of Jerusalem last week in response to the possibility of war with Iran. For full coverage, please see page 36.** *[Flash90 photos]*

**Shoftim**
**Candlelighting: 7:48**
**Havdalah: 8:50**
*Greater Toronto Area*

**Australia will not extradite alleged ex-Nazi** **– see page 35**

## CANADA

### Kitchener Gets Eruv

**KITCHENER, Ont. —** The city of Kitchener, Ont., is the latest Canadian municipality to boast an eruv. The eruv was completed earlier this month under the supervision of Rabbi David Rue, head of Los Angeles' Orthodox Beit Din, and Rabbi Nevo Zuckerman, spiritual leader of Beth Jacob Congregation of Kitchener-Waterloo. The eruv is centred around the 100-year-old modern Orthodox synagogue, located in downtown Kitchener, and allows observant Jews to carry objects on Shabbat outside their homes, the synagogue said.

### Columnist Dies

**WINNIPEG —** Samuel Segev, the *Winnipeg Free Press*' Mideast columnist, died earlier this month in Tel Aviv after a brief illness. He was 86. Segev wrote for the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv* and was a *Free Press* correspondent for 30 years. His weekly column began appearing in the *Free Press* in 2001. He was predeceased by his Winnipeg-born wife, Phyllis Sair Segev, the *Free Press* reported.

## WORLD

### Embassy Targeted

**WASHINGTON —** Israel's ambassador to the United States, Michael Oren, said Iran had targeted his embassy. Oren said last year's alleged plot to assassinate Saudi Ambassador Abel Al-Jubeir at a Washington restaurant also included plans to blow up the Israeli Embassy, WTOP radio in Washington reported Aug. 15. The complaint against Manssor Arbabsiar, who is charged in the assassination plot, also states that Arbabsiar "discussed the possibility of attacks on a number of targets... [including] government facilities associated with Saudi Arabia and with 'another' country and these targets were located within the United States." Oren said Israel was that other country.

### Former Malaysian PM Slurs Jews Again

Mahathir Mohamad

**KUALA LUMPUR —** Ex-Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad said there is substance to allegations he made nearly a decade ago that Israel rules the world by proxy.

Mohamad wrote in his blog at chedet.cc that American presidential candidates must pledge loyalty to Israel or risk losing the election, the Malaysian national news agency *Bernama* reported Aug. 13.

"Mitt Romney, the Republican candidate for president, has just made the pilgrimage, and he has made a public pledge that he will be even tougher against the Palestinians and Iran than [President Barack] Obama," Mohamad wrote

He said he believes Obama will soon make this pilgrimage and make more promises to fight for Israel.

"It is not what is good for the United States which counts," Mohamad said. "One can imagine the policies that will be adopted by whichever government or president wins, and it is clear the United States cannot ignore Israel's views when reacting to anything of concern to Israel."

Mohamad, long known for his antisemitic views and avid support for the Palestinian cause, said during a summit for the Organization of the Islamic Conference in 2003 that "the Nazis killed six million Jews out of 12 million. But today the Jews rule the world by proxy. They get others to fight and die for them."

### Cities Twinned

**SACRAMENTO —** Sacramento City Council on voted unanimously Aug. 14 to adopt Ashkelon as a sister city, resisting opposition from local boycott, divestment and sanctions advocates. In 2009, California's capital decided to twin with the Israeli city to match its existing partnership with Palestinian Authority-controlled Bethlehem. A local chapter of the pro-Israel group StandWithUs collected signatures to urge the city to stand by its pledge.

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# Seniors' agency plans for new challenges

## *Circle of Care to deal with influx of baby boomers*

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

The first of the baby boomers turned 65 last year. This marks the beginning of a huge population shift in Canada, with the number of seniors expected to nearly double over the next 25 years, according to Statistics Canada.

For the first time ever, seniors in the country are expected to outnumber children, and health and community services for seniors have to be prepared to cope with additional clients.

Circle of Care, a non-profit community healthcare organization dedicated to senior citizens, is ready for the challenge.

"Circle of Care... provides a smorgasbord, a full range, of community services that cover social, health and community service needs," said Michael Scheinert, one of the founders, and now the president and CEO of the organization.

Circle of Care offers a wide range of services, including providing personal support workers to help the elderly with household duties and personal care, drivers to take them to appointments or social outings, a day centre with activities for those with Alzheimer's or cognitive impairment, phone pals for isolated seniors and kosher meals delivered to the home. The organization's mission is to help older people maintain independence and live comfortably and happily in their homes.

Circle of Care was established in 1974 under the auspices of the Toronto Jewish Welfare Fund, which is now the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. It began as an organization designed specifically to assist the elderly Jewish community in the city, but quickly expanded its mandate to serve elderly people of all backgrounds.

**Continued on page 25**

**Circle of Care CEO and president Michael Scheinert and vice-president of communications and development Lisa Levin.**
*[Michelle Bitran photo]*

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# Examining the Jewish world

*From the editor's desk...*

Last month in its edition of July 28, *The Economist* published a 12-page special report on the subject of Judaism and the Jews.

The report comprised six discrete essays on subjects the editorialists of the prestigious, London-based, weekly news magazine felt would provide a sufficiently broad overview of the condition of the Jews in the year 2012.

It was not clear why the magazine chose at this time to dedicate a special section to Judaism and the Jews.

Israel – and the Jews – are a permanent preoccupation for European media. Israel's conflict with the Palestinians seems to be the only yardstick by which the Jewish state is measured in many quarters in Europe. And, of course, by that yardstick, given the jaundiced attitudes and distorted coverage of the conflict that dominate there, Israel emerges as an ogre-like monster of giant malevolent proportions.

The six essay subjects were "Alive and well," an overview of the modern Jewish condition; "Judaism in the Diaspora"; "Judaism in Israel"; "Israeli politics"; "Ideological divisions," and "Looking ahead." There was also a small sidebar on the phenomenon of the proliferation of Chabad houses around the world called "Hospitality abroad."

Despite the inclusion of the term Judaism in the title of report, most of the reportage kept returning to the myriad ways in which Jews relate to Israel and to the myriad ways in which Israel affects the lives of the Jews of the world. This was quite evident from the very beginning of the report in which the following summary subheading appeared: "Judaism is enjoying an unexpected revival." But in the very next sentence it adds the caution: "There are deep religious and political divisions, mostly centred in Israel."

The special report was generally free of the obsessively, one-sided, hostile treatment of Israel we have come to expect from most British media. That's because a great deal of the report deals with the behaviour of Jews outside of Israel. Nevertheless, the magazine's disdain for the policies of the centre-right government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was quite evident throughout the report.

For example, in the essay on Israeli politics the writer pens a wildly generalized, unfair assessment of the Israeli government's response to current anti-Israel developments throughout the world.

"For the Israeli right and for many Jewish communal leaders in the Diaspora, *an undifferentiated axis of evil* (my emphasis) extends from the Iranians to the Palestinians and on to antisemitic thugs on European streets. Rising antisemitism is lumped together with growing criticism of Israeli policy and hyped by Mr. Netanyahu's government into what it calls a campaign for the 'delegitimization' of Israel."

The magazine implies that the campaign for the "delegitimization" of Israel is some cynical, opportunistic concoction by the prime minister of Israel to rally his hordes of right-wing supporters. The writer uses the phrase delegitimization in an ironic sense, placing it in quotation marks suggesting there is little truth in its use. Or that at least he or she does not believe it to be true.

In truth, of course, the campaign to delegitimize the Jewish state has been active at least from the mid-'70s when the infamous "Zionism is Racism" was passed and adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Even though the resolution was subsequently rescinded by the UN, it has transmogrified into the even more sinister, more dangerous poster slogan "Apartheid Israel" and spawned the equally dangerous and notorious BDS campaign that advocates the boycott of, disinvestment from and sanctions against Israel.

The first UN-authorized anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa, in 2001 breathed its hateful, foul life into the free-coursing sails of the apartheid, BDS cutter.

Among the first individuals to warn against the delegitimization of Israel were human rights champions such as Harvard law professor Allan Dershowitz and Liberal MP Irwin Cotler.

Netanyahu has every right today, many years after the term was first coined, to warn the world against this menacing threat to his country. To accuse him of pointing to an "undifferentiated axis of evil" is inaccurate and unfair. He – and the many Jewish communal leaders the magazine lumps in with him – have been quite precise in identifying those who pose the greatest threats to the existence of the Jewish state.

*The Economist*'s special report on the condition of the Jews was a superficial skimming across a complicated surface by journalists purporting to add depth to a story. But, for them, it remained still merely only a story. Nothing more important.

A short time before *The Economist*'s report was published, the Jewish People's Policy Institute (JPPI) – a body established by the Jewish Agency for Israel – published its annual assessment for 2011-2012. The JPPI report is not a journalistic work. It is a work of serious research by a group of individuals concerned about and dedicated to helping steer the Jewish People to a thriving future. More on the JPPI report next week.

***–MBD***

## SeeJN

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY MR. PRESIDENT***

**Israeli President Shimon Peres celebrated his 89th birthday last week in the Israeli town of Yeroham.**

***[Israel Sun photo]***

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United Jewish Appeal
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

# New clergy in and around Toronto

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

Several congregations in Toronto and nearby welcomed new clergy this year.

**Rabbi Catharine Clark, Congregation Or Shalom, London, Ont.**

Rabbi Catharine Clark became the new rabbi at Congregation Or Shalom in London on Aug. 1. A recent graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary, she was awarded the Cyrus Adler Prize for the outstanding student entering the senior class. As a rabbinical student, she served several congregations, including Shaar Shalom Congregation in Halifax. Rabbi Clark has taught at two Camp Ramahs in the United States, and volunteered for Hazon, a Jewish sustainable food organization.

She spent four years working as a lawyer in New York before entering rabbinical school.

Rabbi Clark enjoys yoga, cooking, reading, bicycle-riding and watching baseball and football. She and her husband, Eric Robinson, have a one-year-old daughter, Naomi.

**Lisa Kent, Congregation Habonim**

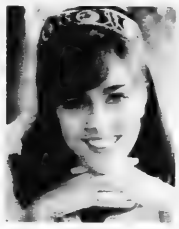
Lisa Kent, an associate cantor at Congregation Habonim, is an honours graduate from Berklee College of Music in Boston.

She has 20 years of teaching experience in public and private schools, including Leo Baeck Day School, and is currently teaching at the Creative Preschool of East Toronto.

A founding member of the Danforth Jewish Circle, Kent has been the cantor and choir director there for 15 years. She is also a freelance service leader, officiating at Jewish life cycle events.

Lisa's husband – musician and music producer Danny Greenspoon, with whom she has two teenage sons – often accompanies her in services.

**Aviva Rajsky, Congregation Habonim**



Aviva Rajsky, also an associate cantor at Habonim, is – in her non-synagogue life – a jazz, country and blues singer, a pianist, composer and vocal arranger. She has led services with Rabbi Tina Grimberg at Darchei Noam and Rabbi Elyse Goldstein at the City Shul, and has been guest cantorial soloist for High Holidays at the Danforth Jewish Circle.

An alumna of the Royal Conservatory of Music, where she studied piano and music theory, Rajsky began composing original music for traditional prayers as a teenager. She is a past president of the board of the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School, and she and her husband, Allan Kliger, are the parents of three children.

**Rabbi Rafi Lipner, Shaarei Tefillah Congregation**

Rabbi Rafi Lipner, associate rabbi of Shaarei Tefillah for the past three years, is now the congregation's senior rabbi, following the retirement of Rabbi Moshe Stern this month.

The 38-year-old Toronto native has a BA in economics and a master's of education, as well as rabbinic ordination from Yeshiva University.

A graduate of Yeshivat Or Chaim, he spent 10 years teaching at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. Eight years ago, he founded The House, a young adult learning centre. He will maintain his association with The House.

Rabbi Lipner and his wife, Shira, have seven children, ranging in age from 11 years to 17 months.

**Cantor Charles Osborne, Temple Sinai**

Cantor Charles Osborne joined Temple Sinai's cantorial team in July as senior cantor.

A native of Suffern, N.Y., Osborne has composed more than 200 choral pieces and is probably best known for his *Samachti*. He served most recently as spiritual leader of the Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms, in Pennsylvania. Concurrently, he was on the faculty of the School of Jewish Music of Hebrew College of Boston.

An internationally recognized singer, composer and conductor, Osborne attended Hartt School of Music and the Cantors Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He is also the founder of Kol Rinah – Boston's Jewish youth chorus.

Osborne and his wife, Kathryn, have a son and three young granddaughters.

**Rabbi Chezi Zionce, Beit Rayim Synagogue**

Rabbi Chezi Zionce recently became spiritual leader of Beit Rayim. The Toronto native was ordained in Israel in 1996, and has served congregations in Ann Arbor, Mich., Charleston, S.C., and Naples, Fla. He served as spiritual leader of the First Narayever Congregation from 1986 to 1998, and was Hebrew school principal at Holy Blossom Temple in the mid-1980s.

Rabbi Zionce has also served as a rabbi and Judaic teacher at Camp Ramah, and as a founder and rabbinic leader at the Downtown Jewish Day School, now the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School.

Recently, he has been speaking and volunteering at JACS Toronto, an organization that provides support to people in the Jewish community dealing with alcohol and drug issues.

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# Queen's Park 'Al-Quds' rally mostly peaceful

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

A so-called "Al-Quds" rally at Queen's Park on Aug. 18 was mostly peaceful, despite the presence of Jewish protesters and Iranian expatriates who sought to counter the event's anti-Israel message.

Toronto police were on hand to separate the sides, with Israel's supporters – represented mainly by Jewish Defence League members and expatriate Iranians who favour regime change in Tehran – pitted against a collection of anti-Israel demonstrators, including rally organizers as well as anti-Zionist, Palestinian supporters and members of the haredi Neturei Karta sect.

Minor verbal spats between individuals broke out during the rally, but no arrests were made, Toronto Police said.

The annual "Al-Quds" rally is part of a larger campaign to protest what organizers call "the usurpation of the Holy Land by the Zionist regime."

The rallies, which have been held in a number of Canadian and American cities, were created by the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Zafar Bangash, president of the Islamic Society of Toronto and one of the demonstration's organizers, told the crowd outside the legislature that the rally had been vilified "by the Zionists and their right-wing, fascist, Islamophobic media" in the run-up to the event.

Last year's "Al-Quds" rally at Queen's Park saw anti-Israel protesters waving Hezbollah flags and calling for the Jewish state's destruction, which prompted Jewish groups to urge Queen's Park sergeant-at-arms Dennis Clark and his boss, Speaker of the Legislature Dave Levac, to cancel the permit for this year's event.

**Pro-Israel and expatriate Iranians held counter-protests at Queen's Park on Aug. 18.** ***(Sayeh Hassan photo)***

But earlier in the week, Levac refused to overrule the sergeant-at-arms' decision to allow the controversial anti-Israel rally.

Howard English, senior vice-president of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), said CIJA monitored the protest "very closely," and would ask Queen's Park to investigate if there was hate speech, with an eye to banning such events in the future.

English said he met with Levac on Aug. 17 in an attempt to convince him to reverse Clark's earlier ruling.

CIJA provided both Clark and Levac with information about last year's rally, during which speakers called Israel and Zionists cancerous, barbarians, parasitic and malevolent.

In an Aug. 17 statement, Levac said the legislature grounds are there for people to exercise "their right to assemble and to freedom of speech and are not subjected to censorship by the legislative assembly, except to ensure that Canadian law and our guidelines are observed."

He added: "I have listened carefully to the concerns raised [by the Jewish community and others] and agree that we all have a duty to promote tolerance and oppose discrimination at every turn.

"However, I also have a responsibility to protect the right of citizens to assemble and exercise freedom of speech on the grounds. This demonstration will be monitored very carefully, and I will be looking to the organizers to honour their word and to ensure the event proceeds with tolerance and civility without promoting hate, discrimination or violence of any kind."

The speaker is the only one who can reverse rulings made by the sergeant-at-arms.

"We're deeply disappointed with the decision, but we respect the fact [Levac] had a great deal of difficulty in making it," English said.

"But we really don't understand why the behaviour of these same demonstrators last year, and their despicable language, was not an indication to both the speaker and the sergeant-at-arms about what kind of protest they're dealing with."

Speaking to *The CJN* last week, Clark said that he had met with rally organizers and told "them what they can or can't do. It has to be lawful."

However, he said, "it's important that we don't censor events, as long as they stay within the law."

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# *Morally irrelevant*

History may yet show that the encouragement of the expansion of Jewish life and Jewish communities in the West Bank in the year 2012 was a foolish policy by the government of Israel. It has diverted scarce financial resources from pressing social and other needs. It has angered large groups of Israelis who believe governmental attention to the Jewish West Bank communities has been excessive. And it has irritated, if not also partially alienated, most of Israel's major western allies as well as many well-intended Jews around the world. (Those West Bank communities, it should be noted, are referred to by experts and commentators –and most everyone else who has an opinion on Israel – as "settlements," and they say the word as if expectorating burnt ash, with brazen disdain and marked hostility.)

But history will never show what the United Church of Canada last week asserted at its 41st General Council to be the case that the expansion of Jewish life in the West Bank – i.e., the Israeli settlements there – was the principal obstacle to peace in the region. History will show that the principal obstacle to peace in the region was the deep-down, hard-core, theologically based unwillingness of most of the leaders of the Arab and Muslim world to agree that a Jewish state belonged in "their" Middle East.

History will also show that the principal obstacle to peace between Israel and the Palestinians – let alone in the region – was Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' abject refusal since 2008 to even sit with the Israeli government to talk about peace. The settlements were a convenient but effective pretext for him after the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's prime minister. But those same settlements never once prevented him from negotiating with Ehud Olmert or any other Israeli representative prior to 2008.

The pronouncement about the settlements was part of a package endorsed last week by the United Church that was inimical to Israel and far more significantly to the advancement of the very peace the church so earnestly claims to encourage.

The church also called for a boycott of products from the Israeli communities on the West Bank. This was an easy step for the church, because it was simply following others, including some Jews, who, misguidedly or malevolently, have done the same. The church also called on Israel to suspend settlement expansion. But most egregiously and most revealing of all was the official expression of regret by the church for having previously asked Palestinians to acknowledge Israel as a Jewish state.

During the very same week that the United Church decided, in effect, that there need not be, after all, one state on earth that can be Jewish, the president of Iran called Israel "a cancerous tumour" and said "the nations of the region will soon finish off the usurper Zionists in the Palestinian land."

In the circumstances of what is truly happening in the Middle East, the United Church's pronouncements were not only morally obtuse, they were morally irrelevant.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

A special all-party legislative committee met to review a federal bill that would have allowed for the prosecution of Nazi war-criminals in Canada. Bill C-71 had been reintroduced by the Tory government, which had pledged to pass it in the current parliamentary session.

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### United Church boycott

I am appalled by the United Church of Canada's reckless call for consumer boycott of goods produced by Jews in West Bank and eastern part of Jerusalem. As a Jew and a son of a Holocaust survivor, I am insulted that the church is singling out the Jews.

It appears to me as a covert antisemitism to deny the existence of the undivided Jerusalem. It is unprecedented that only the Jewish People are singled out in denying their right to the historical capital of Jerusalem. There has never been such a city as east Jerusalem. In 1947, the Arabs rejected the partition of the former British Mandate of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states by the United Nations and they chose the warpath. In 1948, the Jordanians annexed the eastern part of Jerusalem and the West Bank soon after Israel declared independence. However, in June 1967, during the Six Day War, the Israel Defence Forces liberated the eastern part of Jerusalem. The holy city of Jerusalem was returned to its former undivided status, as it has been historically one city over three millenniums. The border between Israel and the future Palestinian state to be established on the West Bank should be subject to negotiations between the concerned parties, and it is not up to outsiders to impose their will.

Soon after Hitler and his Nazi cohorts ascent to power in Germany, they called for the boycott of Jewish businesses and establishments in Germany. Sadly enough, today the Jews are being singled out by a Canadian church.

**Tibor Anshel Martinek**
**Toronto**

* * *

### Levy report requires rebuttal

The Levy report and its deliberate misrepresentation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 by its commission member, former Israeli ambassador to Canada Alan Baker, continues to dismay those of us who yearn for peace in the Middle East ("Levy report affirms Israel's rights to territory," Aug. 9).

Once again, one needs to be reminded that the official Israeli government position about the captured territories during the 1967 Six Day War really counters the policy of settlements development. In 1968, the great Israeli ambassador, Abba Eban, reiterated and affirmed Israel's acceptance of UNSCR 242 and stated that Israel would "seek agreement with each Arab state on all matters included in that resolution," one being "a just settlement of the [Palestinian] refugees problem." These refugees either fled or were expelled during the 1967 war. Did the Commission to Examine the Status of Building in Judea and Samaria, headed by Israeli Supreme Court Justice Edmund Levy, hear from eyewitness accounts, such as an Israel Defence Forces officer who refused to deport those inhabitants, as he had experienced such treatment during the Holocaust when the same acts were committed against Jews? Did the Levy commission hear about unimaginable acts that are unprintable here?

***LET THEM GO...***

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

Meanwhile, since the 1967 war, Israel has encroached on territory that will likely be conceded under a signed peace agreement. Nevertheless, the large settlements Israel is hoping to annex constitute approximately five per cent of the captured territories in the 1967 war and contain 75 per cent of Israeli settlers. Today, settlers with ideological convictions are literally threatening the existence of the Jewish Zionist state, the Jewish community-at-large and global peace.

Israel's refusal to accept the return of the 1967 Six Day War refugees violates the Fourth Geneva Convention, to which it is a signatory. However, UNSCR 242 does not mean that every square kilometre of captured land must be returned, nor would the refugees necessarily return to Israel proper, as Israel's security, identity and sovereignty are also important.

**Smadar Meiri**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

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# BDS campaign still a threat, despite failures

**Kenneth Stern**

For more than a decade, anti-Israel activists have sought to shoehorn Israel into the nomenclature of apartheid-era South Africa through the use of a tactic named BDS (boycott, divestment, sanctions). Apartheid was a universally decried racist system. BDS activists argue that Israel is the second coming of apartheid South Africa and must be treated the same.

BDS activists may claim success, but they are certainly aware that their efforts have failed. No American university has divested from Israel. When a British academic union voted on a boycott of Israeli academics in 2007, more than 400 American university presidents jointly declared that if these Brits insisted on dividing the academic community into two groups – Israelis who should be shunned and everyone else – their U.S. institutions should be counted as Israeli, too. As University of Miami president Donna Shalala has said, "I know of no American university that would support such a boycott."

BDS proponents at best can point to isolated, near-meaningless "victories," such as the recent decision of a socially responsible investment index to remove the Caterpillar Corp. from its list. The BDSers, of course, generally ignore that the decision was based on a variety of factors (including the company's treatment of its workers), or that many other companies doing business in or with Israel are still listed on the index.

Perhaps their one "victory" was to get a single food co-op in Olympia, Wash., to remove Israeli ice cream cones, crackers, chocolate bars, baby wipes and hand sanitizers from its shelves.

Antics aside, the point of BDS is to change the way Israel is viewed, to focus the debate on whether it is a "pariah" state.

Lately, however, the BDSers seem to be a bit more candid about their motives. While still asserting that Israel is in effect wrong all the time, now they are increasingly comfortable suggesting that Israel should not have been born and this "mistake" should be undone.

Judith Butler, a philosopher and a leading scholar in feminist theory who teaches at the University of California, Berkeley, makes this point in her new book, *Parting Ways: Jewishness and the Critique of Zionism*, published by the prestigious Columbia University Press. Butler underscores why BDS proponents do not limit their campaign to products made in the territories.

To do so would "forget the claims of 1948, bury the right of return, [and] also accept forms of unjust majority discrimination within the present borders of Israel," she says.

In essence, the point of BDS – articulated by Butler and others – is to revert to a world without Israel, irrespective of its policies. That was the theme of the One-State Solution conference last spring at Harvard University. That is why many of the pro-BDS materials circulated during the recently failed efforts to pass divestment resolutions at three major conferences of church groups – Presbyterians, Methodists and Episcopalians – distorted Jewish history by ignoring the religious, cultural and physical connection of Jews and Judaism to the land of Israel in order to paint Jews as interlopers in a region where they have no right to be (let alone a right, like other peoples, to national self-determination in their historic homeland).

Kenneth Stern

Anti-Israel Christians recently circulated a document titled *Call to Action: U.S. Response to the Kairos Palestine Document.* The Palestinian document was a one-sided political and theological denunciation of Israel. The U.S. version goes a step further, promoting a belief that Jews as a people do not have "an exclusive or pre-eminent right to the Holy Land," but rather a right only "to create a vibrant Jewish culture in historic Palestine."

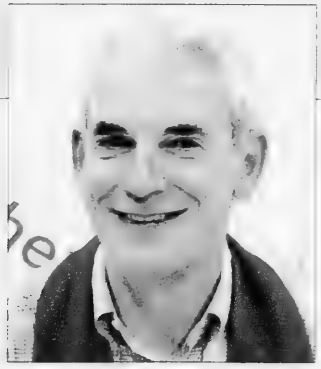
So while BDS has yet to have any tangible economic impact on the State of Israel, it continues to be a vehicle through which the questioning of Israel's basic right to exist is, for some, a "legitimate" issue to be raised without embarrassment. This is much more worrisome than a vote about Caterpillar stock or a co-op refusing to sell Israeli ice cream cones. BDS can change the perception of Israel by creating space for respectable people to have calm debates about the "merits" of a world without a Jewish state.

Fighting BDS, then, is not just about preventing or defeating motions and referenda. It requires paying attention to and challenging the distortions of history and language used by BDS advocates. And it requires reiteration that the two-state solution, in which Jews and Palestinians have a right to national self-expression, is the only path to sustainable peace.

Tellingly, Rebecca Vilkomerson, the executive director of Jewish Voice for Peace – a strong proponent of BDS that is, at most, agnostic on Israel's right to exist – recently appeared on an American Free Press podcast and told the host she "appreciate[d] your support." AFP is a neo-Nazi, white supremacist, Holocaust-denying group. That JVP appreciates AFP's support says it all.

*Kenneth Stern is the American Jewish Committee's director on antisemitism and extremism.*

# *United Church of Canada on Israel, boycott*



Newly elected United Church of Canada Moderator Rev. Gary Paterson

On Aug. 17, the United Church of Canada at its 41st General Council adopted a resolution to boycott products made in West Bank settlements. The recommendation was brought forward by the church's Working Group on Israel/Palestine Policy in a report published in May.

*Below are excerpts of the church's reasoning for a boycott.*

***"Israel's continued expansion of the settlements is the most critical reality undermining the potential for good-faith negotiations between the two peoples. As long as Israel continues to establish and expand settlements on land illegally seized or expropriated from Palestinians, to create 'facts on the ground,' then there is no incentive for Israel to either end the occupation or move from negotiation to final resolution."*** **— The United Church of Canada's Report on Israel/Palestine Policy.**

***"The United Church of Canada also denounces the ongoing violence towards and promotion of hatred for residents of the occupied territories by some settlers and others."*** **— United Church of Canada 41st General Council Working Document on Israel/Palestine Policy.**

***The church "acknowledge[s] with deep regret the past policy of the General Council setting preconditions towards calling on Palestinians to acknowledge Israel as a Jewish state as a prerequisite to peace."***
**— United Church of Canada 41st General Council Working Document on Israel/Palestine Policy.**

# Celebrate the Creator by celebrating Creation

As I write this, the sun throws a garnet aura over the western portion of Lake Superior. The boreal forest extends seemingly without end, peppered with rivers, waterfalls and towering granite cliffs over boundless expanse of lake. A meteor shower momentarily lights up a path across the sky.

In the northern reaches of our own Ontario, it's as though one travels backwards in time, to a primeval, rugged beauty that wants nothing of humankind, except that we do it no harm. That's why so many of us urbanites escape the cacophony and comforts of the city and head for the wilderness. Its rigours and loveliness reorient us internally, bringing us back to ourselves and to something more than ourselves. It restores the soul.

Even as I think this, I feel the weight of Jewish learning press upon me. Pirkei Avot, one of the first Jewish texts I studied, warns against precisely this admiration of nature. If a person interrupts his study of Torah to say "how beautiful is this tree" or "how beautiful is this field," a Mishnah cautions, it's as though he is *mitchayev benafsho*, translated frequently as "guilty of death" or, a tad more mildly, "endangering his life."

Perhaps because my teachers were New Yorkers, more comfortable in an urban jungle than in a meadow, I learned this Mishnah as a dire warning against the temptations of pantheism or worldly pleasures and the urgency of Torah study whose pressing mission could not spare a moment for anything else. Perhaps, too, the Jewish world, still reeling from the devastation of the Shoah, was overwhelmed by the impossible imperative to rebuild the destroyed centres of European Judaism.

But I don't believe our ancestors lived out this dichotomy between a life devoid of natural esthetics, on the one hand, and a hedonistic celebration of the material devoid of ethics and spirit, on the other. It's hard to imagine an agrarian people keeping religious life in quarantine from nature. And so many traditional blessings pertain to the awesomeness of the natural world. Surely the composers of these blessings were not insensitive to its overwhelming beauty. In the years since my childhood introduction to Pirkei Avot, I have encountered many interpretations of the Mishnah in question that soften, qualify and reinterpret its meaning.

You could say that in recent decades, Judaism has reclaimed a connection to the elemental pull of nature. We owe this, in part, to the growth of Jewish summer camps, with Kabbalat Shabbat in the forest or along the lake. We owe it, as well, to our connection to the Jewish homeland, and the intensity of our re-acquaintance with the land itself. And we owe it to environmentalism, a value from contemporary secular culture.

***Sara R. Horowitz***

***in Toronto***

Several years ago, my husband and I took part in a "wolf howl" in Algonquin Park. Under the guidance of park rangers and naturalists, approximately 100 people drove caravan-style deep into the park well after sunset. We pulled our cars over to the side of the road and, as we'd been instructed, stood alongside our respective vehicles in total silence. One of the rangers let out a wolf call. We all waited quietly. From a distance, we heard the response of a wolf pack. For a half hour, the back-and-forth howls could be heard – ours, theirs. By the direction from where the howls came, we could track the movement of the wolf pack. There was something of the sacred in that encounter, with the silence of 100 people a form of worship.

As the late August sky signals the imminent end of summer, and our Jewish calendar marks the final countdown to the high holidays, I recall that our Rosh Hashanah liturgy proclaims, "*Hayom harat olam*" – today is the world's birthday. At the heart of the powerful pull of the wilderness is a celebration of creation. We leave behind our self-concern, if only temporarily.

We are reminded that the world is important not simply for us, but for itself, in ways that transcends us. So celebrate the world's birthday. When you Celebrate Creation, you celebrate the Creator.

# *Anti-circumcision rhetoric poisons Jewish minds*

Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of Great Britain, is one of the most articulate exponents of contemporary Judaism. I've been openly critical of his divisive attitude to non-Orthodox Jews, but I've also learned much from the way he presents Jewish perspectives on historic events and their consequences for our people.

Rabbi Sacks maintains that "an assault on Jewish life always needs justification by the highest source of authority in the culture at any given time." In the Middle Ages, it was the Church and, therefore, it shaped anti-Judaism. After the Enlightenment, it was science, and it led to the "scientific" racist antisemitism that culminated in Nazism. Nowadays it's human rights. Therefore, "it follows that any assault on Jewish life – on Jews or Judaism or the Jewish state – must be cast in the language of human rights."

This brings him to the recent decision by a court in Cologne that declared ritual circumcision an assault on the rights of a child. The court, he writes, has "just invented a new form of blood libel perfectly designed for the 21st century."

Tragically, throughout history, some Jews have bought into the surrounding culture at the expense of their own tradition. Thus from Hellenistic times more than 2,200 years ago until today, a minority either tried to hide their own circumcision or prevent their sons from having one.

Last year's mercifully unsuccessful attempt to ban circumcision in San Francisco, the relentless efforts to abolish it in Norway, Austria, Switzerland and elsewhere in Europe, and the recent decision by the German court may cause a new wave of Jews refusing to circumcise their sons.

***Rabbi Dow Marmur***

***in Toronto***

Because of its commitment to tradition, coupled with memories of Germany's Nazi past, organized Jewry all over the world has been quick to react against the court decision and set out to vigorously defend the time-hallowed practice.

A committee of the Knesset invited the German ambassador to Israel to a special session to discuss the matter. Like the Conference of European Rabbis, the Israeli parliamentarians strongly condemned the decision in Cologne and urged Berlin to introduce legislation to rescind it.

Because the issue concerns Muslims even more than Jews – there are some four million Muslims in Germany and less than 200,000 Jews – a joint delegation protested against the ban and declared that "we consider this to be an affront on our basic religious and human rights."

The World Union for Progressive Judaism – which has constituents in most European countries, including several congregations and a rabbinic school in Germany – has praised the German government for its intention to introduce legislation aimed at overruling the court order. It singled out Chancellor Angela Merkel for special commendation.

Nevertheless, some Jews who'd like to call themselves progressive, including Israelis, seem to prefer the decision of the court in Cologne to the intention of the parliament in Berlin.

Not all are unaffiliated. Thus the Humanistic Jewish movement, which claims 30,000 members in some 50 congregations in the United States – and at least one in Canada – reports a growing tendency in its ranks, presumably in the guise of human rights, gender equality and opposition to "genital mutilation," to replace the traditional ritual with an alternative "welcoming" ceremony for boys and girls alike.

The debate in the media has been lively. For example, Montreal-born author and academic Bernard Avishai, who divides his time between Israel and the United States, wrote a blog about his two grandsons who each recently had a *bris* (brit milah) and thus, as tradition has it, entered the covenant of Abraham. He conceded that "Jewish parents, no less than gentile jurists, approach this ritual at least fascinated, at times skeptical, a little queasy, certainly pained." In the last resort, however, he's happy that his grandsons have been circumcised.

Sarah Tuttle-Singer, writing in *The Times of Israel*, ends the description of her son's *bris:* "If one day my son ends up wearing a shirt that reads "For God's Sake My Penis Was Ruined,' I will pay his therapy bills."

In a column I wrote in the *Toronto Star* last year commenting on the San Francisco anti-circumcision campaign, I suggested that "antisemitism not only endangers the lives of faithful Jews, but also has the insidious potential to poison the minds of its victims."

To the dismay of many of us, that potential is being increasingly realized.

# *Turkey and the Holocaust*

Turkey performed an elaborate, potentially dangerous high-wire balancing act during much of World War II, hewing to neutrality, like Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal, in an attempt to curry favour with the Allies and the Axis powers and to protect itself.

Having lost a large chunk of its territory in World War I, when it was aligned with Germany, Turkey – the successor state of the Ottoman Empire – adopted neutrality so as not to jeopardize its sovereignty and independence. In true Realpolitik fashion, Turkey displayed skill in preserving its neutral status until almost the end of the war.

***Sheldon Kirshner in Istanbul***

In October 1939, just a month into the war, Turkey signed a mutual assistance agreement with Britain and France. On the eve of Germany's 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union, with the German army occupying Greece and positioned only 60 kilometres from the Turkish border, Turkey signed a friendship treaty with Germany under which it supplied the Nazi regime with chrome, a vital ingredient in the production of weapons-grade steel

During this period, when the antagonists sought to draw Ankara into the war and a German invasion of Turkey loomed as a possibility, Istanbul became a centre of espionage and intrigue as the Holocaust inexorably unfolded.

In 1944, Joel Brand, a key member of the Aid and Rescue Committee, went to Turkey on a secret mission to save Jews trapped in Nazi-occupied Hungary. Brand, associated with a still-born scheme to barter one million Jews for 10,000 trucks to be delivered to the Nazis, was arrested in Istanbul at the behest of Britain.

With Turkey turning a blind eye, the Jewish Agency office in Istanbul helped Jewish refugees holding valid visas to use Turkish territory as a transit route to reach British-controlled Palestine, said Ertan Tezgor, Turkey's representative at the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research.

Jewish refugees who did not have visas were sent to Palestine illegally, writes Turkish scholar Eyup Erdogan.

In 1942, however, Turkey turned away the Struma, a dilapidated ship commissioned by Romanian Zionists to transport Jews to Palestine.

The Struma, filled with hundreds of refugees, was eventually towed from Istanbul through the Bosphorus to the Black Sea, where it was sunk by a Soviet submarine, resulting in the deaths of 768 passengers, one of the worst naval disasters in World War II.

Turkey's refusal to allow most of the Jews to disembark is ascribed to British pressure. Britain, in keeping with the provisions of its 1939 White Paper, was determined to uphold its policy of restricting Jewish immigration to Palestine.

"We did not want to get involved in the war, so we had to be good chess players," said Tezgor. "It was a tragic incident. We have to see it in the correct context of the times."

In other important respects, Turkey was exceedingly helpful in saving Jews threatened by Nazi oppression.

From the autumn of 1933 onward, the Turkish government of President Ismet Inonu permitted more than 200 German academics, mostly Jewish, to settle in Turkey. These Jewish refugees played a stellar role in developing Turkish universities and in designing such buildings as the ministry of defence and parliament.

In Europe, Turkish diplomats issued life-saving passports to 25,000 to 30,000 Jews of Turkish origin, noted Pinar Dost-Niyego, a historian based in Istanbul.

Approximately 12,000 of the Jews rescued by Turkey held Turkish passports and/or nationality, said Dost-Niyego, who is affiliated with the Institut Francais d'Etudes Anatoliennes and teaches a history course on World War II at Galata-Saray University.

**Pinar Dost-Niyego**
***[Sheldon Kirshner photo]***

Behic Erkin, Turkey's ambassador to France, as well as Namik Kemal Yolga, Turkey's deputy consul in Paris, were instrumental in plucking Jews from the Nazi jaws of death. And in Marseilles, the Turkish consul, Necdet Kent, also provided assistance.

On the island of Rhodes, Turkish consul Selahattin Ulkumen is credited with having saved 50 Jews, a feat that earned him recognition by Yad Vashem as a Righteous Among the Nations.

**Turkish wartime diplomat Selahattin Ulkumen**

Turkish diplomats in Berlin, Athens, Varna, Prague and Budapest also extended help to Jews, says Erdogan.

Corry Guttstadt, a German scholar who has explored Turkey's policy toward Jews during the Holocaust, claims that some Turkish diplomats were motivated by bribes rather than humanitarianism.

No one seems to know exactly how many Jews were saved by Turkish diplomats, the subject of a Turkish documentary, *Turkish Passport*.

"There are no precise figures," said Tezgor, who added that upward of 10,000 Jews owe their lives to Turkey's intervention. "That question may be answered when our archives from that era are opened."

According to Tezgor, the Turkish government, fearing German retribution, did not issue explicit orders to its embassies and consulates to extend a helping hand to Jews in distress.

But Turkish diplomats could not have acted without official permission, he said. "Ankara had to know what was happening. This could not have happened without the consent of Turkey's government."

The Turkish government, too, laid on special trains to transport some 2,000 Jews to Istanbul following a German ultimatum in 1943 to Turkey and other neutral powers to repatriate their Jewish citizens.

In August 1944, with the Red Army pushing into Bulgaria and severing land links between Turkey and the Axis powers, Turkey broke diplomatic relations with Germany. On Feb. 23, 1945, Turkey declared war on Germany.

Dost-Niyego – a Muslim whose husband is a Turkish Jew – believes that Turkey should incorporate Holocaust-related events into its educational curriculum.

"In high school, I learned next to nothing about the Holocaust," said the 33-year-old scholar, adding that contemporary Turkish high school texts virtually ignore minorities, whether Jews or Christians.

Dost-Niyego, who is currently working on a paper on a new curriculum, intends to present it to the ministry of education once it is finished.

Her interest in the Holocaust was sparked by a colleague, Sila Cehreli, a Turkish political scientist at Marmara University who specializes on the Holocaust in Poland. "She asked me to attend a conference on Holocaust education, and since then, I have been interested in the Holocaust."

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# Organization supports haredi youths in IDF

## *Helps to integrate them into Israeli society*

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

Sixty-four years ago, when Israeli prime minister David Ben-Gurion agreed to give yeshiva students military exemptions, there were only 400 studying full time in all of Israel.

Today, that number is closer to 40,000, and their continued avoidance of military duty is causing stresses in Israeli society: secular Jews believe haredi young men are getting a free ride.

A tough assessment about a difficult issue, but those are not the views of an anti-haredi secularist. Rather, it's the opinion of a consultant who works for an organization dedicated to bringing haredi youth into the Israeli military.

Mimi Kamilar, a Canadian who's lived in Israel for 25 years, serves as a consultant for Nahal Haredi, a non-governmental organization that works closely with Israel's Ministry of Defence and the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) to facilitate haredi recruitment in the army. She was in Toronto recently to meet supporters of the organization and lay the groundwork for creation of a Canadian support group.

Kamilar said Nahal Haredi has been operating for 13 years, and during that time it has helped 5,000 haredi youths serve in the IDF. Today, around 350 are part of an anti-terrorist unit called the Netzah Yehuda Battalion.

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Most haredim, she said, live apart from the wider Israeli society. Haredi parents could not conceive of exposing their children to secular culture, let alone military service. Their young people are brought up to consider lengthy yeshiva study as proper and normal.

**Mimi Kamilar**

Nevertheless, "not everybody is cut out for that, but that's the way of the haredi world. Haredim believe that... by learning Torah they are holding up the world. If the world doesn't have Torah, it will collapse," she said.

For those who can't dedicate themselves to a life of study, Nahal Haredi offers an alternative, one that integrates them into Israeli society, provides them the military pedigree important for subsequent employment and provides an education beyond the world of Torah and Mishnah, Kamilar said.

"Nahal Haredi will create an environment within the framework of the IDF that will enable haredi boys to serve in the army while adhering 100 per cent to their religious requirements, without compromise," she said.

To accommodate them, the IDF, partnering with Nahal Haredi, ensures the food is not just kosher, but *mahadrin* kosher (very strict). Rabbis are available to help them study, if they choose; social workers provide counselling to help them adapt to a new and unfamiliar world; the counsellors also help them address family issues, "so their families can be proud of them and not embarrassed by them," Kamilar said.

Other adaptations include making sure no women come on base; creating a Shabbat atmosphere, and providing a respite centre in Jerusalem for those who can't or don't want to go home while on leave.

Their military duty also differs from others in the third year of service, when instead of continuing combat training, they are permitted to study toward their high school matriculation.

"The idea is to prepare them for life outside the military," Kamilar said.

In its early years, Nahal Haredi mostly dealt with troubled haredi youths, but lately more youngsters from the mainstream haredi community are enlisting, she said. It's becoming to be seen as a legitimate path for young people – at least in some quarters, she said.

Kamilar's visit to Toronto coincided with reports from Israel indicating the IDF had begun drafting haredi 18-year-olds. The move came one week after a new law requiring haredi military service took effect.

On July 31, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak ordered the IDF to compose guidelines for haredi army service within 30 days, and in the meantime implemented the Military Service Law of 1986 with regard to the haredi, *JTA* reported.

**A haredi youth enters an Israel Defence Forces enlistment centre.**

The law requires every Jewish Israeli to serve in the IDF and includes penalties of up to three years in prison for those who do not comply.

A military source with knowledge of the issue told *JTA* that one week after the law's implementation, the IDF has yet to encounter any significant problems in putting haredi youth through the draft process. The 18-year-olds are undergoing competency tests in math, Hebrew and general knowledge, as would any draftee.

Previously, under legislation known as the Tal Law, haredi youth would be able to go to an IDF induction centre with a letter from a rabbi exempting them from military service so they could study Jewish texts in a yeshiva. The Israeli Supreme Court invalidated the Tal Law last February.

Kamilar said the Nahal Haredi approach is best suited to bringing these young people to the army.

"I believe this is the quiet revolution that Israel needs. If you take 2,000 boys who won't or can't learn in yeshiva and give them the tremendous support, it sets them up for life. They can contribute to society and still learn Torah and still support their families."

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# Internship program seen as positive experience

**Vicky Tobianah**
Special to The CJN

Participants in JVS Toronto's Kohn Summer Intern Program will be the among those who decide what the Jewish community will look like in 10 years, Michael Soberman, national director of Canada Israel Experience, said last week.

"It's a tremendous obligation on your shoulders," he told about 30 alumni of the internship program, who gathered at the Hillel Wolfond Centre last week for a networking evening with professionals in the Jewish community.

"The community needs people who are going to step up and become leaders," Soberman said, and this program is vital because it fosters leadership skills in young Jewish students. "You may not be able to appreciate the value this internship has, but when you start your careers, you will," he told the students.

The Kohn program, now in its sixth year, was created to help Jewish students have meaningful summer jobs and get an inside look at the type of work available in the Toronto Jewish community. The 10-week program places students with a Jewish organization for four days a week, with the fifth day spent alternating between volunteering in the city and hearing lectures from lay leaders.

"JVS is invested in this program because we're helping Jewish students on their career path and it helps them when they graduate," said Lisa Rae, manager of volunteer and student services at JVS Toronto.

Jessica Parker, a recent Queen's University graduate who attended the event, said the Kohn internship was "professionally helpful" for her career.

"My [internship] supervisor actually cared about teaching me and letting me try different things," she said. "The program is invested in you and in the community, and that's part of why they're doing it."

**Some of the students in the 2012 Kohn Summer Intern Program, from left, Mariana Vitaver, Arielle Goldfarb, Chelsea Sherman, Liat Aharoni and Rebecca Ihilchik, volunteer at a children's festival.**

But despite overwhelmingly positive feedback from the students who take part in the program, there's speculation every year about whether the program will continue.

"It's a real challenge to get enough funding for the program," Rae said. "There are so many charities out there asking for that dollar."

The students said that in addition to helping foster their career growth, the program also had an impact on their Jewish outlook. According to an alumni survey conducted in 2010, 59 per cent of respondents said they had done something different Jewishly as a result of completing the internship, and 50 per cent had begun volunteering for a Jewish organization after their internship ended.

The organizations that host the Kohn interns agree that the initiative is valuable. "It's an amazing program," said Dan Hadad, associate director of new media and campaigns at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), who worked with a Kohn intern last summer. "It exposes the young generation to the wide range of opportunities in the Jewish community."

He said this is especially important, since many students don't realize the diverse jobs available in the Jewish community.

"There's a perception of the typical ways to fight for Israel – like through advocacy at camps and synagogues," Hadad said. "But then there are diverse portfolios within the community like Size Doesn't Matter (SDM)."

SDM is a social media campaign that advocates for Israel by focusing on Israeli culture, technology, arts and innovation rather than the conflict in the Middle East.

Many young people "who weren't relating to traditional advocacy [relate to SDM]," Hadad said. "The Jewish community needs more innovative, out of the box programs like this one."

But students won't have a chance to intern for organizations in this way if the Kohn program can't secure stable funding. "We can't say yes to every organization that wants to have a Kohn intern because of a lack of funding," Rae said.

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# Toronto man finds long-lost cousins

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Ben Levison, a Toronto man who spent the last six decades believing that his entire extended family had died during the Holocaust, recently discovered he has two long-lost cousins living overseas, and he now harbours the hope that he'll find more of his relatives.

Born in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1936, Levison was two years old when his father, a rabbi, was imprisoned in the Dachau concentration camp following Kristallnacht.

"The only way you could get out of Dachau at that point was if you could find a country that would accept you [as an immigrant]," said Elaine Levison, Ben's wife.

"Canada wouldn't, the States wouldn't, but China would."

With his parents and two older sisters, he escaped to China, where they lived for nine years before permanently settling in Canada.

"His father was an only child, but his mother was one of seven and her six siblings were all married with children," Elaine explained.

"They chose to remain in Germany, and as far as we knew, perished in the Holocaust. Years went by. Benny never had an aunt, uncle, grandparent, cousin, relative [besides his immediate family] whatsoever."

When Andrew Levison, Ben's son, found old family photos and a letter that his grandfather had written about 30 years ago that detailed his family's history, he decided to do some of his own research.

He said he searched on Internet ancestry websites, including Jewishgen.org, for Levisons or anyone who had a Levison attached to their family tree.

"I didn't hear anything and I kind of gave up for a bit, and about two years ago, after giving myself a year hiatus, I went back to Jewishgen and there was a posting from a guy named Andre Heidt," Andrew said, adding that he lives in France.

"I saw a posting back from him saying, 'I'm not sure,' but he gave me a bit of history, which I didn't know anything about, beyond what my grandfather left us."

He consulted the photo album and sure enough, he found pictures of the Heidt family. His grandfather didn't detail who each person in the photo was, but when Andrew scanned the photo and sent it to Heidt, he got a response that opened the door to an amazing reunion story.

"Five minutes later, I get a message from him, saying, 'Where did you get that picture? That's my father.' Immediately we got in touch with each other and started to fill in the pieces. We ended up finding out that my dad's grandfather, Leo Levisohn, had a sister, and her name was Biene. Biene was Andre's grandmother. So in essence, my grandfather and Andre's father were first cousins."

As unlikely as this discovery was, Andrew was able to make another family connection through the Internet when he found a man living in Israel with a connection to a Levison.

"I had posted messages on a number of sites and there was a name of a guy named Mario Bar Levi who was connected to a Levison.

"I had sent him three or four emails through Jewishgen and never heard back from the guy," Andrew said.

"I just figured there was no connection. He sent me an email about a year ago saying, 'My father's name was Willy Levisohn.' Again, I went back to the photos and we had a picture of a guy named Willy Levisohn. I scanned it, sent to him, and he said, 'That's my father.'"

Andrew explained that the man who connects each of them to one another was their great-grandfather, Marum Levisohn.

"Mario had a picture of him, and Andre had a picture of him, and it's pretty incredible. He died in 1903."

After making a virtual connection with his father's cousins, Andrew capitalized on an opportunity to meet Heidt while on a business trip to Paris last November.

"He didn't send me any pictures so I didn't know what he looked like, but I knew exactly who he was when I got off the train. I got off the train and he embraced me and said, 'This is the first time I've ever held a family member.' He was weeping. It was crazy," Andrew said.

"I came home on a mission to get my dad to go meet his cousins."

He said he planned a family trip that had his parents travel to Israel first to meet Bar Levi. After that, Ben and Elaine Levison travelled to France where they met with their four kids – Andrew and his siblings, Craig, Tracey and Randi.

"We got in a car, drove to Gudensberg, which is the town that connects us all – we have over 200 years of history in that town, seven generations – and we met Andre in this town of Gudensberg."

Heidt had connected with a Gudensberg native named Liseselotte Habenicht, who had spend years researching the Jews who had lived in the town before the war and wanted to help Jews reconnect with their past.

In addition to visiting Jewish historical landmarks, including a cemetery where the Levisons' ancestors were buried, Habenicht also took them to the homes where Ben's great-grandfather Marum Levisohn was born in 1828, as well as the home where Marum's children Leo, (Ben's grandfather) and Biene (Ben's great-aunt) were born.

**Top, from left, are Gudensberg native and researcher Liseselotte Habenicht, Elaine Levison, Andrew Levison, Ben Levison, Andre Heidt, Craig Levison and Collette Heidt; bottom, from left, Tracey Levison, Randi Levison and Silke Bayer-Habenicht, a translator.**

"Being in that house, knowing that my great-grandfather lived there when he was nine years old… it's amazing. I still stay up all night thinking about it," Andrew said.

He added that he was happy that his father was able to make new connections with family he never knew he had.

"You look at Andre and my dad and you can see the resemblance… you can see they're cousins. But what was even better was to see these two – they were like long-lost brothers. They would stay up all night and talk. There was a total connection."

"It was like that with Mario, too," Elaine added.

Andrew said it's because of technology – and a lot of luck and patience – that the families have been able to connect.

"After the war, the only way to look for family, before the Internet, was through the Red Cross, or you'd get on a plane, go to the town and post flyers on posting boards. You'd come back a year later and see if anyone posted back. It was not very effective. Once the Internet came along, it changed everything," he said.

In light of the success the Levisons have had so far, they're hoping to make even more family connections.

Andrew learned that Marum was married twice and there is a man who was born out of the second marriage in England who he's recently made contact with.

"Hopefully, we'll work on another reunion and get everyone together."

Ben, who was content to let his wife and son tell his amazing reunion story, summed it up by saying, "I've been very lucky, with Andrew's help, to find family… This doesn't happen everyday."

PUBLIC LECTURE

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# A taste of Israel on local TV

**Meir Shenhav**
Special to The CJN

The metaphor of the global village is often used to describe the modern world. Physical distance is meaningless, and people can read about, spread and react to global news very rapidly.

One way to learn more about what's happening in the world is to watch TV productions from another country. Here in Canada, for example, we can watch Israeli TV from one of the most multicultural countries in the world.

Maria Vorobieva, vice-president of the Ethnic Channels Group in Toronto, said that Israeli Network TV "aims to bring to its viewers the Israeli perspective and point of view, as well as the cultural and traditional events and atmosphere from Israel. The programs, which are aired in Israel, constitute a strong and valid bonding between the viewers. They allow them to connect to their Jewish essence and heritage.

"We offer a free preview on Rogers Cable 889 from Sept. 18 to 25."

The Israeli Network TV channel, launched in 2006, is broadcast in Europe, the United States and Canada. The Canadian broadcast is provided to subscribers through Rogers and Bell Fibe TV.

The channel offers a spectrum of programs from Israel's most popular channels, and viewers receive daily news updates as well as breaking news, and entertainment including dramas, comedies, cultural programs and shows for kids and teens.

The Israeli Network also features popular Israeli sports including the national soccer league and Maccabi Tel-Aviv in Euroleague basketball.

"We reach out to the English-speaking Jewish demographic as well," Vorobieva said. "We're adding English subtitles to the Hebrew-speaking programs. We reach out to the Canadian Jewish community who care about Israel, feel connected to Israelis living abroad and would like to remain updated on the unfolding events in the Middle East."

**The cast of *Savri Maranan***

The channel's headquarters in Tel Aviv makes all programming decisions. The local provider, Ethnic Channels, rebroadcasts the shows and ensures that the quality of the signal is satisfactory.

Some of the programs for this season include:

• The daily news report – Comprehensive reports and commentaries about today's affairs, presented by news anchors Yonit Levi and Danny Kushmaro.

• *London & Kirshenbaum* – A daily talk show focusing on interesting aspects of the day's events.

• *Meet the Press* – Dana Weiss interviews public figures in the Israeli media.

• *It's a Wonderful Country* – A satire with two new comedians, Eran Zarhovitz and Roy Bar-Natan.

• *A Star Is Born* – A talent competition. The winner will get to record an album and receive a grant of 240,000 shekels (about $58,700 Cdn) for a year, allowing him or her to focus on music.

• *Strictly Come Dancing* – The new season is characterized by a varied and interesting cast, including 13 stars who will put on their dancing shoes and show us their moves.

• *Uvda* (*Fact*) – Journalist Ilana Dayan presents investigations, discoveries and news stories each week.

• *Second Observation* – An in-depth look at topics, events and people in the military, security, law, medicine, education, the sciences and politics in Israel and elsewhere in the world.

• *Prisoners of War* – Seventeen years ago, a reserve unit was sent deep into Lebanon in a secret operation against a senior terrorist. The operation failed, and during the rescue operation, three soldiers were left behind and captured. After years of negotiations behind the scenes, the boys returned home in a prisoner exchange deal. Two came back alive, one in a coffin.

• *Jerusalem Mix* – A drama series filmed in and around Jerusalem. The story is about a typical Jerusalem family who face a number of dilemmas but still stay together and united.

• *Savri Maranan* – The story of an Israeli family who demonstrate that "a Polish mother (Jewish mom)" and "Moroccan honour" are concepts that no longer apply. The series presents "his side" and "her side." The link between the two is the *Kiddush* and the Shabbat meal.

• *Welcoming the Shabbat* – Dov Elboim and a variety of guests talk about the weekly Torah portion and express their personal interpretations.

• *The Jewish Home* – A weekly current affairs magazine that deals with different Jewish issues.

• Daily local content – Advertisers, public service announcements and a weekly local talk show with host Gila Yeffet.

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PROFESSOR SHALOM SABAR
PROFESSOR HAYA LORBERBOUM-GALSKI

11:30 AM SESSION 2
DR. MARGIT COHN
PROFESSOR HAYA LORBERBOUM-GALSKI
DR. YEHUDA GOODMAN

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM LUNCH

1:30 PM SESSION 3
DR. YEHUDA GOODMAN
PROFESSOR SHALOM SABAR
DR. MARGIT COHN

2:45 PM WRAP UP

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This lecture will assess the implications of the Arab Spring on the Arab world, with particular emphasis on the changes in Egypt following the January 2011 Revolution.

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ELIE PODEH is a professor at the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies. Areas of interest are inter-Arab relations, Arab-Israeli relations, Egypt, culture and education in the Arab world.

SHALOM SABAR is a professor of the History of Art and Jewish Folklore. His interests include Jewish folk art, ketubot, objects and customs related to Jewish life and Jewish ceremonial art at home and synagogue.

MARGIT COHN is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law. Her interests include human rights within Israel, the Israeli High Court of Justice, and application of the law to various religious communities.

YEHUDA GOODMAN is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology; areas of interest include psychological anthropology and the anthropology of religion, in particular religious conversion and the religious/secular interface in the Jewish world.

HAYA LORBERBOUM-GALSKI is an Associate Professor of Cellular Biochemistry and head of the research committee for the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada (IMRIC). Her research involves cancer mechanisms and treatments and the body's immune responses.

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# Free Jewish apps for iPhones, iPads

Today an eclectic roundup of handy apps that you can download. Unless noted, they are in English and work on both iPad and iPhone. All are free.

***Israel HaYom English Edition***

Since it debuted five years ago, *Israel HaYom* has leapfrogged to become the country's most popular newspaper. Like its hard-copy counterpart, this iPhone edition is free and includes news, commentary and photo galleries. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp9]**

***Channel 2 News*** (iPad only)

If you prefer to watch the news rather than read it, then download the superb *Channel 2 News* app. Watch broadcasts live, when available. (Don't forget about the time difference.) Or choose from a huge selection of on-demand reports. Even if you don't speak Hebrew, you'll feel like you've just switched on an Israeli TV. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp10]**

***Yeshiva World News***

For a window into a different kind of news, this app draws on content geared to developments in the haredi world – although I certainly saw a mix of general news when I visited. Also, check out the "Coffee Room," where I found fascinating discussions about "Yeshivish Hipsters," people having difficulty finding shiduchim (matches), and some inspirational stories. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp11]**

***Hebrew Date Converter***

The High Holiday season is around the corner, and if you find yourself scrambling for the dates of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur or Sukkot, download this app. You get today's Jewish date at a glance, as well as the Jewish and secular dates for all holidays during the upcoming year. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp12]**

***Shadows of Shoah*** (iPad only)

Using striking, contemporary black-and-white photos, subtitles and a piano score, this app tells the story of five Holocaust survivors. In 2008, New Zealanders Perry and Sheree Trotter interviewed and photographed several Holocaust survivors living in Israel. Starting with that encounter, the Trotters plan to create a comprehensive web-

***Jewish & Digital***

***Mark Mietkiewicz***

site, an audiovisual art exhibition and this free app, which will eventually include teaching plans and additional Holocaust-related material. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp13]**

***Anne's Amsterdam***

This one is geared to visitors to Amsterdam. Rather than just retell the story of Anne Frank, this app challenges you to interact with Anne's Amsterdam by "collecting" 30 items from various locations in the city. For example, when you click on Nierssstraat 41-43 (Montessori school), you learn about Anne's prewar days and view a short video with her childhood friend, Hanneli Goslar. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp14]**

***For Israelis Abroad***

This is a handy app designed for Israelis who venture beyond their borders. It includes general information about safety and how to conduct yourself while travelling. "Avoid political debates with strangers and keep away from demonstrations." Also includes basic travel information about dozens of countries and facts about Jewish communities. A handy reference guide for anyone who speaks Hebrew. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp15]**

***Kibbutz Lotan Ecological Living Guide***

The kibbutz, located in the Arava Valley north of Eilat, is a well-known centre for ecotourism. Even if you aren't planning a trip to the Negev, the kibbutz's free app is certainly worth a download. You'll find tips for "Thinking Ecologically," with information about gardening, lowering your water usage, sowing seeds indoors and vermi-composting, using worms to break down organic waste. After that, you can learn about passive building design and about the community's responsibility to the environment. **[http://bit.ly/jewapp16]**

*Highway@rogers.com*

# *Funerals: a time for reflection*

The Talmud (Moed Katan 27b) teaches that it was customary in some localities to blow the shofar to announce a death in the community and to summon citizens to attend the funeral.

An additional practice that took place during a funeral was that women used to wail (Ketubot 46b).

***Sephardi Window***

***Rabbi Ilan Acoca***

Today, these practices are not very common, but not too long ago, they were relevant. My mother recalls women wailing as a child in Morocco.

Why were these practices incorporated into funeral services? What is their significance?

Some say that it was a practical way to gather people to attend the funeral.

The Maavar Yabok explains that it was a way to protect the living people from the angel of death.

I believe the shofar was a wake-up call for people to realize their mistakes, to repent and to return to God.

The great Sephardi sage, the Rambam, writes in his book Mishne Torah (Laws of Repentance 3, 4) "Arise from your slumber, you who are asleep; wake up from your deep sleep, you who are fast asleep; search your deeds, repent, and remember your Creator.

"Those of you who forget the truth because of daily trivialities, indulging throughout the year in the useless things that cannot profit you nor save you, look into your souls, amend your ways and deeds.

"Let everyone give up his evil way and his bad purpose."

I believe that a funeral is a time of reflection and repentance. When someone passes away, it affects the family, the friends and the community. When the shofar is blown, the sound penetrates the hearts. It enables us to realize how vulnerable we are, how life is so fragile and how every minute counts.

Every loss is difficult. However, when someone passes away at a young age, leaving a wife and family, it's even more difficult. When someone who affected people's lives positively passes away, it's really difficult to accept. When a leader of a community passes away, it's extremely painful.

We do not know the ways of God, but through our faith, we learn that "the ways of God are righteous" (Hosea 14).

I recently lost a good friend, Rabbi Yosef Oziel, the beloved Rabbi of Hechal Shalom Sephardic Congregation in Miami, Fla. He was someone who changed people's lives and affected his community positively.

When Rabbi Shlomo Amar, chief Sephardi Rabbi of Israel, eulogized Rabbi Oziel, he said that even though Rabbi Oziel was a young man, he was able to achieve so much during his short time in this world.

Each one of us should realize that "the day is short and there is a lot to be done" (Ethics of our Fathers).

As we enter the month of Elul, approaching Rosh Hashanah, it's time to reflect and change our ways.

*Yehi zichro baruch.* May his memory be for a blessing.

# שישאר בינינו

## גידי קורן וחברים

**הבלדה על הגרפיטי של ברוך ג'מילי**

כל הנוסעים בדרך ירושלימה הכירו את הכתובת על קיר המשאבה הראשונה בשער הגיא "ברוך ג'מילי פלמ"ח פ"ת 1948". סקרנות של שלמה ארצי ישלי הביאה אותנו לכתוב את "הבלדה על ברוך ג'מילי" שזכה במקום הראשון בפסטיבל הזמר והפזמון של 1974("מי היה ברוך ג'מילי, מה עשה ברוך ג'מילי, איפה הוא ברוך ג'מילי?"). ואז, כשעלינו לקבל את הפרס, נעמד בקהל איש גבוה ונופח בידיו לקהל הנרגש- מסתבר שמפיקי הפסטיבל איתרו את ג'מילי והביאו אותו לבריטי האומה. למחרת התגלל מחול שדים. כשעשרות קוראים נזעמים כותבים מכתבים לעיתונים הזועמים בגנות לכלכן הקרוות ג'מילי. אמרתי לשלמה: אם היה מסתבר שהוא מת במלחמה- הוא היה הופך ליקיר האומה, אבל זה שהוא הפז לחזות- הוא הפך למלכלך קדוות מלוכלכי.... ברוך ג'מילי ליוות שיירות לירושלים הנצורה תוך סיכון רב, ותיאורי כלכלכן קדות היה עלבון ציבורי. להגדיל את עוצמת העלבון, ב 1984 מחקה בעלת הבית, תברת מקורות , את הגרפיטי במסגרת עבודות שיפוצים של הבית. ברוך ג'מילי ואיתו גם אחרים מחו לשוא על הפצע החדש.לאחרונה נוסף קול מחאה חזק וייחודי לציוץ על גדל האמבורד: סיפרה החשוב ביותר של מלחמת השחרור, יזום קניוק, שעבר את זוועות המלחמה היהיה מחיל בן שבע עשרה. טוב כך בספרי האחרון "תש"ח":

"בשנת 1955 חזרתי לביקור קיץ מאמריקה. מיילתי, פגשתי חברים. בבאב אל ואד, על קיר המשאבה הראשונה, היה כתוב באותיות גדולות "ברוך ג'מילי". מצא חן בעיני שמישהו שאיש איננו מכיר, שלחם במלחמת, ידע כבר אז את מה שיעלימו אחרי כן, עם דור הפלמ"ח לזיכרון המפקדה הלא ליחמת. ולכן כתב את שמו באותיות גדולות מול הבאים לירושלים. לפני כמה שנים מחקו את שמו. מי מחק אינני יודע. אבל בשבילי זה היה כאילו מחקו את הכותל המערבי ועשו ממנו מה שעושים עכשיו למדבר: קיר של מלון יוקרה לעשירים. היה צריך להאיר את שמו. אין לי מושג מי היה אבל הוא היה שם איתנו בימים ההם" (עמ 187). יתכן שצמקתו של קניוק, ויתכן שכאבם של רבים אחרים הביאו את המשלה ביום הצצמאות שעבר לשחזר את הגרפיטי המדוייק במקומה המקורי.

רק ברוך ג'מילי, שנפטר ב 2001, לא זכה לראותה.

MORE GIDI KOREN at www.gidikoren.com

# It's OK to be angry with God

**Rabbi Harold S. Kushner**
JNS.org

*Guest Voice*

Is it a sin to be angry at God?

I have been a rabbi for 50 years. For the last 30 of those years, I've been known as the author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, a book that suggested a different understanding of God's role in all the misfortunes that occur in our world.

Between those two roles, I've had countless conversations with people who had reasons to be angry at God, some because of tragedies and disappointments in their own lives, some because of the Holocaust, some because of famines, floods or genocide in other parts of the world. I have spoken to any number of people who have stopped believing in God altogether because of all the terrible things that keep happening (it's interesting how angry people get at God for not existing), and others who still believe in Him but refuse to pray to Him.

In the opening chapters of Deuteronomy, the last of the five books of the Torah and the one we read in synagogue in the weeks before the High Holidays, Moses does something completely out of character. He expresses anger at God. He complains that God has treated him unfairly. Moses has spent his entire life, at considerable personal sacrifice, bringing the word of God to the Israelites. He has endured their complaints and their deviations from God's ways, and instead of rewarding him for his efforts, God has decreed that the people who have made his life miserable for all these years will get to live in the Promised Land and Moses himself will never even set foot in it.

Whenever I would read that surprising outburst on Moses' part, I would attribute it to his advanced age and fatigue. But a few years ago, I heard a lecture by Prof. Aviva Zornberg of Jerusalem on the subject of Moses' anger at God. She suggests that Moses did that deliberately as a way of giving the Israelites permission to vent their anger at God, which they promptly do. "God must hate us to have made us wander in this desert for 40 years. If God loved us, He would have let us remain in Egypt and sent the Egyptians into the desert."

Zornberg goes on to note that immediately after the people express their anger toward God, we find something in the Torah that we have never seen before: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is your God, the Lord alone. *And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.*" We had previously been commanded to obey God, to revere and honour God, to walk in His ways, but never before to love Him. Zornberg's explanation: you cannot truly love someone with all your heart if you are afraid to be angry at them. Anger need not terminate a relationship. It need not shatter a relationship. Anger and disappointment are a part of an honest, healthy relationship.

I would like to believe that God is not offended by our righteous anger at the world's unfairness, nor does He need our flattery. We should find it reassuring that we can get angry at God because we expect so much from Him, and at the same time recognize how much we need and rely on Him.

*Rabbi Harold Kushner is Rabbi Laureate of Temple Israel in Natick, Mass.*

# *Forgetting about 0 to 6 months*

**Class Act**

***Daniel Held***

Our daughter is nearly six months old. In addition to developmental milestones such as sitting up and turning over, six months marks the age when a child is first eligible for Jewish activities. Last week we signed up for PJ Library, the gift of free children's books, and we recently started attending Tot Shabbat at our synagogue.

The wait has been too long. The dearth of Jewish activities for newborns and their parents is a missed opportunity.

A recent *New York Times Magazine* article highlighted Target's investment in metrics to predict pregnancy. Pregnancy and childbirth is a moment of disruption in a family's life, and Target seeks to capitalize on the change. As the article states, there are "brief periods in a person's life when old routines fall apart and buying habits are suddenly in flux. One of those moments – *the* moment, really — is right around the birth of a child."

Through a careful analysis of shopping trends, Target predicts pregnancy with remarkable accuracy and markets directly to those needs. The *Times* article tells the story of an irate father accosting a store manager for sending targeted adverting for baby merchandise to his teenage daughter. A few days later he called and said, "I had a talk with my daughter… It turns out there's been some activities in my house I haven't been completely aware of. She's due in August. I owe you an apology."

Childbirth affects not only shopping habits, but social relationships, weekly routines and communal affiliations. The final months of pregnancy and the first months after birth offer an opportunity for the Jewish community to engage and aid new parents, but current offerings are paltry.

Synagogues and rabbis facilitate brit milah and baby-naming ceremonies. While meaningful ceremonies are an important, ritualized way to welcome a baby into the world and the Jewish community, they're usually one-off events that have little carry-forward for further engagement.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto runs a "Welcome to our World" program, sending new parents a baby package that includes parenting information, coupons, etc. Since 1993, the program has celebrated more than 5,000 births. In many communities, such programs serve as on-ramps to other new family programs.

The possibilities are numerous. For expecting families, we could facilitate birthing classes and prenatal yoga in synagogues and JCCs, and for new parents, especially those on parental leave, we could run daytime programs, including new mom's and dad's groups, dinner co-ops, parenting classes, and infant lap-sit with Jewish songs and stories. These programs could flow out of brit milah and baby namings and into PJ library, Tot Shabbat and Jewish early childhood education. Offering these programs in a Jewish context not only welcomes new people in the door, but builds community among those at similar phases in life. My parents are still friendly with couples they did Lamaze with more than 30 years ago!

In the six months since our daughter was born, we've found story time at the library and a parents' group at the park. They're wonderful activities, but distant from Jewish life. Like Target, we should reach out to new families as they begin a new journey, rather than impose a six-month waiting period.

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# Being an observant Jew in Hollywood

**Judie Jacobson**
Connecticut Jewish Ledger/JNS.org

A regular on the CBS hit sitcom *The Big Bang Theory* – in which she plays Sheldon's friend who is not his girlfriend Amy Farrah Fowler – actress Mayim Bialik is also widely known for her lead role in the 1990s NBC sitcom *Blossom*, as well as for her portrayal of the young Bette Midler in *Beaches*. She has also appeared in Woody Allen's *Don't Drink the Water* and HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, as well as a slew of 1980s and 1990s TV series and late-night talk shows. Her recent appearances include recurring roles on *Secret Life of the American Teenager* and Fox's *Til Death*. She portrayed 1960's activist Nancy Kurshan in *Chicago 8*.

But, her estimable acting credits aside, Bialik's real-life role as an observant Jew also garners attention.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Bialik received a bachelor's of science and a PhD in neuroscience from UCLA, where she also minored in Hebrew and Jewish studies. The mother of two sons, she is a certified lactation educator counsellor and is devoted to a lifestyle of attachment parenting, home schooling, natural family living, and vegan cooking. She recently released a book on holistic parenting, titled *Beyond the Sling*.

Bialik is also co-founder and chair of the youth branch of the Jewish Free Loan Association (Genesis) and speaks frequently on a variety of topics, including her journey to embracing traditional Jewish values. She studies Jewish texts weekly with two study partners.

**Q: Tell us a bit about your Jewish background...**

A: Three of my four grandparents are immigrants to this country and my mom was raised Orthodox, but left Orthodoxy when she was a teenager. My dad had a more assimilated Jewish experience. They moved from the Bronx to Long Island. My parents were not at all observant. They raised me in a Reform congregation, which actually was a very positive experience. There were some remnants of my

Mayim Bialik

mom's Orthodoxy, but for the most part we were a traditional Reform family.

I minored in college in Hebrew and Judaic studies. I was active in Hillel in college and when I met the rabbi there, I told him I wanted to study Yiddish. He said "Study Hebrew first and then you can study Yiddish." And I did. I studied Hebrew and I actually fell in love with Hebrew grammar and ended up doing two full years of Hebrew, then took a year of Yiddish. By then I was half way through the minor, so I added classes in history and sociology, and that's how I added Judaic studies to my minor. I've visited Israel many times. I have family that made aliyah in 1976 – my aunt and uncle and five of my cousins. They live in the West Bank. I also have family on Kibbutz Gezer. I've been to Israel about a dozen times since I was 16.

**Q: Why didn't you pursue a career in neuroscience instead of returning to acting?**

A: My husband and I met in college and we had our first son in grad school after we got married. We fell in love with parenting and with being parents, and specifically with me being the primary caregiver. Being a research professor just wasn't going to be compatible with that. So, the plan was that we would try to take turns teaching and sort of figure it out. And I went back to auditioning. I had never done acting as an adult and I thought, well, maybe I'll work here and there. I didn't anticipate that I'd be a regular on a TV show. But I've also been teaching neuroscience in the home school community since I got my degree.

**Q: You're a major voice in parenting issues, especially what is known as "attachment parenting." Has your Jewish background informed or influenced your parenting views at all?**

A: In some ways. I think that the style of attachment parenting is a very traditional kind of parenting – it's not new and trendy. If you speak to women from previous generations, you will find that things like keeping the baby close to you and breast feeding on demand – kind of intuitively wanting to be with your child – are very traditional.

Margaret Mead had written a very, very interesting analysis of a Jewish family that she observed and it sounded a lot like the style of parenting that attachment parenting is. She described women constantly rocking their babies and breastfeeding every time the baby opened its mouth. She said that perhaps the men shuckling while they've davening is to recreate all the rocking that their mothers did for them. So there is absolutely a traditional ethnic aspect to parenting the way your body was made to parent. There is an Orthodox attachment parenting community. There are definitely Jews who believe that the way God made our bodies was to give birth and to nurture that child – there are many references to things like extended breastfeeding and even co-sleeping in our heritage and in the Torah.

**Q: How would you describe yourself at this point of your life Jewishly?**

A: I'm supposed to say that I'm "aspiring modern Orthodox" – meaning I identify most strongly with the modern Orthodox community. That's the community I daven in. That's the community that most fits my sensibilities. The reason that I don't take that moniker on is because of my unusual work situation. I'm not able to say that I completely do it the way that I want to.

**Q: It's hard to be an observant Jew in Hollywood?**

A: I would say that it's close to impossible. There are Orthodox writers that I know and there are a couple of Orthodox producers. I think it's very hard being female and being in acting – largely because of the publicity and the public aspects of it that revolve around a sense of fashion.

**For complete interview, go to cjnews.com**


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- Also please **join us for a Selichot** program on **Saturday night, September 8** at the **Toronto Heschel School** (Sheppard and Faywood). At 10 pm, Wendy will participate in a panel discussion on the topic **"Perspectives on High Holiday Prayers."** Selichot will follow. *For more information about this program, please email tpmcentral1@gmail.com*

*www.TorontoPartnershipMinyan.com*


## Bialik injured in car accident

JTA

**LOS ANGELES** — Actress Mayim Bialik seriously injured her hand in a car accident in Los Angeles.

A car full of tourists crashed into Bialik's car on Aug. 15 in Los Angeles on Hollywood Blvd., *TMZ* reported.

Bialik, 36, who stars in the *Big Bang Theory* and was a child star in *Blossom*, nearly lost her left thumb in the accident, according to *TMZ*, which reported that the digit was almost completely severed.

Hours after the accident, Bialik Tweeted that she was "in pain but will keep all my fingers." She added that her husband was typing for her, however.

In addition being an actress, Bialik is a neuroscientist and writes about Jewish parenting.

# Radio host breaches broadcasting code

**Janice Arnold**
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — A Montreal radio show host violated broadcasting industry standards with his "disparaging" remarks about the Jewish community last year, an independent regulatory body has ruled.

Benoît Dutrizac, host of the talk show *Dutrizac* on CHMP (98.5 FM), also misrepresented a Town of Hampstead nuisance bylaw, which was the subject of the Sept. 29, 2011, broadcast during which the comments about Jews were made, the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council (CBSC) said in its Aug. 15 decision.

Among the most egregious remarks was his describing certain chassidic Jews as "mentally ill, retards" and his encouraging listeners to disrupt Jews on the High Holidays.

The complaint against Dutrizac, a veteran broadcaster and journalist, was brought by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA). CIJA said it's satisfied with the ruling.

The CBSC said Dutrizac violated the Canadian Association of Broadcasters' Code of Ethics and Equitable Portrayal Code.

On the Sept. 29 show, Dutrizac and guest Alain Pronkin, who was presented as an expert on religion, discussed a Hampstead bylaw that prohibited excessive noise on certain holidays.

They focused on the fact that the town included the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as well as the statutory holidays, as times when residents could not use high-powered construction or gardening equipment, such as gas lawnmowers and leaf blowers, on their property.

The bylaw had been amended by the council the year earlier to extend the ban to include the three Jewish holidays. About 85 per cent of the 8,000 residents of Hampstead are Jewish.

**Benoît Dutrizac** *[985fm.ca photo]*

The bylaw became news during last year's High Holidays, when one resident, who had received a warning, threatened to go the Quebec Human Rights Commission on the grounds the regulation was discriminatory against those who do not practise Judaism. A first offence could result in a $1,000 fine.

According to the CBSC ruling: "Dutrizac complained that the Jewish community was imposing [its] values on Quebec society and encouraged listeners to go make noise in Hampstead on the upcoming… [Jewish] holiday."

Dutrizac "invited" anyone passing through Hampstead on those days to "honk, make noise, fart, whatever, any noise that indicates to the Jewish community that it's not the Jewish community that leads Quebec, it's not them who are going to determine how we are going to live in Quebec… It's not true that they are going to impose their religious concepts, their religious precepts on the whole society. There are damned limits."

(Several people did drive through the town honking their horns.)

When Pronkin tried to explain that Rosh Hashanah represented the new year in the Jewish faith, Dutrizac replied: "No, no, you're in Quebec. It's Jan. 1."

Dutrizac made the insulting remarks about chassidim in connection with a 2006 headline-making incident when a chassidic congregation asked the neighbouring Parc Avenue YMCA to cover its windows when women were exercising.

CIJA complained about Dutrizac's "incendiary appeal to harass the Jewish residents of Hampstead" and "accusing the entire Jewish community of wanting to dominate Quebec."

The majority of CBSC's Quebec regional panel agreed that the host made "abusive and unduly discriminatory" remarks about Jewish people and "stereotyped" them by suggesting that they were trying to impose their will on Quebec society. There was one dissenter on this point.

Created in 1990 by Canada's private broadcasters, the CBSC administers codes that the industry has established for itself. The CBSC has nearly 750 member stations and services across the country.

After the broadcast, CIJA wrote to Louis Audet, president and CEO of Cogeco, the station's owner, outlining its concerns. When it received no response, it filed a complaint with the CBSC in November.

CIJA said in a statement that the CBSC decision should serve as a reminder to media professionals that "coverage of controversial questions does not exempt [them] from the duty of self-restraint, civility and concern for objectivity."

On Aug. 13, the Hampstead council amended the nuisance bylaw. Gas-powered lawn mowers may now be used on the holidays, as well as electric and manual ones, which were previously allowed.

According to CBSC rules, CHMP is required to announce the decision on air once during peak listening hours within three days of the decision's release, and again within seven days during the time period that *Dutrizac* is broadcast.

Calls to CHMP for comment were not returned by *The CJN*'s deadline.

# CIJA disappointed by church report

**Continued from page 1**

Members of CIJA were on hand at the General Council last week to advocate for the dismissal of the working group's report and came away feeling frustrated and disappointed.

According to CIJA, the boycott decision represents a radical shift in the United Church's policies, betrays the views of the vast majority of its members, and flies in the face of decades of constructive interfaith dialogue.

In a statement, CIJA chair David Koschitzky said the church had chosen a "morally reckless path."

"The United Church has equally dismissed the concerns of the overwhelming majority of the Canadian Jewish community [and its own members]. No mainstream Jewish organization, including Canadian Friends of Peace Now [CFPN], endorses boycott. Even the leadership of the American left-wing group J-Street has publicly condemned boycotts as counterproductive," he said.

However, the left-leaning CFPN said CIJA did not speak for it.

An Aug. 13 statement by CFPN called on CIJA to think about its own position, saying that United Church members who support the report don't "necessarily represent part of the movement to isolate and delegitimize Israel within the international community as CIJA has charged."

A July 5 letter to *The CJN* by Stephen Scheinberg, co-chair of CFPN, noted his organization supported the church's call for a boycott of settlement products and said CIJA was "out of line" in defending the "settlement enterprise."

"Peace Now joined the settlement boycott after the Knesset made it illegal to advocate such actions and subject to civil damages," he wrote.

CIJA said an independent survey it commissioned in partnership with a grassroots group within the United Church, Faithful Witness, revealed the extent to which the new policy is at odds with the views of the majority of the church's congregants.

CIJA's CEO, Shimon Fogel, said the survey was shared with all church clergy and with the commissioners at the General Council in an attempt to convince them the report was wrongheaded.

"The church's decision to support boycott in full knowledge of these survey results confirms the extent to which this decision was driven by narrow ideology rather than by a desire to faithfully represent the views of the membership," CIJA said in a statement.

David Koschitzky

"Support for the boycott tactic is limited to a small fringe. Tragically, the United Church of Canada chose to join that fringe, rather than listen to the nearly 100,000 families who are members of Jewish federations across Canada, and on whose behalf [we] speak. The church equally ignored some 70 Canadian rabbis of all streams and from every province, representing tens of thousands of Canadian Jewish families, who made their opposition known in writing," Koschitzky said.

In June, nine Canadian senators, all United Church members, sent a joint letter to the church's then-moderator, Mardi Tindal, warning her that a deep schism between the Jewish and Protestant communities could emerge if the church adopted the controversial boycott proposal.

Their request was rebuffed by both Tindal and the head of the church's Working Group on Israel/Palestine Policy, Rev. Bruce Gregersen.

Last week, the church chose Rev. Gary Paterson as its new moderator. Rev. Paterson, who recently went on a two-month sabbatical in Israel and the Palestinian Authority, said he is anxious to talk with Jewish leaders "about the plight of the Palestinian people in the settlements and also to recognize the legitimacy of the State of Israel.

"I think if you read the report rather than the headlines, you will see that there is a deep commitment we have always had to Israel and the Jewish people, and we recognize the existence of antisemitism and legitimate fears," Rev. Paterson told the *QMI* news agency.

Koschitzky said that in adopting a boycott policy, the United Church "has rejected the path of balance and has chosen to explicitly ally itself with those who formally reject the two-state solution and who deny the historical right of the Jewish people to a homeland. In so doing, they have damaged the church's standing amongst Canadians and have profoundly compromised its ability to play any constructive role in making a positive impact for peace."

The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) for Holocaust Studies said it, too, was troubled to learn the proposed anti-Israel boycott had passed.

FSWC president and CEO Avi Benlolo said he was "saddened" and "distressed" by the decision.

"We… fear a relationship of trust and friendship is irreparably broken," he said. "I don't know if church members truly understand how utterly offensive and imbalanced this proposal is, or whether a latent antisemitism within the church is slowly coming back to life. What is certain is that the era of goodwill… is over, and that the supporters of antisemitic hatred have found a new friend."

Condemnation for the boycott decision also came from B'nai Brith Canada.

"At a time when thousands of Syrian citizens are being slaughtered, we find this obsession with the Jewish state highly suspect," CEO Frank Dimant said. "The subtext of these recommendations is that Jews cannot legitimately establish working communities in biblical Israel – this is a first step towards calling for ethnic cleansing of Jews from these areas.

"These recommendations only serve to undermine the goodwill that Jewish and Christian communities in Canada have worked tirelessly to establish and maintain. Such biased recommendations coming from United Church members who can complacently enjoy safety and security here in Canada are not only entirely ineffective in addressing the realities on the ground, but are a barrier towards future negotiations between the parties themselves."

ARZA Canada, the umbrella body of the Canadian Reform movement, also criticized the church's boycott position, calling it "unfair" and biased."

"Canadian Reform congregations have had a recent history of working together with the United Church of Canada congregations and this recent action has put the work of this inter-denominational activity in jeopardy," Les Rothschild, president of ARZA Canada, said in an Aug. 20 statement.

"ARZA Canada is particularly concerned with the part of the resolution that states the United Church has reversed its previous position and now does not require the Palestinians to acknowledge Israel as a Jewish state. We fundamentally disagree. For peace to be achieved, ARZA Canada expects all parties concerned to recognize Israel as a Jewish state."

At its 2009 General Council, the church adopted policy items that called for full Israeli withdrawal to pre-1967 lines, recognition of east Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza as occupied territories and "ending all forms of violence by the Israeli government upon the Palestinian people."

The church, however, voted down a proposal for boycott, divestment and sanctions, in part due to lobbying efforts by Canadian Jewish Congress.

*With files from JTA.*

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# PQ 'secularization' plan slammed by groups

**Janice Arnold**
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — Jewish groups have deplored Parti Québécois (PQ) leader Pauline Marois' proposal to prohibit public employees from wearing overtly religious symbols on the job, but are cautious in commenting on how the PQ's planned "charter of secularism" would directly affect Jews.

Marois pledged that if the PQ is elected Sept. 4 her government will move quickly to table legislation creating the charter, which she had indicated would override constitutional guarantees, if necessary. The charter would make state neutrality paramount.

**Pauline Marois**

Marois said last week that "ostentatious" religious symbols should have no place in state institutions, starting with those where government services are provided.

Headgear such as hijabs and turbans would fall into that category, while party officials have been less clear on kippot.

Marois thinks that small crosses and perhaps stars, worn "discreetly", would be permissible. She feels the crucifix is a cultural, not only religious, symbol because of Quebec's Roman Catholic heritage.

(A crucifix hangs over the speaker's seat in the National Assembly, and legislators unanimously voted to retain it during the term of the Liberal Charest government.)

The PQ has not made it clear whether this ban would extend to para-public employees in such sectors as health care and education.

Rabbi Reuben Poupko, speaking on behalf of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, said the organization's comments would be limited until the PQ has fully clarified its intentions.

"The Jewish community of Quebec has always vigorously and passionately defended individual rights and freedoms," said Rabbi Poupko, who called on "politicians of all parties to take very seriously their obligation to appeal to the better nature of the electorate and be voices for unity, rather than divisiveness."

If the PQ's ultimate goal is to instil an adherence to Quebec values among immigrants, Rabbi Poupko said that would be better achieved through education, rather than restrictions on dress.

The government should make clear to newcomers that values such as tolerance of differences and respect for human rights are the reason Quebec is the prosperous and secure place that it is and why people want to live here, he said.

Rabbi Poupko does not believe the great majority of Quebecers are xenophobic, and he hopes its leaders, unlike in the "reasonable accommodation" debate a few years ago, do not remain silent in the face of any such expression.

Moïse Moghrabi, Quebec chair of B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights, described the proposed secularism charter as "a flawed attempt to fit Quebec's pluralistic and diverse society into the PQ's own restrictive and exclusionary model for integration.

"It does not represent reasonable restriction of a particular fundamental right such as might be called for by security, identification or communication requirements."

He hopes all Quebecers will voice their disapproval to the PQ of this threat to "principles of inclusion, respect for all citizens and protection of minorities."

The sole Jewish member of the National Assembly, Liberal Lawrence Bergman of D'Arcy McGee, termed the PQ proposal "odious and shameful" and, if implemented, would "make our society all the poorer."

He said he's surprised Marois would come up with such an idea when only this spring she supported Bergman's motion commemorating the 180th anniversary of the groundbreaking political emancipation of Jews through an act of Quebec's legislature.

"Obviously, she wasn't paying too much attention to the message of that motion," he said.

He doesn't believe the proposed charter is comparable to Bill 94, which was introduced by the Charest government two years ago. That legislation would have banned both public employees and those seeking public services from wearing full face coverings.

Bergman said the thrust of that bill was that faces should be shown for purposes of "identification and security."

"The Liberal Party is committed to an open secularism… Civil servants can wear any religious symbol or headgear."

Bill 94 stalled after a public commission held hearings on it.

Someone keenly watching this latest chapter in Quebec's "identity" question is lawyer Adam Atlas. He was chair of Quebec Jewish Congress at the height of the debate on the place of religion in the public sphere.

Atlas, who no longer has any official position in the community, is disheartened to see Quebec once again being "dragged backward by politicians pandering for votes" by playing on francophone Quebecers' insecurity.

This time, he finds it especially troubling because Marois is openly making a distinction between a Christian tradition and everyone else. Atlas said this establishes "two classes of citizens, which inevitably will create tensions between groups and we already have enough of that."

Prohibiting public employees from wearing religious clothing or symbols is "an affront to our fundamental freedoms.

"It's absurd, almost comical. Such wear does not disturb the peace or interfere with the normal operation of the state… Who really is offended if the employee serving me is wearing a turban? Who is the government to tell me I must be offended?"

# Terror threat an election issue

**Janice Arnold**
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — In a guide prepared for candidates in the Quebec election, B'nai Brith Canada warns that pro-Hezbollah activity appears to be increasing in the province and the government should provide funding for the security of "at-risk" communities.

The charging in July of a Quebecer with supporting terrorism for her alleged involvement in smuggling weapons to Hezbollah in Lebanon is the latest evidence that authorities here must be more vigilant about Islamic extremism, according to B'nai Brith.

The organization recommends that whichever party takes power Sept. 4 should "combat the potential radicalization of Quebecers, through ongoing monitoring and screening of extremist elements and the movement of funds abroad."

It also urges Quebec to institute a program similar to the federal Security Infrastructure Program, which provides grants to community institutions to improve their security.

While some Montreal-area synagogues and schools have benefited from the initiative, B'nai Brith points out that the federal program requires matching funds, and a few smaller institutions don't have such resources.

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# Centre hosts exhibit on Jewish internees

**Lauren Kramer**
Pacific Correspondent

**VANCOUVER** — A couple of years ago, the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre was approached by the children of Jewish men who were interned in Canada between 1940 and 1943. They came with fragments of stories told to them by their parents, declaring unanimously that these stories needed to be aired in public.

Many of their fathers had gone on to do great things in Canada. Two were Nobel laureates, one was a member of the Order of Canada and another was among Painters Eleven, a group of Canadian artists. There were university professors, architects, designers and men who achieved prominence in their respective careers. Their internment in Canada during the war years was a secret part of their lives that few had knowledge of.

In June 2012, after 18 months of intensive research and many hours of interviews with surviving internees, VHEC launched *Enemy Aliens*, an exhibit about the internment of Jewish refugees in Canada between those years.

"People are so surprised by this part of Canadian history that they don't know," said Nina Krieger, executive director of VHEC and curator of the exhibition. "This is our most ambitious project to date, and we feel so lucky to have amazing documents and photographs of internees, precious primary resources that have been entrusted to us."

Between 1940 and 1943, Canada's internment camps in Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick were filled with more than 2,000 male Jewish internees from Germany and Austria. Shipped from the United Kingdom to Canada and Australia, they were a mix of intellectuals, political activists, teenagers and yeshiva boys who were thrown together in the confusion of war.

Britain had initially thought them to be "fifth columnists" who wanted to subvert the regime, but realized later the group they had comprised mostly civilians. This information was slow to reach Canada, however, and when the internees arrived, they were treated as dangerous prisoners of war and guarded behind barbed wire fences for most of their stay.

Using videos of first-person testimony of the 14 surviving internees who live across the country, Krieger and her team of researchers attempted to answer questions about the circumstances that brought them to Canada, and their experience in this country. "We're mindful of how fortunate we were to capture those interviews," she said, adding that three of the interviewees died before the exhibit launched.

The video testimonies add compelling immediacy to the rest of the exhibit, which consists of photographs, documents and explanatory panels describing life in the camps. In one video, internees describe the enemy's welcome they received on arrival. Many had their belongings confiscated and stolen by Canadian soldiers, who pointed machine guns at them, thinking they were terrorists disguised as teens and religious Jews. "We were marched through town while the local population spat and cursed at us," another recalled.

**Nina Krieger**
***[Lauren Kramer photo]***

In the camps, this group of diversely talented individuals created a unique society that included religious worship, arts, culture, theatre, music, newspapers, education and a forum for learning and exchange. By distracting themselves with entertainment and learning, camp internees kept their spirits from plummeting. They were also able to upgrade their interrupted schooling to the point that many could write McGill University matriculation exams, a precursor to their application to Canadian universities.

Life in the camps was full of challenges, from ensuring food was kosher and observing the Day of Atonement to dealing with sexuality in an all-male camp.

The 44 artifacts on display bear evidence of some of the activity that occurred in the camp. There are diaries and paintings, including a small watercolour painting by Oscar Cahen, who became a member of Painters Eleven. The suitcase that Peter Oberlander brought from England to Canada is on display, as is a permission slip signed by the commandant of a camp in Sherbrooke, Que., giving an internee permission to sketch within the compound. Other identity documents refer to internees as "Jews," "refugees" and "enemy aliens," classifications that during that time served as instruments of oppression.

*Enemy Aliens* paints a clear picture of a Canada that was hostile toward and did not want to accept Jews. It's a Canada that looked very different from the society we know today, and as you peruse the exhibition, you cannot help but feel grateful for the atmosphere of acceptance that exists in this country 70 years later.

After 1943, as the internees were released into Canadian society, a public relations campaign was launched to stem any backlash against them. The internees were presented as people with unique stories about their experiences, rather than as a group who might be usurping jobs from Canadians. In this way, the Central Committee for Interned Refugees successfully campaigned for the internees to be allowed to stay in Canada, as opposed to being extradited back to the United Kingdom.

*Enemy Aliens* was made possible in part as a result of funding from the Community Historical Recognition Program, which is part of the Citizenship and Multiculturalism Branch of Citizenship and Immigration Canada. It's too late to recover the three years of internment that were lost to these internees, but not too late to achieve perspective, through *Enemy Aliens*, of what life was like for Jewish internees in Canada during that time.

*Enemy Aliens* runs through June 2013, after which it will become available as a travelling exhibit throughout Canada. Next month, it will also be available on an interactive website through which an international audience will be able to "handle" and examine documents online and gain a greater understanding of this story through its virtual presence.

For more information visit www.vhec.org or call 604-264-0499.

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# *United Church reveals obsession with Israel*

As this column went to press, it was announced that the United Church of Canada had voted in favour of boycotting Israeli settlement products.

On the very day that the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation expelled Syria for its ongoing butchery and torture of its citizens, and during a time when Iran supports this carnage and also threatens – while it races to develop nuclear weapons – to annihilate Israel, all the church could concern itself within foreign affairs was to denounce the Jewish state. Psychiatry has a name for this – obsession.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

As reported in the *Toronto Star*, Bruce Gregersen, a United Church general council officer and spokesperson praised the church's decision while criticizing efforts to have it go the other way: "If there was any sense that all the [anti-report] lobbying was going to have an effect, the council made up its own mind, irrespective of the lobby," he said.

So "the [Jewish] lobby" was not going to have its way with the church.

How very brave.

* * *

One of the limitations of *According to Reports* is that since it's written a week before it appears in print, events may well outstrip what's been analyzed in it.

Given the speed of developments in Egypt, it's not surprising that this was the case in the Aug. 16 edition of *The CJN*. The column reported that Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi was under the gun for having cozied up with the Hamas leadership from Gaza just days before extremists from the coastal territory, under the watch of Hamas, made their way to Egypt's Sinai, where, on Aug. 5, they murdered 16 Egyptian border guards. The outrage was such that Morsi was warned against attending the guards' funerals.

The assumption at that time, in virtually all media circles reporting on these events, was that in the ongoing tussle between Morsi (together with the Muslim Brotherhood, to which he's connected) and the military, it's the military that would be strengthened at Morsi's expense.

Yet just a week later the same media were reporting the "shock" in Egypt when it was revealed that it was Morsi who had the upper hand after all. Which means the Brotherhood. What happened has been described as a "civilian counter-coup." Morsi dismissed Gen. Hussein Tantawi, head of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF), and Chief of Staff Sami Enan, and he also reversed an order previously issued by the SCAF that had severely limited his authority.

Morsi appointed Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, someone assumed to be sympathetic to the Brotherhood, as defence minister and head of the army. But it was the "civilian" Morsi who was clearly in charge and al-Sisi would be answering to him.

Still, with so much of the army brass, current and retired, heavily invested in a sizeable chunk of the economy (figures ranging up to 40 per cent have been cited frequently), it remains an open question about just how much Morsi plans to alter the deeper structure of the military, an institution that's highly respected by ordinary Egyptians.

What is also an open question is just how much power Morsi seeks. The Aug. 15 *Globe and Mail* carried a story by the *Associated Press*' Cairo-based Hamza Hendawi under a headline that pulled no punches: "In Egypt, signs point to tyranny retooled: New Islamist president grabs Mubarak-style powers."

Hendawi wrote that in addition to his shake-up of the military, Morsi has also "moved to silence influential critics in the media." He has replaced scores of editors with others more to his liking. "The question now is whether there is any institution in the country that can check the power of Morsi and the Brotherhood and stop them from taking over the nation's institutions and consolidating their grip."

Crucially, Hendawi observed that "there are fears Morsi and his fundamentalist group, the Muslim Brotherhood, could turn the clock back on the country's tumultuous shift to democratic rule and pursue their goal of someday turning the most populous Arab nation into an Islamic state."

*Paul Michaels is director of research and senior media relations for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

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# Book helps patients speak up for their own care

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

Lisa Newman is urging patients and their families to take charge of their own health care.

The co-author of *Journeys in Cancerland* with John-Peter Bradford, Newman, 67, is a psychiatric social worker who has spent much of her career working in hospitals.

But when her husband, David Greenspan, a Toronto lawyer, became ill – he died in 2005 – Newman, a mother and grandmother, learned about being on the consumer end of the health-care system.

"I knew so much about hospitals, but not what it was like to be on the other side," she said. "The whole health-care system wanted to make us scream. It is a provider-centred system that is not oriented for patients."

She said out to write a book, she said, because she wanted to help other families in similar circumstances.

The Patients' Association of Canada, a patient-led organization that believes the health-care system can be improved through patient participation, came on board. It published the book through its publishing arm, Health and Everything Publications.

Dr. Sholom Glouberman, an associate scientist at Baycrest's Kunin-Lunenfeld Research Unit and president of the association, says in the forward that both Newman and Bradford, who tells the story of his own illness, are excellent examples of how people have begun to take charge of their own care.

"The [book] is a practical and comprehensive guide that will be indispensible to all caregivers," Glouberman writes.

Newman said that her introduction to adult caregiving came about before her husband's illness, when her bedridden, elderly mother had trouble breathing.

Newman had a doctor come to the house, and he recommended taking her mother to the emergency room.

"Everything I knew about hospitals told me that whatever else was going to happen that night, Mom should not go to emergency, [where she could risk] infections, falls and worse."

She convinced the doctor to prescribe an antibiotic, she said, and her mother recovered.

She stresses in the book that the health-care system is not systematic at all. "It is really a very loose, complex, un-co-ordinated array of services, many of them unaware of one another."

For their loved ones to get the best care, she said, family members need to facilitate health-care professionals working together, especially if they're in different institutions.

"You are the expert on your loved one. Your information can shape the best decisions for their care."

An important thing to remember, she said, is that secretaries and clerks can be your best friends.

"They often have the power to influence your journey for better or for worse, including finding you an appointment time where none existed, facilitating your speaking to a doctor, or more. You score a lot of points by being courteous and respectful."

The health-care system, as it stands, is modeled on the military, with top-down orders, she said.

Lisa Newman

"We need a wind to blow through the system. People need to be empowered from the bottom up. They need to own their information, and they need to speak up and ask questions. Someone needs to speak from the patient's point of view."

Newman said that she and Bradford are similar in that they don't accept things without question.

"Both of us see better ways of doing things. You have to be alert at all times. Patients can't do it alone," she said.

"You can't count on the system to know your loved one like you do. Your presence is important."

The book is available online from Amazon and Indigo, as well as from the Patients' Association of Canada.

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# *HIV peptide could help treat cancer*

**Abigail Klein Leichman**
Israel21C

Could a protein encoded by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) provide a novel treatment for cancer?

A recently developed and patented product from the lab of Prof. Emeritus Moshe Kotler and Dr. Roni Nowarski at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School seems to do just that.

A peptide derived from the HIV "Vif" protein increases the vulnerability of cancer cells to radiation and chemotherapy, as Kotler and his four PhD and post-grad students describe in scientific detail in the new issue of the American Society of Hematology journal *Blood*.

Kotler's group investigates cellular proteins that are effective in combating the HIV-1 virus. One of these proteins is APOBEC3G (A3G for short), which is neutralized by Vif.

A couple of years ago, the researchers turned their attention to the physiological functions of A3G and found that it's involved in repairing DNA damage from radiation.

They discovered that not just the Vif protein, but also a small peptide derived from Vif inhibit A3G, keeping broken DNA strands from knitting themselves back together.

This is of significant interest to the war on cancer, because cancerous cells, such as lymphoma cells, can't be vanquished unless their DNA strands are broken apart. The reparative action of A3G makes this task tough, so inhibiting it is helpful.

# Circle of Care aided 450 survivors in last year

**Continued from page 3**

"Our core community that we are connected to both historically and culturally is the Jewish community," said Scheinert, adding that now Circle of Care has staff that speak multiple languages, including Russian, Hebrew, Spanish and Mandarin, to better serve Toronto's diverse population.

In the last year, Circle of Care has assisted some 450 Holocaust survivors. The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany helps fund Circle of Care services for survivors.

This year, in order to deal with growing demand, Circle of Care, which employs more than 525 staff and serves about 6,000 clients, moved into a large, modern office.

The new Yonge Street and York Mills Road location accommodates the staff on a single floor, in contrast to the previous location on Wilson Avenue, where the organization had three floors. Scheinert explained that the change allows employees to work more collaboratively.

Lisa Levin, Circle of Care's vice-president of communications and development, added that the collaborative model has also been carried through in the organization's operation. While in the past, people would phone in to separate departments to request either home-care services, meals on wheels or transportation, they now call a central phone number at which a staff member can inform them of the options available to them and help assess their needs. "If they need one [service], they often need another," Levin explained.

Circle of Care is planning to add a satellite office at the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus in Vaughan, Ont., in December to have better access to the growing senior community north of Toronto.

"The bottom line is you need to increase services," Levin said. In the last year alone, Circle of Care has seen a lot of growth in demand for their services: an 11 per cent growth in transportation services, nine per cent for meals on wheels, 14 per cent in home services and a three per cent growth in services for Holocaust survivors.

According to Arnold Foss, who works primarily with the survivors, the survivor population requiring services is increasing. "Those who were child survivors are beginning to age," he said.

For Scheinert and the Circle of Care team, being able to help seniors live well at home is of utmost importance. "The majority of older people can function at home provided they have the supports they need," he said.

He believes that Circle of Care's employees and many services are well prepared for the growing senior population. "We're very fortunate in putting all of those pieces together to give us [the organization] we have today."

For more information about Circle of Care, call 416-635-2860 and/or visit circleofcare.com.

**BLUE JAY THRILL: While visiting with Toronto relatives, brothers Matan, 13, left, and Alon Gavra, 11 from Givat Shmuel, Israel, along with their uncle Yaniv Gavra, got quite a thrill when they ran into baseball hall of famer Joe Carter while golfing at the Oakdale Golf and Country Club in Toronto. Carter helped the Toronto Blue Jays win the World Series in 1992 and again in 1993. The boys, grandsons of Cantor Eli Kirshblum of Adath Israel Congregation, had just come from a baseball game and were still wearing their Blue Jays hats.**

# Mazel Tov מזל טוב

Mazel tov to Adara Goldberg who received her PhD in Holocaust history from Clark University. Proud grandmother Jackie Rotblott, parents Sheri & David, husband Kevin Veltheer.

Mazel tov on the wedding of Hali Lieberman to Michael Sones on Aug. 12. Family and friends wish them much happiness n their future life together.

Mazel tov to Stephanie Wolkin & Sean Friedman on their recent marriage.

Mazel tov on the marriage of Rabbi Matisyahu Friedman to Chana Rivkah Moshiach. The wedding took place in Crown Heights N.Y.

Welcome Madison Jade! Proud parents Jordan & Erin Mizrahi. Grandparents, Karen & Nat Placey, Judy & Abe Mizrahi.

Mazel Tov from grandparents and great-grandparents to Michelle & Yaakov Gamliel of Bnei Brak, Israel, on the birth of Batsheva sister to Bracha Esther.

Email your digital photos to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click the "Family Moments"

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# What's New

By LILA BARICK

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**Deadline reminder: Aug. 27 is the deadline for the issue of Sept. 6. Aug. 31 is the deadline for the issue of Sept. 13. Please note holiday deadline. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or email whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Saturday, Aug. 25

**ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL**

**Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld** is the guest at the Orillia Country Shul, 151 Creighton St. S., Atherly, near Orillia. Services at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome. 705-327-7069.

**BETH TIKVAH TORAH CLASS**

**Irv Sherman** discusses the Torah portion, Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 9:45 a.m., 3080 Bayview Ave.

## Sunday, Aug. 26

**KAVANAH GARDEN RETREAT**

A workshop featuring yoga, meditation, drumming, Pilates, movement and drama will be held 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Shoresh's Kavanah Garden, 18 Lebovic Campus Dr., Vaughan. $100 (financial assistance available). To register: http://tolifetolife.eventbrite.com. For more info, send an email to: drjuliasegal@gmail.com.

**PJ LIBRARY STORY TIME**

PJ Library holds a story-time event, 10 a.m. at Wood Valley Park, 2 Marc Santi Blvd., Vaughan. In case of rain, the story time will move into the Schwartz/Reisman Centre. Free but registration required at the following website: www.pjlibrary905.ca.

**SHOFAR WORKSHOP**

**Rabbi Michal Shekel** presents a workshop on the shofar, 11 a.m., with a brunch following, Or Hadash Synagogue, Newmarket's liberal Jewish community, 451 Botsford St., Newmarket. 905-898-2220.

## Monday, Aug. 27

**JUMPSTART HEBREW**

JumpStart Hebrew is a program for children entering JK to Grade 2, Aug. 27-31 at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Children will be introduced to Hebrew through art, music and play. Email **Karen Goodis**, karen@bethsholom.net or www.bethsholom.net.

## Tuesday, Aug. 28

**TRIBUTE TO ROSENFARB**

A tribute to Yiddish novelist **Chava Rosenfarb** featuring **Theresa Tova** will be presented at Beth Emeth Synagogue, 7:30 p.m. www.yiddishvinkl.com.

**CONCERTS IN THE PARK**

Shul of Rock performs dynamic Jewish music at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre, in Earl Bales Park, 7 p.m. In case of rain, the performance moves to the Earl Bales Community Centre.

## Wednesday, Aug. 29

**DATING AFTER 50**

Author **Elaine Ruth Mitchell** discusses dating for people over 50, Barbara Frum Library, 2 p.m.

## Other News

**BAYT YOUTH FAIR**

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation holds a youth fair, **Sept. 9**. For booth applications, contact **Rich Winkler**, 905-886-3810, ext. 135, or www.bayt.ca.

**Continued on page 27**

# *Principal remembered as 'an uncommon woman'*

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

Robyn Shiner touched a diverse range of students, colleagues, friends and family members, as evidenced by the standing-room-only crowd of just over 1,000 people at her funeral last week.

The Toronto Jewish educator, who was just named general studies principal at Netivot HaTorah Day School in June, worked previously at Leo Baeck Day School, Bialik Hebrew Day School and Associated Hebrew Schools.

**Obituary**

She died Aug. 16 at Mount Sinai Hospital, 10 days after returning from a vacation with her husband, Mark, and learning that she had leukemia. She was 55 years old.

Reuven Stern, Netivot's head of school, told *The CJN* that Shiner was "a unique person, very committed to the field of education, very caring, giving... willing to go the extra mile for the student," in addition to mentoring new teachers, developing new curriculum and services, and being available to families.

Although Stern said it's not necessarily uncommon for a woman, particularly a non-Orthodox woman, to become principal of an Orthodox school, he said Shiner was "an uncommon woman" for her ability as a pedagogue and an administrator. She was well-liked and respected, he added.

"We all valued her opinion and looked toward her for her insights," he said. "She will be missed by everyone on staff."

Shiner had been at the school for 20 years, first as an employee of JVS working in special education. She served as general studies vice-principal for the past decade, and was originally hired as head of student support services (special education).

A graduate of the University of Ottawa, Shiner studied education there while Mark was in law school.

In an interview, her son, Daniel, called it "a beautiful juxtaposition" that his mother was inspired by big ideas and often stayed at work late to run meetings, while at the same time, she spent lunch hours eating with students and talking about their problems. "It's almost a snapshot of the type of person and educator she was."

Mark added that the lunches "gave her a real insight into the dynamics of being that age, and let her understand which children were in need.

**Robyn Shiner**

Family friend Peter Seligman – who knew Shiner for almost 40 years, since their high school days – described her in a eulogy as "a beautiful, elegant and gracious human being who shared her warmth, intellect and calm wisdom, providing a guiding light."

Only six weeks ago, he said, they went on "a hell of a hard seven-mile walk" – one of "countless" power walks – and she wanted to go farther.

Rabbi Michael Dolgin, also speaking at the funeral, said Shiner "was the type who somehow always got it right, never overstepping and never underachieving.

"It speaks volumes about how she transcended what so often divides people," he said, "that she's recognized as such a gifted part of the Netivot family."

The school encouraged her to study to qualify as a principal, and she took the course for Jewish school principals at York University the first year it was offered, he said. The following year, she was asked to teach it.

Rabbi Dolgin called Shiner a "gifted" educator, but he had even higher words of praise for her as a mother. "So many teenagers stop talking with their parents," he said. "It sounds like [daughter] Laura had to compete with her friends when she was a teenager to find time to talk to Robyn, because so many found her counsel so valuable."

Shiner leaves her husband Mark, daughter Laura and son Daniel, her parents Arnold Morrison and Wilma Morrison Friedman and their spouses, and her siblings Stephen, David and Lisa Morrison.

**Continued from page 26**

**THE CUTTING VEG**

The Cutting Veg delivers organic produce to Toronto-area synagogues. www.thecuttingveg.com/CSA; call 647-388-7444.

**THE SHIRA SINGERS**

The Shira Singers seek new members. **Yair**, 905-886-1755.

***STREETCAR SONGS***

*Tramway Lider – Streetcar Songs*, Yiddish poems by **Shimon Nepom**, set to music by **Charles Heller, Sept. 6**, noon at Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $18 (includes lunch). To RSVP, send an email to: yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca.

**FRIENDS OF YIDDISH**

Friends of Yiddish hold their annual breakfast **Sept. 9,** 10:30 a.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Cookbook author **Norene Gilletz** discusses "Sharing Food Memories." RSVP by Sept. 3 to **Sandy**, 416-736-8073, or email yiddish18@yahoo.ca.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Circle of Care needs drivers for kosher meals-on-wheels delivery and for visitors, especially people who speak Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian or Hungarian. **Lysa Springer**, 416-635-2500, ext. 486.

**REMEMBERING KASHRUT**

The Kashruth Council of Canada celebrates its 60th anniversary and is compiling a commemorative journal. If you have pictures, stories or recollections of kashrut in Toronto from the early years to share, call 416-635-9550 or info@cor.ca.

**MELTON MINI SCHOOL**

Melton Adult Mini School offers continuing-education classes for students who have taken the core courses and for new students. The Haggadah: An Exploration of its Key Themes and The Supernatural and Superstition will be taught Wednesday mornings, starting Oct. 17. Call 416-789-7400.

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Torah Tots at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham is open for fall registration. 905-886-0420, ext. 227.

Temple Sinai Nursery School is holding an open house **Sept. 6,** 5:30 p.m., with bouncy castle, pizza dinner and games. RSVP 416-487-3291 or www.templesinai.net/study/nursery.

**HIGH HOLIDAY TICKETS**

High Holiday tickets for services at Shaar Shalom are available to the public. Call 905-889-4975.

Chabad of Markham is offering tickets for non-members. Call 905-886-0420, ext. 221.

**YIDDISH CLASSES**

Yiddish classes will be offered at Beth David Synagogue Sunday mornings, starting **Sept. 23**. Call **Ester Klimitz**, 416-635-2883, ext. 5189; committeeforyiddish@ujafed.org.

## JF&CS GROUPS

**BEREAVED PARENTS**

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Association of Jewish Seniors** presents **Stephen Adler,** Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, discussing "The Current Political Climate," **Aug. 30,** 9:30 a.m., Shaarei Shomayim. RSVP, **Tammy**, 416-635-2900, ext. 458.

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park.** (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. The clubhouse is temporarily closed for renovations; all activities in the Earl Bales Community Centre. Casino Rama, Sept. 19. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m. first class free; Wednesdays, social bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts. Call **Morty**, 416-783-6078, 416-630-6487.

**Seniors Social Club** presents **Judy Weisberg** discussing Israel, **Sept. 9,** 7 p.m. RSVP: **Sandy**, 416-736-8073 or 416-458-1440.

**The Bridge Club** at Forest Hill Library is seeking new members. Call **Lea** (evenings), 416-487-7630.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Active Seniors & Boomers, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. Sept. 6, **Iain Scott** discusses the Metropolitan Opera, 1:30 p.m. Opera series begins Oct. 16.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526, **Colin Blayney.** Join **Josh Matlow** Sept. 5 at 8 a.m. for the launch of a month of free events: walking tours, fitness classes and speakers.

**The Sunday Nighters**, a social group for seniors, begins Sept. 9. Couples and singles welcome. Call **Al Federman**, 416-635-0563, or **Hanita Chencinski**, 416-922-1400.

**Circle of Care/Baycrest** has some spaces at its day centre for seniors with dementia. Meals and transportation provided. Call 416-635-2860.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

**Kevin Courrier** teaches a course on "Love and Hisses: Debating the Movies," Aug. 29.

Drop-in duplicate bridge, Thursdays 12:30-3:30 p.m. Current events discussion, Thursdays, 12:45 p.m.

Treasures in Jewish literature, books are available for loan for the next series. **Nick Maes** reviews *City of Thieves* Sept. 11.

The best of Hebrew University's thinkers – keynote speaker **Elie Podeh** discusses "The Arab Revolutions: Between Spring and Winter," Sept. 6. Register at www.registerhebrewu.com.

Open house will be held Sept. 10-12.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

The adult daytime choir runs Tuesdays 1 p.m. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

*Kids Who Can*, photos by 13 photographers from Easter Seals summer camps is at the gallery until Sept. 9.

Miles Nadal JCC holds an open house Sept. 5, 12-8 p.m. Free fitness demos, activities for kids and tours.

Ongoing group and private swim lessons, ext. 530 or email: aquatics@mnjcc.org.

Personal training for youths and adults, ext. 506; jasone@mnjcc.org.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

## SCHWARTZ REISMAN CENTRE

9600 Bathurst St., Vaughan. 905-303-1821. www.srcentre.ca.

NCSY hosts a Shabbat party Aug. 24, 5:30 p.m. with songs and crafts for all.

The daycare is still accepting registrations.

Save the date: Sept. 9, the best of Hebrew University's thinkers speak at the centre. www.registerhebrewu.com.

Open house, Sept. 10-12.

**REMEMBERING WALLENBERG: Raoul Wallenberg's 100th birthday was recently observed at his memorial in Earl Bales Park in Toronto. Wallenberg is the Swedish diplomat who helped save tens of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. From left are Goldi Steiner, chair of the Raoul Wallenberg memorial committee; Lars Henriksson, honorary consul of Sweden, and Rev. Anna Runesson, pastor at the Swedish Lutheran Church in Toronto.**

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# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

**BENJAMIN'S** PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sari Jolson | Aug | 3/12 | 15 Canyon Avenue |
| Sunny Brass | Aug | 3/12 | 1210 Don Mills Road |
| Beatrice Rybowski | Aug | 2/12 | 55 Kenton Drive |
| Richard Bain | Aug | 4/12 | 406 Vesta Drive |
| Libby Naiman | Aug | 5/12 | 342 Spadina Road |
| Lana Sniderman | Aug | 4/12 | 37 Park Lane Circle |
| Karl Winer | Aug | 4/12 | 323 Mutual Street |
| Graciela Neufeld | Aug | 6/12 | 581 Cummer Avenue |
| Anne Harris | Aug | 3/12 | 605 Finch Avenue West |
| Agnes Klein | Aug | 5/12 | 6 Oxbow Road |
| Madeleine Klarer | Aug | 4/12 | 85 King Street East |
| Shirley Nash | Aug | 6/12 | 150 Balmoral Avenue |
| Jack Silverberg | Aug | 7/12 | 7601 Bathurst Street |
| Ann Cronsilver | Aug | 5/12 | 25 Brunswick Avenue |
| Gerald (Gerry) Gringorte | Aug | 8/12 | 77 Colin Avenue |
| Beatie (Mary) Foot | Aug | 9/12 | 4 Lombardy Lane |
| Lillian Burke | Aug | 9/12 | 9 Carriage Lane |
| Estelle Grosberg | Aug | 9/12 | 205 Cummer Avenue |
| Sharon Sutton | Aug | 10/12 | 6 Denlow Blvd. |
| Norman Zaltz | Aug | 11/12 | 278 Bloor Street East |

Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Guttmann, Sheila Thelma | July 28/12 | 23 Franklin Ave |
| Kharlip, Yefim | July 29/12 | Private |
| Timerman, Genrich | July 30/12 | Private |
| Goldstone, Harry | July 31/12 | 260 Maxwell St |
| Shnaider, Nicolay | Aug. 2/12 | Private |
| Vayner, Etia | Aug. 2/12 | Private |
| Zimmerman, Lillian | Aug. 3/12 | 484 Steeles Ave. W |
| Stoll, Fred Sidney | Aug. 3/12 | 343 Clark Ave. W |
| Vaisberg, Ida | Aug. 4/12 | |
| Zuckernick, Frank | Aug. 3/12 | 55 Ameer Rd |
| Mogilevsky, Mikhail | Aug. 5/12 | 54 Michael Crt |
| Miller-Cechanowicka, Enriqeta | Aug. 5/12 | Private |
| Turk, Lina | Aug. 6/12 | 1 Clark Ave. W |
| Fridman, Barbara | Aug. 7/12 | 58 Marathon Cres |
| Harris, Isadore (Binky) | Aug. 8/12 | 299 Mill Rd |
| Weltman, (Maxwell) Mac | Aug. 8/12 | 7420 Bathurst St |
| Vaisman, Rica | Aug. 8/12 | Private |

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**ESTELLE POLLOCK** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, August 26th at 10:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
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We thank all of our family and friends for their support. May the memory of Amanda - our daughter, sister, granddaughter, aunt, cousin and friend live on forever.

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**BARRY SHORT** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, Aug 26th at 11:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Chaim Cemetery**
11818 Bathurst Street
Section BH6
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

# Long-time caterer loved a celebration

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

Euclides (Bill) Batista, who died suddenly on Aug. 10 at age 67, is remembered for always loving a celebration.

A caterer with Caterers York for more than 40 years, he worked closely with the Jewish community, catering private kosher functions and holiday meals, as well as serving Adath Israel, Beth Tikvah, Beth Sholom and Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am synagogues.

His son, Christopher, 37, said that his father, who as born in Portugal and came here as a teenager, loved to help his clients celebrate their life milestones.

Batista, who worked full time until the day he died, started his career at Beth Tzedec Congregation as a dishwasher, where he worked for Mickey Firestone, the synagogue's caterer. He worked his way up in the company, and in the late 1980s, Batista became "the face" of Caterers York. He collaborated closely with his chefs to develop innovative and traditional kosher cuisine.

**Euclides (Bill) Batista seen here in file photo**

He was a business and life partner of Mickey's daughter, Sharon Firestone, until her death in 2008.

"Catering was my father's life. Other than golfing, his personal life was his job, and he worked every day non-stop. He catered or he golfed. If he wasn't feeding people, he was golfing," said Batista.

"He had a work ethic like no other man. He was dependable, loyal and honest, and treated everyone equally from the dishwasher to the head chef," he said.

Bernie Rabinovitch, executive director of Adath Israel Synagogue, who worked with Batista since 2007, called him an extraordinary worker. "Needless to say, being in the business from his late teens, he knew the laws of kashrut inside out."

Moishe Brown, Caterers York executive chef and Batista's business partner, said Batista was dedicated to serving the Jewish community. "The High Holiday season is not going to be the same without him."

Batista was the son of Antonio and the late Ilda Batista, father and father-in-law of Natalie and Andrew Miller, and Christopher and Candice, and grandfather of Nicholas, Colin and Cameron Miller.

A memorial gathering was held on Aug. 16 at the Morley Bedford Funeral Home in Toronto.

# Shabbat in Oswiecim 'meaningful': student

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

University of Toronto PhD student Caroline Cormier, one of 10 students who spent three weeks on a Holocaust education program to Poland, said that as a member of the last generation who'll be able to hear Holocaust testimony first-hand, she feels an obligation to keep the memory alive.

The 26-year-old history and Jewish studies student was selected by the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation (AJCF) to take part in the fully subsidized program funded by private donors and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

In addition to visiting Nazi concentration camps in Poland and hearing testimony from Holocaust survivors, the program, which began in New York City on July 1, included visits to Krakow, Warsaw, Auschwitz and Lodz.

The group explored Poland's rich Jewish heritage, and met with local Jewish and non-Jewish leaders to learn about prewar Jewish life and the Jewish community in Poland today.

"We are the last [generation] to be able to meet with survivors and hear their stories," said Cormier, whose research includes examining how collective and individual memories of extreme violence and trauma are presented in commemoration projects.

"We are the ones who have been entrusted to continue to share these stories and, in doing so, ensuring that the world can't either deny the Holocaust or allow it to become simply another footnote in our history textbooks."

Cormier's interest in studying the Holocaust and other genocides dates back to her days as a Queen's University undergraduate student.

After hearing the testimony of a Rwandan genocide survivor at a conference, she became involved with

Caroline Cormier

STAND Canada, a student-led organization that advocates for the victims of the genocide in Darfur.

"At the same time, I began working with an organization called SHOUT Canada, a student group under the umbrella of the Canadian Center for Diversity, which was committed to educating students about the Holocaust," Cormier said.

In 2008, she participated in the March of Remembrance and Hope program, which educates students about the Holocaust and the dangers of intolerance, taking them on trips to Germany and Poland.

Cormier is also involved in the Azrieli Foundation's Sustaining Memoirs Project, which aims to record Holocaust survivors' testimony.

With all her background knowledge on the subject, Cormier still credits the AJCF trip for providing her with an experience that will help her "advocate for those people in our world whose lives continue to be affected by the horrors of genocide today."

While the trip was based around a horrific historical event, she learned that Poland should not be defined solely by its dark past.

"It was inspiring to see the ways in which non-Jewish Poles have taken responsibility for the past and the ways in which they are trying to preserve the Jewish past," Cormier said.

"We visited Bedzin where we met with... a young couple who have... fought to preserve a former private shul and a beit midrash in the city, as well as developed a number of public commemoration projects, which they have incorporated into the city landscape."

She said there were countless other examples of Polish groups that are dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Jewish landmarks.

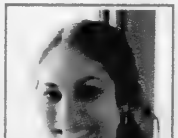
She said before they arrived in Oswiecim, which is a town just a few kilometres from the Auschwitz death camp, "I have to admit that I had a hard time thinking about the place in terms other than death and horror."

Cormier explained that before 1939, the 400-year-old Jewish community made up more than half of the population.

"Today the only traces of the Jewish community in the town is an empty lot where the Great Synagogue used to stand tall, a small cemetery located at the edge of the town and a small shul preserved by the Auschwitz Jewish Center," she said.

"For this reason, our celebration of Shabbat in Oswiecim was incredibly meaningful... Lighting candles on Friday night and... sitting down to dinner with a group of students from across North America – both Jewish and non-Jewish – reminded me of the fact that life goes on."

# *Writing can be a powerful tool*



***Campus Life***

***Jessica Pollock***

As my yearlong position as *The CJN*'s campus columnist nears its end, I cannot help but reflect on my term. As a columnist, I was given the opportunity to learn about a plethora of people and discuss topics such as Israel's branding initiatives, different interfaith projects, the value of Holocaust education and even about Igbo Jews in Nigeria. After much thought about how to best sign off, I decided to compile a list of the top 10 things I have realized over the past year.

1) Judaism is truly a remarkable religion and the State of Israel is indispensable to Jews throughout the world, whether you support it or not. Though I can't say I'm an expert on Buddhism or Jainism or Christianity, I can say, through my experience that the Jewish community is tight-knit, generous, caring and genuine. Due to our unique history during which we faced oppression, slavery, genocide, abuse, ill treatment and other similar disasters, we have been able to rise up stronger and more unified than ever.

2) There is a phrase that goes as follows: "A barking dog is more useful than a sleeping lion." Find your passion, commit to it, act on it and be prepared to defend it. My passion lies in the future of our Jewish community. In other words, as my mom always says to me and I will now relay to you, go and be fabulous in everything and anything that you do.

3) Sometimes subjects or issues that may interest you may not interest those around you. Do not be discouraged! Nonetheless, associating yourself with others who are like-minded can be quite inspiring.

4) My dad said in his speech at my bat mitzvah almost eight years ago: "Do not go to where the path may lead. Instead, go to where there is no path and lead a trail." I truly think this mantra is applicable to anyone in any walk of life. Never be meek. Always be bold.

5) Never brush away opportunities as they may come. Every action has a reaction, and some opportunities arrive in interesting ways and during the most unsuspecting of times.

6) Not everyone will always agree with your opinions, but welcome criticism and judgment with respect and an open mind.

7) One of the best feelings is watching your hard work come to fruition. Seeing any project become and be successful is highly rewarding.

8) Some of the best lessons are learned outside of the classroom. I enjoy school and academia, but I know that authentic tests stretch far beyond exams and some of the most intelligent individuals are not professors and may not possess PhDs.

9) Know that success is not predicated on luck. Rather, the recipe for success requires additional ingredients such as hard work, determination, confidence and persistence.

10) I recently came across an excellent quote by Benjamin Franklin that I thought would be fitting to wrap up my list. He said, "Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing." Words to definitely live by.

During the year, I have learned that writing can be a powerful tool. It can untangle complex ideas and insights, tell stories, solve mundane problems and even evoke change. Writing, in my view, is one of the purest forms of expression, and I am humbled to have been given the chance to communicate with you. I bid farewell, with gratitude for this special opportunity.

It is absolutely imperative that Jewish students continue to be given means and opportunities, such as the one I was fortunately provided with, to safeguard the name of our indispensable State of Israel, preserve our vital Jewish values and customs and comment on vital issues of the day through the paramount vehicle of the written word.

# *Toronto chef's insights on sous-vide cooking*

**Jennifer M. MacLeod**
Special to the CJN

Chef Yehuda Goldberg is bringing insights gained in high-end kitchens in Europe and Toronto to the world of Jewish cuisine. And in sous-vide cooking, he believes he's found just the tool to do it.

"I've been cooking professionally about seven years now," says Goldberg, a Red Seal-certified chef (an interprovincial apprenticeship-based certification in various trades). His professional career began with Menchen's Catering, and his path has taken several twists and turns before ending up right around the corner, so to speak, at Lechaim Catering in Toronto.

A year in Europe, including a meeting with legendary chef Paul Bocuse and a *stage* (apprenticeship) at Le Bistrot de Lyon, in Lyon, France, awakened him to a less stressful approach. On cooking shows, we see a bit of what goes on in kitchens: abuse, anger, stress. In Europe, it's different. "Yes, people are screaming," says Goldberg, "but it's not the angry screaming you see in North America."

"I run my kitchens the way we did when I was a cook in Europe… in a calmer fashion." This lets cooks be "more careful about their work, show more respect for their food, for the dishes," driven by pride in their accomplishments and creativity.

Returning to Toronto, Goldberg became executive chef for a non-kosher "gastro pub" that received media attention last year around the fact that its innovative young chef came from a family of Lubavitcher Chassidim. Now, however, he's "made a conscious decision to move into a kosher setting."

Goldberg says he's "respectful" of his family's traditions, though he doesn't practise the same way. However, he and his wife do keep kosher at home, where he explores new ways to bring kosher food into the 21st century.

"I get very excited about sous-vide cooking," says Goldberg. Literally, "under vacuum," sous vide involves cooking food in vacuum-sealed (food-safe) plastic bags, immersed in a low-temperature water bath. Cooking times are generally longer: duck could take up to six hours to reach medium-rare doneness, and 72 hours is not unheard of. Even a chicken breast might take an hour at 140 degrees.

"Who cooks chicken for an hour?" Goldberg asks rhetorically. "Usually, you're going to overcook it… dry heat dries out the meat." Yet, prepared sous vide, it's "just so moist and delicious." Within the bag, Goldberg might add a bit of garlic confit, garlic oil and just a bit of white wine. Not much is needed because seasonings maintain constant contact with the food.

Inside, sous-vide-cooked meat is completely uniform. "With steak on the barbecue, the outside is well done, slightly underneath is medium-well, and you hope the centre is going to be medium-rare, perfect, the way you want it." With sous vide, "the entire steak is medium-rare."

Meat is seared quickly before serving, since "you're not going to get any colour in the bag." Searing "brings the sugars back to the outside," adding colour and a delightful exterior texture.

Until recently, sous-vide equipment was only available for commercial kitchens. However, a line of smaller machines, which take up only the space of a breadmaker, is now available. It's perfect for busy people. "Put something in in the morning, come

Yehuda Goldberg

home, open the bag, sear it and it's dinner." You can even marinate meat for a couple of days in the bag for extra flavour.

Overcooking is nearly impossible. "The gentle massaging of the water around the meat keeps the temperature consistent." Meat isn't the only food that can be prepared to perfection. Vegetables emerge not just tasty, but vibrantly colourful, since the cooking process is gentle. Even a simple preparation – carrots with a bit of butter – can open new worlds of flavour and texture.

Though still rare, sous vide is appearing in more high-end kitchens, and Goldberg believes it could make a world of difference in kosher catering, though Lechaim isn't currently using it. "For Jewish weddings, [you could make] really nice garnishes for the plates, they can go out… like a five-star kind of dish."

The quantity of food is limited only on the water-bath size, which ranges from 10 litres (a small home machine) to 50 quarts (about 200 litres). Bags range from individual sizes to one that holds 40 chicken pieces, and can even be reused – cut down smaller and resealed. Plus, the underwater cooking is more efficient than a comparable braising time using electricity or gas, so the cost can be much lower. "It costs less than turning on your oven," to create "a healthier meal: less salt or additives."

Whether cooking sous vide or the old-fashioned way, Goldberg sees food trends moving towards slower food and "family-style" comfort food. "Making a nice big pot of something and everybody enjoys it."

In his own French cooking classes, participants often leave saying, "Oh, that was so easy to make." "Chefs on TV try to show how high they can build a tower on the plate, how elaborate they can make it… [but] really, it's all about simplicity."

As for kosher cuisine, it's catching up. Saying that food is kosher can't be an excuse for second-rate dishes. "The limitations are very small… As I can see in New York and California, kosher food is really pretty close to, or on par with, the non-kosher restaurants."

But he says we need more respect between restaurant owners and customers. "The Jewish community has to support kosher establishments better." Toronto Jews must give new restaurants a chance, but in return, he says that "owners cannot gouge customers by charging $50 a steak when it cost them $6." He hopes we'll see more chef-owned kosher restaurants, as these have the best chance of succeeding.

"I've worked with Michelin star chefs, some of the greatest chefs in the world… you can do those kind of things kosher, too. Just give somebody the chance."

# Tzimmes as a side dish has many variations

**Eileen Goltz**
Special to The CJN

One of the best side dishes for a Shabbat dinner – or almost any other meal – is tzimmes. Usually a baked stew of carrots, potatoes, sometimes meat, and often with dried fruit like prunes, tzimmes has as many incarnations and varieties of ingredients as there were countries Jews lived in.

The following recipes have been shared with me by readers, family and friends.

### POTATO TZIMMES

2 lb. large carrots, peeled and cut into 1-in. slices
2 lb. sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-in. cubes
2 lb. white potatoes (any work fine, I use russet), peeled and cut into 1-in. cubes
5 cups water
1 cup coarsely chopped prunes
1/4 cup honey
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1/4 tsp. cinnamon
1 large lemon's rind, finely grated
1 cup water
1 tbsp. butter or margarine

Preheat the oven to 350. Cook the carrots in boiling water for 5 minutes. Then add all of the potatoes to the pot and boil for an additional 5 minutes.

At this point, the vegetables will barely seem tender – don't worry. Drain the potatoes and carrots well. Add the prunes, honey, nutmeg, cinnamon, lemon rind and 1 cup of water. Pour the mixture this into a greased 3-qt. baking dish (should be shallow, not deep).

Dot the top with the butter or margarine. Bake for 1/2 hour. If you see it is browning, cover it loosely with aluminum foil. Serves 8 to 10.

### APPLE VEGETABLE TZIMMES

6 cups raw sweet potatoes, peeled and sliced
6 cups sliced, unpeeled cooking apples
1 1/2 cups carrots, peeled, sliced
1 cup small pitted prunes, cut in half
2 tsp. grated orange peel
1/4 cup unsweetened orange juice
1/4 cup honey (optional)
2 tbsp. light brown sugar
pinch of cinnamon
pinch of ground ginger

Preheat oven to 350. Coat a 9x13-in. baking pan with a non-stick spray. Layer half of the potatoes in the bottom of the pan, overlapping the edges. Repeat with half of the apples then spread half of the carrots and prunes over the top. Repeat layers. In a bowl combine the orange peel, orange juice, honey, brown sugar, cinnamon and ginger and mix well. Drizzle the sauce evenly over the top and then tilt the pan to make sure it covers all the layers. Cover tightly with a sheet of aluminum foil. Pierce with 8-10 one-inch slits so steam can vent. Bake for 1 to 1-1/2 hours or until dish is steamed and tender. Serves 10 to 12.

### BARLEY APRICOT TZIMMES

4 cups water, boiling
3/4 cup dried apricot
1 cup egg barley
1/2 cup honey
1/4 cup oil
1 tsp. salt

In a pot, pour boiling water over the apricots; cover and soak for 1 hour. Place the pot over medium heat and bring to a boil. Stir in egg barley, honey, oil and salt. Pour into a 2-quart casserole. Bake, covered, at 375 for 45 minutes; uncover and bake another 15 minutes. Serve warm. Serves 6.

# Holiday Food Ideas

## Symbolism and family traditions

*Editorial*

Even as the summer lingers, Jews around the world begin to think about the High Holidays, which begin with Rosh Hashanah on the first two days of Tishrei, and culminate with Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

The holidays are a time of introspection. We take stock of our past year, repent for our sins, and become joyous as we look forward to starting the new year with a clean slate.

We also look forward to getting together with family and friends and celebrating the holidays at dining room tables laden with our favourite foods, those that are symbolic of the season and those that are traditional to each family.

Best-known of the symbolic holiday foods are apples and honey, and dishes, from appetizers to desserts, that incorporate these two favourite ingredients.

There are, however, a host of other foods that remind us that this is the time to pray for a happy and blessed new year.

We eat circular challahs, which represent the unending circle of life, but we avoid nuts, because the Hebrew word for nut has the same numerical value as the word for sin.

Some families eat fish as a reminder to be fruitful, because fish multiply in great numbers. Others eat leeks or cabbage because these vegetables are known as karsi, related to the word karet, to cut off or destroy. This represents our desire that our enemies be destroyed.

No matter what our family traditions are, we prepare the holiday meals keeping in mind the symbolism and our family's tastes.

In the upcoming food supplements, we have attempted to bring you recipes that incorporate the holiday's traditions. Our hope is that you will find some dishes that you can add to your family's favourites.

From all of us at *The CJN*, we wish you happy cooking, and most of all, a Shanah Tovah.

— *CB*

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A Jewish Response to Hunger – Une réponse juive à la faim

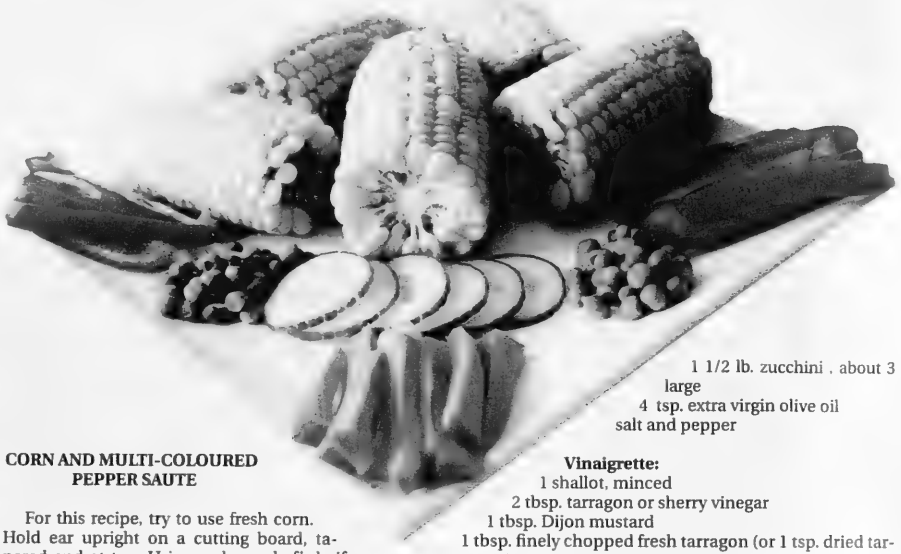
# Veggies to add colour and flavour

**Daphna Rabinovitch**
Special to The CJN

Rosh Hashanah typically falls smack dab in the middle of Canadian Indian summer. So, if the scads of apples and the promise of bowls flowing with honey are not enough to make you smile and inspire your holiday meal, then all you have to do is cast a glance at the huge variety of still in season produce to whet your appetite.

Zucchini threatens to overwhelm our gardens, tomatoes still beckon with their sweet aroma, and a rainbow of sweet peppers vie for our attention. And that's just a small example of the largesse that we can find at our local grocery and produce stores.

For your special Rosh Hashanah meals this year, I've put together a small collection of colourful and incredibly easy but lip-smacking delicious vegetable recipes. They use only a few of the vegetables that this season boasts, but I'm confident that they will please adventurous and picky palates alike.



**CORN AND MULTI-COLOURED PEPPER SAUTE**

For this recipe, try to use fresh corn. Hold ear upright on a cutting board, tapered end at top. Using a sharp chef's knife, cut through the kernels to remove. Depending on the size of corn you choose, you will need anywhere from 3 to 5 ears of corn to yield three cups of kernels.

2 tbsp. olive oil
1 small onion, thinly sliced
3 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/3 cup chicken stock
3 cups fresh corn kernels
1 each sweet red, green and orange pepper, trimmed, seeded and julienned
1/4 cup chopped fresh basil

Heat oil in non-stick skillet set over medium heat. Add onion and garlic; cook, stirring, for 3 minutes or until onion is softened. Stir in salt and pepper for 30 seconds. Pour in chicken stock; bring to a boil over medium high heat. Add corn and sweet peppers, Cook, stirring, for 5 to 7 minutes or until vegetables are tender crisp. Stir in basil. Season to taste with more salt and pepper if desired. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

**SAUTEED ZUCCHINI WITH MUSTARD TARRAGON VINAIGRETTE**

This side dish is served hot or at room temperature

1 1/2 lb. zucchini , about 3 large
4 tsp. extra virgin olive oil
salt and pepper

**Vinaigrette:**
1 shallot, minced
2 tbsp. tarragon or sherry vinegar
1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh tarragon (or 1 tsp. dried tarragon)
1/4 tsp. each salt and pepper
5 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

**Vinaigrette:** In small bowl or glass measure, combine shallot, vinegar, mustard, tarragon, salt and pepper. In a thin gradual stream, slowly whisk in olive oil until emulsified. (Vinaigrette can be refrigerated in an airtight container for up to 5 days. Rewhisk to combine)

Trim ends of zucchini. Cut into thirds crosswise. Cut each third lengthwise into 4 pieces. Cut each piece lengthwise into 4 rectangles.

Heat oil in large skillet set over medium-high heat. Add zucchini and season lightly with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring often, for 5 to 7 minutes or until softened and starting to turn golden. Transfer to serving bowl or platter. Drizzle with vinaigrette. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

**BROCCOLI RAAB WITH LEMON AND GARLIC**

Be sure to blanche the broccoli raab first or it may seem bitter.

1 lb. broccoli raab (rapini), rinsed, trimmed and cut crosswise into large pieces
3 tbsp. olive oil
3 large cloves garlic, minced
1 tbsp. finely grated lemon rind
1/4 tsp. each salt and pepper
2 tbsp. lemon juice
1/4 cup chopped, peeled and toasted hazelnuts (optional)

In large pot of boiling, lightly salted water, cook broccoli raab for 2 minutes. Drain immediately; rinse under cold running water. Drain well. (Broccoli raab can be covered lightly and refrigerated for up to 24 hours. Bring to room temperature before continuing.)

Heat oil in large non-stick skillet set over medium-low. Add garlic; cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Stir in lemon zest, salt and pepper. Add broccoli raab, stirring until well coated. Increase heat to medium-high. Cook, stirring constantly, for about 3 minutes or until heated through. Transfer to serving bowl or platter. Drizzle lemon juice over. Sprinkle with hazelnuts, if using. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

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# Sweeten your challah with honey, apples or raisins

**Sue Epstein**
Special to The CJN

In Judaism there is a lot of symbolism in many of the foods we eat. The Talmud tells us that God braided Eve's hair for her marriage to Adam, and therefore we braid our Sabbath challah. On Rosh Hashanah we traditionally make our challahs round, symbolizing the continuing cycle of the year and also the crown of God.

We also make our challah sweeter than usual at this time to symbolize the hope for a sweet new year. Many people add raisins or apples and use honey instead of sugar in the Rosh Hashanah challah.

If you have a favourite challah recipe, you can use it as a basis for a special holiday challah. If you generally use sugar in the dough, substitute honey, measure for measure, and you can add extra honey to make your dough sweeter. If you want to add raisins or apples, there are two ways to do it. First, mix together the following: 1 peeled apple, diced into small pieces, 1 tablespoon sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon and a dash of nutmeg.

### AMY'S ULTIMATE CHALLAH

If you like a very rich challah, this is the recipe for you.

2 1/4 cups warm water
2 1/4 sticks margarine, melted
3 eggs
3 egg whites
1 tbsp. vanilla
1 1/2 cups honey or sugar
1 tbsp. salt
12 cups bread flour
3 tbsp. yeast

Mix ingredients together well and knead, either by hand or in a stand mixer, until smooth and elastic. Place in a greased bowl and let rise, covered, for 1-1/2 hours or until dough has doubled in size. Punch down dough and remove from bowl onto a lightly floured counter. Braid it and let rise again 1/2 hour. Brush with egg wash and bake in a preheated oven at 300° for 25-30 minutes. Makes 3 large challahs or 6 small ones.

### BASIC CHALLAH

This makes a very fluffy challah.
1 1/4 cups water
1 tbsp. active dry or instant yeast
3 tbsp. honey
3 eggs + 1 egg for wash
1/2 cup canola or vegetable oil
6 cups bread flour
2 tsp. salt
sesame or poppy seeds or cinnamon sugar for topping (optional)

Place very warm but not hot water in mixing bowl. Add yeast and honey, mixing lightly. Allow to sit for 10 minutes or so – I usually do less – until you see little eruptions. Add eggs and oil and mix with wooden spoon.

If you have a stand mixer, add flour and salt and beat with dough hook. Remember: salt kills yeast. Don't put the salt in with the yeast. Wait until you've added some of the flour.

If the dough is not holding together as a ball, add a bit more oil or water. If the dough is very sticky, add more flour. The dough is ready when it sticks together as a ball and is not sticky to the touch when you poke your finger in (5-10 minutes of beating). Turn the ball out onto a floured work surface and punch a few times until very smooth.

Place in oiled bowl and cover with plastic wrap or a towel. Allow to rise at least one hour, preferably more, until dough has doubled in size. I only do one rise as a ball, but you can do more. I'm not convinced it does much to the texture but some people swear by it.

Punch down the ball in the bowl and remove. Punch out all air bubbles. Braid in your preferred method. Allow to rise 20-30 minutes. Top with an egg wash (I use the whole egg) and sesame or poppy seeds if you like.

Bake at 350 for 25-30 minutes. I like to use a meat thermometer to test for doneness. Challah will be perfectly baked at 190 degrees F. You can always add foil if the top seems as if it's browning too fast. Makes 2 medium loaves.

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Choose 1: Garlic mashed potatoes with caramelized onions, herb roasted mini potatoes or Parisienne potatoes.

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TIP Fresh fruit platters, cupcakes and dessert trays are also available. Ask your consultant for details.

# Fruit and other specialties for the new year

**Beverly Levitt**
Special to The CJN

Eating unfamiliar fruits at Rosh Hashanah is a favourite custom for many.

Rabbi Mordecai Finley, co-founder with his wife, Meirav Finley, of Temple Ohr Ha Torah in Los Angeles, Calif., says he was delighted the first time he saw this practice.

"My rabbi's wife put out a platter of kumquats, loquats, kiwis and fruits I don't even remember the names of – and we all excitedly sampled them," he said.

The eating of sweet fruits signifies the wish for a sweet New Year.

On Rosh Hashanah, we dip apples and challah into honey. Dried fruit, sugar and honey are used to sweeten traditional dishes including entrees, vegetables, salads and desserts. The challah is round instead of loaf-shaped to symbolize no beginning and no end. Raisins are added for additional sweetness.

Meirav Shevah Finley learned to cook from her Yemenite grandmother. "Whenever I walked into her kitchen, the aromas were so strong, her personality seemed intertwined with the food. Today, whenever I make one of her dishes, I feel her right there in the kitchen with me. Since Grandma later moved to Israel via Egypt, my mother was French and I was brought up in Israel, you could say my cooking is multicultural."

### S'CHUG
*From Meirav Shevah Finley*

Reminiscent of Japanese wasabi, this pungent paste punctuates a plethora of Yemenite dishes. It is served in small, individual bowls or to decorate the corner of a dinner plate. Go lightly at first, Meirav warns. It's quite spicy Her grandmother made s'chug by rubbing the ingredients between 2 stones. As a concession to

modern times, Meirav uses a food processor. Wear rubber gloves when working with peppers or their juice will get under your skin.

7-8 bunches cilantro, with all but two in. of stem included
15 to 20 garlic cloves, peeled
1 tbsp. ground cumin
1/2 tsp. black pepper
1/2 tsp. saffron threads
2 small hot red peppers, quartered, seeded and tops removed
2 small hot green peppers, quartered, seeded and tops removed

Place cilantro, garlic, cumin, pepper and saffron in food processor. Whir for one minute. Add peppers and process until smooth. Makes 2 cups.

### EGYPTIAN FISH
*From Meirav Shevah Finley*

This is her grandmother's favourite dish. It is best prepared with boned carp and whitefish, but whitefish alone is fine.

20 cloves garlic, mashed
olive oil as needed for sautéing
2 lb. tomatoes, peeled and chopped
kosher salt to taste
pinch of cayenne
1 tsp. sugar
splash of white wine vinegar
pinch of saffron
2 medium fish (carp and whitefish) skin intact, cut crosswise into 1-in. pieces
4 bunches cilantro leaves, chopped
1 cup mint leaves, chopped

In a deep frying pan over medium-high heat, sauté garlic in olive oil. When golden, add tomatoes, salt, cayenne, sugar, vinegar and saffron. Cook for 45 minutes. Place fish in sauce, skin sideways, so pieces are touching each other, along with cilantro and mint. Cook 40 minutes longer, or until tender. This dish is traditionally served cold, but it is delicious hot. Makes 6 servings.

### MIDDLE EASTERN SALAD

This salad is served all over the Middle East. Although we often call it Israeli Salad, it originated with the Arabs.

6 tomatoes, chopped coarsely
3 cucumbers, peeled, chopped coarsely
1 yellow or red onion, chopped coarsely
1/2 cup parsley, chopped coarsely
1/2 cup cilantro, chopped coarsely
3 scallions, sliced
1 cup romaine lettuce, chopped coarsely
1/2 cup lemon juice
1/2 cup olive oil
3 cloves garlic, pressed
salt and pepper to taste

Arrange vegetables in bowl. Place lemon juice, olive oil, garlic, salt and pepper in a screw-top jar and shake vigorously for 30 seconds to blend thoroughly. Toss dressing with vegetables. Chill for 1 hour before serving. Makes 6 servings.

### AUNT DOROTHY'S ISRAELI CHICKEN

1 2-1/2 to 3 lb. roasting chicken
juice of 2 oranges
juice of 2 pomegranates
juice of 1 lemon
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tsp. brown sugar
1 tsp. spicy mustard, such as Dijon
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. paprika
1 tsp. chili pepper flakes
1 tsp. ground coriander
**Stuffing:**
1/2 cup yellow onions, chopped
1/4 cup celery, chopped
1 tsp. olive oil
1/4 cup parsley, chopped
1 orange, peeled and chopped
1 red apple, cored, peeled and chopped
1/2 cup walnuts, chopped coarsely
1/2 cup currants
1 cup couscous, cooked
2 onions, halved

Marinate chicken in orange juice, lemon juice, pomegranate juice, garlic, mustard, brown sugar, salt, paprika, chili pepper flakes and coriander for 2 hours.

In a heavy saucepan, sauté onions and celery in olive oil until wilted. Add parsley, orange pieces, apple, walnuts, currants, couscous; cook just long enough to heat through. Stuff chicken with mixture.

Place in large roasting pan and pour remaining marinade over chicken. Add 1 cup water and onions to bottom of pan. Roast chicken at 350 for 1-1/2 hours, or until tender, basting frequently. Makes 4 servings.

### POMEGRANATE SEED DELIGHT

This is a wonderful accompaniment to the chicken.

6 cups pomegranate seeds
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup fresh mint, chopped

Sprinkle sugar over seeds. Let sit for 1-2 hours until they become glazed. Sprinkle with mint. Serve chilled. Makes about 6 servings.


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$299.00 for 10 people

MENU #2
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish, Chicken Matzo Ball Soup, Roast Chicken, Roast Brisket of Beef, Lockshen Pudding, Pan Roast Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Carrot Tzimmes, Cole Slaw, Honey Cake, Challah, Mohn Cookies, Apple Pie, Honey & Apples
$339.00 for 10 people

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Gefilte Fish & Horseradish, Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls, Roast Turkey Breast, Gravy & Cranberry Sauce, Candied Yams, Broccoli & Mushrooms, Cole Slaw, Fresh Fruit Salad, Challah, Mohn Cookies, Honey & Apples
Only 20g Fat per person
$199.00 for 5 people

MENU #4
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish, Roast Veal, Chicken Fingers, Lockshen Pudding, Pan Roast Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Cole Slaw, Challah, Mohn Cookies, Apple Pie, Honey & Apples
$189.00 for 5 people

MENU #5
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish, Chicken Matzo Ball Soup, Roast Chicken, Chicken Fingers, Lockshen Pudding, Green Beans Almondine, Challah, Mohn Cookies, Honey & Apples
$145.00 for 5 people

MENU #6
Chicken Matzo Ball Soup, Sweet & Sour Meatballs, Poached Salmon, Pan Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Challah, Mohn Cookies, Apple Pie, Honey & Apples
$169.00 for 5 people

ADDITIONAL MENU SELECTIONS

MEAT DISHES
Beef Kreplach, Chopped Liver, Cabbage Rolls, Veal Roast, Roast Duck, Flanken in Borscht, Meat Loaf, Turkey Loaf, Lemon Chicken, BBQ Wings, Honey Garlic Wings, Chicken Fingers, Knishes-Beef or Potato, Kishke, Pre Carved Roast Turkeys, Pre Carved Turkey Breast

VEGETABLE DISHES
Vegetable Noodle Soup, Vegetarian Loaf, Stir Fry Vegetables, Grilled Vegetables, Apple Farfel Pudding, Rice & Mushrooms, Potato Latkes, Lockshen Pudding, Green Beans Almondine, Broccoli & Mushrooms, Candied Yams, Handmade Egg Noodles

SALADS
Bean Salad, Coleslaw, Cous Cous, Cucumber Salad, Fresh Fruit Salad, Humus, Pasta Salad, Pickled Beets, Tossed Salad

FISH
Poached Salmon

DESSERTS
Round Challa Plain or Raisin, Apple Flan, Assorted Fruit Pies, Carrot Cake Squares, Chocolate Bubka, Chocolate Brownies, Chunky Chocolate Cookies, Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Horns, Honey Cake, Mandlebrot, Mohn Cookies, Rogelach

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# Australian court fails to extradite alleged ex-Nazi

**Dan Goldberg**
JTA

**SYDNEY** — In a court ruling that is bringing new attention to Australia's failure to prosecute alleged Nazi-era war criminals, the government will not surrender to Hungary the man believed to be the country's last World War II war crimes suspect.

The nation's High Court ruled Wednesday that Karoly (Charles) Zentai will remain in Australia and not be extradited to his native Hungary on a war crimes charge.

The long-awaited ruling handed down in Canberra dismissed an appeal by the federal government of a Federal Court judgment that Zentai could not be extradited because war crimes was not an offence in Hungary on Nov. 8, 1944 – the date that Zentai is accused of helping to murder Peter Balazs, a Jewish teenager, in Budapest.

The federal government had approved Zentai's extradition to Hungary in 2009, but the decision was overturned on appeal last year in the Federal Court. The government then sought the ruling of the justices of nation's highest court, which has now dismissed the appeal.

Zentai is not the first alleged Nazi war criminal in Australia to avoid facing his accusers. Konrads Kalejs, an alleged leader of Latvia's notorious Arajs Kommando unit, accused of murdering thousands of Jews and Gypsies in Riga in 1942-43, died in Australia in 2001 while awaiting a court decision on whether he should be extradited to his native Latvia.

Zentai, who was a cadet sergeant in the pro-Nazi Hungarian army, has denied vehemently that he helped in the murder of the 18-year-old Balazs for not wearing the mandatory yellow Star of David before dumping his body in the Danube River. The 90-year-old Perth pensioner, who was first arrested by Australian Federal Police in 2005, claimed he left Budapest the day before Balazs was killed.

In their 5-1 verdict, the High Court judges argued that the extradition could not be approved because the Hungarian authorities had requested Zentai's surrender for war crimes, which was not an offence under Hungarian law at the time.

Zentai greeted the ruling emotionally.

"I'm just overwhelmed," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. in Perth. "I've been so stressed, the last few days in particular."

But the judgment was met by a chorus of condemnation as well. Michael Danby, a Jewish legislator of the governing Labor Party, slammed the verdict as "appalling."

In a speech to be delivered in parliament last week in Canberra, Danby said Hungary enacted laws in 1945 to retrospectively make war crimes an offence.

"Now when a country seeks to pursue and even investigate the crimes of former Nazis like Zentai, they will be prevented from doing so by a blockheaded majority of High Court judges," he said. "Those who voted for it shall live in infamy."

Danby said he had already approached the Hungarian ambassador to ask whether officials in Budapest will seek Zentai's extradition for murder.

Efraim Zuroff, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Israel office and one of the world's leading Nazi hunters, has pursued the case since 2005. That's when the Wiesenthal Center's Operation Last Chance helped flush out Zentai's whereabouts.

"It's a very sad day for Australia, a very sad day for justice and a very sad day for the victims of the Holocaust, their relatives and anyone who has any sense of empathy with the victims of the Holocaust," he told *JTA*.

He said the decision was "not a reflection of Zentai's guilt or innocence," but that Australia has "totally failed" on the issue of Nazi war criminals.

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# Israeli chatter on Iran sending a message to D.C.

**Ron Kampeas**
JTA

Analysis

How much noise does Israel's leadership have to make to get the Obama administration to say what it wants to hear about Iran?

It's a question now preoccupying Israel, along with its corollary: how much noise is too much and risks precipitating a crisis between Jerusalem and its closest ally?

Some Israeli analysts say that pronounced signals from their country's leadership in recent days that it is readying for a strike against Iran are less an immediate call to arms than a call for an unequivocal commitment from the Obama administration to take the lead in such an attack or to come to Israel's aid if it goes first.

"We are at a serious juncture," said Ehud Yaari, an Israel-based fellow for the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "The way I understand it, the Israeli leadership is trying to signal to the administration that unless there is a change of tact on the part of Washington concerning the Iranian nuclear program, Israel may have to decide to make its own military move."

Avi Dichter

The signals have included:

• an interview in *Ha'aretz* with a top Israeli official, whom is widely believed to be Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak, who argued that Israel risks more in the short term by not striking than it does by striking;

• the appointment to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet of Avi Dichter, a former head of Israel's internal security service, the Shin Bet, to bring the home front up to speed. Upon taking over as the country's home-front defence minister, Dichter said that for the first time Israel is facing an existential threat from Iran, as well as strategic threats from Lebanon, Syria and Gaza.

There have been series of notices to the Israeli public, including a call to update gas-mask equipment and a listing of Tel Aviv underground parking lots that could double as bomb shelters.

There have also been a series of public statements by Israel's ambassador to Washington, Michael Oren, suggesting that an Israeli strike would reap sufficient rewards to justify it.

"One, two, three, four years are a long time in the Middle East, look what's happened in the last year," Oren said in a *Bloomberg News* interview, addressing the claim that an Israeli strike would "only" delay Iran and not end the nuclear program.

A key Israeli fear is that a nuclear Iran would provide an umbrella to hostile forces consolidating their hold along Israel's borders in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, and possibly in Syria and Egypt as those nations undergo turmoil that threatens to disrupt decades of peace on their borders.

"The idea of these non-state actors on Israel's borders which may be controlled by a nuclear Iran is a serious threat, the kind of which Israel has not encountered before," Asher Susser, a senior fellow at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University, said.

Still, Obama administration officials are not yet publicly buying the rhetoric.

"I don't believe they've made a decision as to whether or not they will go in and attack Iran at this time," Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said on Aug. 15. "With regards to the issue of where we're at from a diplomatic point of view, the reality is that we still think there is room to continue to negotiate."

Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff, said an Israeli strike would have limited effect.

"I may not know about all of their capabilities, but I think that it's a fair characterization to say that they could delay but not destroy Iran's nuclear capabilities," Dempsey said at the same briefing.

Such sanguinity may be out of place, Susser said, adding that the notices to the public regarding home-front preparedness are not feints.

The likeliest means to shut down the escalating rhetoric, Susser added, would be for the Obama administration to reassure Israel – and not necessarily in public – that it would convey to Iran that military action was inevitable and not just a possibility if Iran does not stand down.

Netanyahu and Barak would want to hear "a very firm commitment from the United States that it will use force, not anything less – not 'all options are on the table,' not 'any means necessary,' but that the U.S. will take a clear commitment to use force when the time comes," he said. "If the Israelis are convinced that the Americans are not going to take action against Iran, Barak and Netanyahu may very well come to the conclusion that they have to."

Obama administration officials over the last several months have lobbied Israel intensely to tamp down talk of a strike, and to wait out a U.S. strategy of exhausting economic and diplomatic pressure as a means of getting Iran to stand down from its suspected nuclear weapons program. Yaari said Israel's leadership was not convinced.

Israelis favour a U.S. lead should it come to military action against Iran, polls show. A poll published last week by the Israel Democracy Institute and Tel Aviv University and reported by *Bloomberg News* showed 61 per cent of Israelis oppose an Israeli strike without U.S. co-operation. It had a margin of error of 4.5 percentage points.

Meanwhile, a number of Israeli figures have lashed out against Netanyahu and Barak, saying that the government's ratcheting up of the rhetoric could backfire.

"It's clear to us that we can't do it alone," Israeli President Shimon Peres said on Israel's Channel Two. On the reports that the United States considers it premature to launch an attack now, Peres said, "It's clear to us we have to proceed together with America."

Shaul Mofaz, the leader of the opposition Kadima party, in a blistering Knesset speech, accused Netanyahu of trying to weigh in on the U.S. elections, undercutting Obama in favour of Mitt Romney, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. Netanyahu, who has had tense relations with Obama, is seen as close to the Republicans and has a longstanding friendship with Romney.

"Mr. Prime Minister, you want a crude, rude, unprecedented, reckless and risky intervention in the U.S. elections," Mofaz said in remarks translated by *Globes*, the Israeli business daily. "You are trying to frighten us and terrify us. And in truth, we are scared – scared... you are executing a dangerous and irresponsible policy."

Meir Javedanfar, an Iran-born Israeli analyst, said that Netanyahu's talk of war diminished the real results that U.S.-led sanctions were having on the Iranian theocracy's viability.

"I don't think that the ruling echelon in Israel understands that as much as the Iranian regime does not want war, it's not an existential threat," he said. "What is an existential threat are the sanctions. And the more attention that is diverted from the existential threat of the sanctions, the less the regime needs to address them."

## Right-wing Jews cheer Ryan

**Jewish conservatives applauded Republican U.S presidential candidate Mitt Romney's choice of U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin as his vice-presidential nominee. But Jewish liberals who despise him and the GOP also cheered. They are certain the rise of the intellectual leader of the Republicans will give them the opportunity to blast his ideas about entitlement reform and therefore ensure President Barack Obama's victory this fall.**

**To read the full story, please go to *cjnews.com*.**

# War could cost Israeli economy $42 billion

**Greg Tepper**
The Times of Israel

A war between Israel and Iran could cost the Israeli economy 167 billion shekels, or nearly $42 billion (US), Israel's Channel 10 reported on Sunday citing estimates by Business Data Israel, a business information group.

According to the projections, lost work would cost the state 39 billion shekels, or nearly $10 billion. The report didn't clarify whether this took into account reserve soldiers who are called to duty and must leave their jobs, people not working due to continuous missile assault on Israeli population centres, or both.

Rearmament and re-equipping the military and reconstructing buildings would cost the state an additional estimated 8 billion shekels, or $2 billion. The report did not mention what the possible cost of replacing military hardware, including aircraft, tanks, and helicopters, or how much the cost of intercepting incoming missiles could be.

A 10 per cent drop in commerce over five years is predicted to result from a war with Iran, for a projected loss of 120 billion shekels, or about $30 billion. The report mentioned that the financial figures don't take into account the far-reaching impact of an oil price crisis, an international recession or budget cuts to fund the war.

Last week, the outgoing minister for the home front,

**The location of Haifa's industrial zone could cause a large amount of damage in the event of an attack by Iran. [*Flash90 photo*]**

Matan Vilnai, said an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear program could trigger a month-long war on many fronts, with 500 fatalities.

"It could be that there will be fewer deaths, but it could be there will be more. That is the scenario we are preparing for according to the best experts," Vilnai told *Maariv*. "The assessments are for a war that will last 30 days on a number of fronts."

*TimesofIsrael.com*

# Israelis struggle for normalcy on Sinai border

**Ben Sales**
JTA

**KEREM SHALOM BORDER CROSSING, Israel** — Drivers who reach the end of Israeli Route 232 purportedly face a choice: a sign points them either northwest, toward the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, or southeast, toward the Nitzana border crossing between Egypt and Israel.

But the intersection – located at the meeting point of Israel, Gaza and Egypt – is really a dead end; drivers cannot proceed in either direction. Rafah has been under Egyptian control since Israel's disengagement from Gaza in 2005. And a year ago, Israel closed off the road that runs to Nitzana, along the country's southern border.

What drivers do meet at the end of the route is a simple red and white roadblock. To the left is the beginning of Israel's security fence on the border of the Sinai

Nitzana border crossing

Desert that is scheduled to be completed this year. To the right is Israel's Kerem Shalom border crossing with Gaza, which is closed to civilians. Next to that is a concrete wall separating Gaza and Israel. Litter dots the immediate area.

The Israeli army has stepped up security in the area since Egypt's revolution began last year, and Israel issued a travel warning this month regarding the Sinai. On Aug. 5, terrorists killed 16 Egyptian soldiers and crossed into Israel down the road from the Kerem Shalom crossing, where they were killed by Israeli security forces.

But across the street from the concrete wall, one woman sits smiling in a purple food truck. Bold letters on the side of the truck advertise: "To soldiers with love, from the loving Tami Mommy."

Tami Muyal, 62, has been operating the truck for 12 years, including the past 3-1/2 years in this location.

"There's no way a soldier gets to me and leaves hungry or thirsty," she said.

From 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Muyal offers soldiers anything from popsicles to baguette sandwiches at a discount or even for free, depending on how much cash they have on hand. She knows many of them by name.

"I had a dream to open a rest stop for soldiers," said Muyal, formerly a bookkeeper. "It's a challenge, not like sitting in an office. There's sand, dust, heat, and it's great."

Muyal has moved her truck around Israel's south, at one time stationing it in Gush Katif, Israel's former settlement bloc in Gaza.

"A sniper could hit me right here," she said, pointing beneath her curly brown hair at a slightly wrinkled forehead.

Muyal doesn't feel safe where she is on the Egyptian border, either. She says the border crossing has seemed abandoned, save for increased Israeli army traffic, since trouble began in the Sinai last year. She lives in the area, where she raised four children.

"I ask myself, 'What am I doing here?' " she said. "The situation is scary. I don't think anything is clear. I'm here alone. Where would I go?"

Born in Tunisia, Muyal moved to Israel with her family when she was 10, in 1960. Since then, she has lived in this area – for the past 40 years in the nearby town of Yesha. Despite the frequent threats of violence, Muyal declares confident faith in the Israeli army – "an army I'm proud of."

While Muyal has inserted herself in the middle of the army's activities, the nearby Kibbutz Kerem Shalom, less than three miles away, is striving to continue a normal routine despite the unrest across the border. The area was the site of the 2006 kidnapping of Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit by Hamas, the terrorist organization that governs Gaza.

Kibbutz Kerem Shalom

Now the concrete wall that divides Gaza and Israel surrounds two-thirds of the kibbutz. Bright murals cover parts of the wall, but most of it remains grey.

"When you live here, you don't see it," Ofer Kissin, who heads the kibbutz's security, said of the wall. "We've returned to routine life. It takes time, but we're used to situations like this."

Kissin said that five families had recently joined the kibbutz, bringing its total to 30. The collective nature of the kibbutz helps residents weather the attacks, Kissin says, but the true source of the community's secure feeling comes from the military presence nearby.

"The army takes care of us," he said. "Kids run around here at night."

Kissin declined to give specifics on the Israel Defence Forces' presence around Kerem Shalom, nor did the IDF provide details on its operations there.

Muyal also says the IDF allows her to stay calm even while working at the intersection of two tense borders.

"The soldiers are brave. They love the land. Nothing scares them," Muyal said. "I'm not ready to give in."

## Israel Briefs

### *Majority opposes strike*

A majority of Israelis oppose a strike by their country on Iran's nuclear facilities without U.S. cooperation, a new poll says. Nearly 61 per cent of respondents oppose the strike without the co-operation of the United States and 27 per cent favour it, according to a poll released Thursday by the Israel Democracy Institute and Tel Aviv University's Evens Program in Mediation and Conflict Resolution. The poll also found that nearly 56 per cent of Israelis think it's unlikely that Israel would launch airstrikes against Iran unilaterally; 33 percent believe the country will go forward with the strikes on its own. The phone poll conducted last week spoke with 516 Israelis and has a 4.5 per cent margin of error. Meanwhile, Israeli groups have launched several petitions and protests against the possibility of an Israeli strike against Iran. One online petition published last week, which calls on Israel Air Force pilots to refuse to bomb Iran, has garnered hundreds of signatures.

### *Nasrallah sharpens sword*

Hezbollah's leader threatened tens of thousands of Israeli deaths should Israel strike Iran. Hassan Nasrallah, the terrorist group's secretary general, said in an address Aug. 17 opposing Israel's presence in Jerusalem that his group is in possession of "precision rockets" that can hit Israel. A Hezbollah attack on Israel triggered by an Israeli strike on Iran would turn "the lives of hundreds of thousands of Zionists to real hell, and we can talk about tens of thousands of dead," *Associated Press* reported.

### *More threats from Iran*

In another sharp verbal attack on the Jewish state, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Israel's existence is an "insult to all humanity." The charge came amid open discussion by leading Israeli policymakers about whether their country should launch a preemptive strike against Iranian nuclear installations. Iran also supports terror groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as Syria's embattled Assad regime. "The Zionist regime and the Zionists are a cancerous tumor. Even if one cell of them is left in one inch of land, in the future this story will repeat," Ahmadinejad said of Israel's existence during a speech in Tehran marking Iran's Al-Quds Day, or Jerusalem Day, that was broadcast on state TV. "The nations of the region will soon finish off the usurper Zionists in the Palestinian land... A new Middle East will definitely be formed," Ahmadinejad said. "With the grace of God and help of the nations, in the new Middle East there will be no trace of the Americans and Zionists."

### *Rockets fired from Sinai*

An Islamist terror group operating in the Sinai claimed responsibility for firing rockets into southern Israel. The Salafi Front, along with saying it fired rockets into Eilat on Aug. 15, also claimed responsibility for more than a dozen attacks on the gas pipeline between Egypt and Israel. The Salafi Front denied any connection to an Aug. 5 attack in which terrorists killed 16 Egyptian soldiers and crossed into Israel down the road from the Kerem Shalom crossing, where they were killed by Israeli security forces. The gas pipeline between Israel and Egypt has been blown up at least 14 times in the Sinai since February 2011. The Israeli army has stepped up security in the area since Egypt's revolution began last year. In addition, Israel issued a travel warning to its citizens this month regarding the Sinai. Rockets have been fired at Eilat and its environs from the Sinai several times in the past two years.

### *Schools make top 100*

Three Israeli universities are among the top 100 institutions of higher learning in the world, according to new rankings published last week. The 10th Academic Rankings of World Universities published on Aug. 15 placed Hebrew University of Jerusalem at No. 53, four places higher than its 2011 ranking. It's the highest Israeli school on the list. The Haifa-based Technion was listed at 78, and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot was 93rd. It was the first time either of them entered the top 100 on the ARWU list.

*Files from TimesofIsrael.com and JTA*

# Peerless celebrates 22 years in the travel business

**Paul Lungen**
Staff Reporter

When it comes to booking a vacation, there's a lot you can do on the Internet all by yourself. You can book through an online agency and get a pretty attractive package, including air, hotel and ground transportation.

You can even book different parts of the trip separately and create your own package. But being able to do something doesn't necessarily mean you should do it, said Ehud Telem.

Saving a few dollars does not come close to making up for the loss of personalized service, expertise and industry connections that are offered by full-service tour operators, he said.

If Telem's name is familiar to many *CJN* readers, it's likely because his company, Peerless Travel, has been in business 22 years, and if you've travelled to Israel, there's a good chance you went through Peerless. His company is an industry leader when it comes to putting bums in seats and sending them to Israel.

"We move about 60,000 people to places all over the world, 10,000 of them to Israel," Telem said. That's out of a total of around 75,000 Canadian passport holders who made the trip to Israel last year.

"No one is competitive on that scale," he said, not when Peerless sends 200 groups a year to the Holy Land.

Telem realizes that when he speaks about the industry, touting his own company and questioning the benefits of travelling in private groups with "charismatic" tour guides and online discounters, the suggestion will arise that he's got a personal interest he's promoting. But hear him out, he said. He has a case to make.

"It's like doing your financial statements on your own and trying to bypass the professional. In the end, it costs you more," he said.

Look at Internet booking, he said. Once you've got the tickets in hand and the arrangements are made, you're pretty much on your own. If something goes wrong – if someone at the destination goes bankrupt – good luck getting alternative arrangements or your money back, he said.

"If you go through us, you're insured, and if our end supplier goes bankrupt, they have insurance," he said.

For Internet bookings, "in 90 per cent of cases, we can do the same or better in terms of price. And we give service. They do not.

"We have tons of back doors" to contact air carriers and tour operators, to make sure things go smoothly, he said.

If your flight is cancelled or delayed, who will take care of you? If you don't like your room or your hotel, what do you do. Peerless has partners in Israel that can take care of you, he said.

**Ehud Telem, the owner of Peerless Travel**

You won't save much booking online, since margins in the industry are generally pretty small, he added.

"Twenty per cent of our clients are Internet casualties. They tried the Internet, and they had a bad experience. Now they're back to a full-service travel agency."

People hear about good guides by word-of-mouth, but because Peerless sends so many groups to Israel each year, it is able to hire the very best guides. Operating on the scale they do, Peerless and its partners make sure they get first access to attractions – "there's no standing in line" – and you get the best hotels and rooms from incoming tour operators, he said.

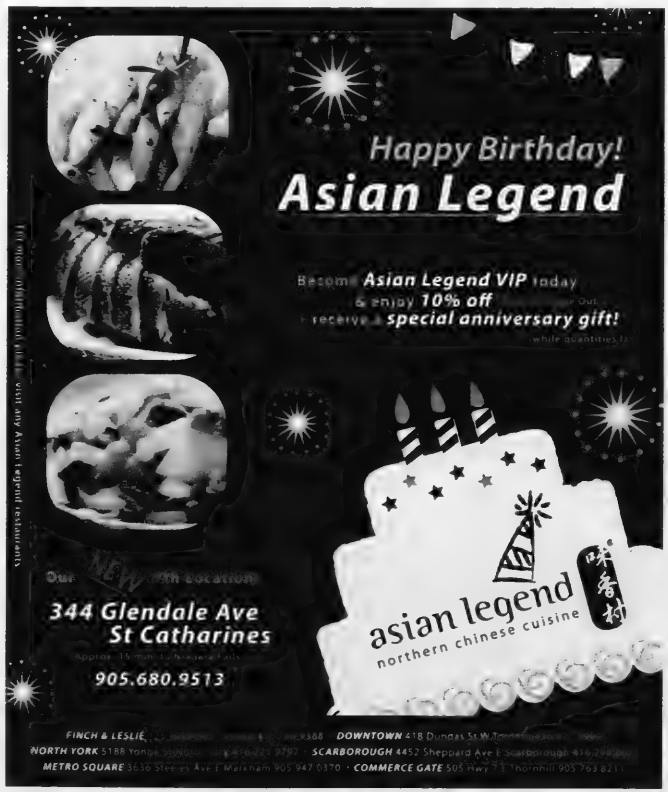
What's more, even though other guides "are as nice as they are, as knowledgeable as they are, they can't get the prices we can," and sometimes not even the kind of experiences – such as a visit to a Bedouin tent – that a larger group gets, Telem added.

So what's ahead when it comes to travel to Israel? Telem believes that market has room to grow, but slowly, even though only 20 per cent of Canadian Jews have ever visited the Holy Land.

Family tours centred on a life-cycle event, like a bar or bat mitzvah, are "once-in-a-lifetime experiences," but they're pricey and not a big part of the business, he said. He is, however, seeing more repeat business as parents travel to the Holy Land to visit children studying in yeshivot.

Still, in the last two years, Peerless has grown by 17 per cent. A part of that growth is from corporate bookings.

With 80 employees in four offices in the Toronto area and revenues in the millions, Peerless no doubt is an industry leader when it comes to full-service travel.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# iPad app aids in study of Talmud

Compiled by CJN Staff

**BROOKLYN, N.Y.** — ArtScroll Mesorah Publications has released an iPad app for the Schottenstein Babylonian Talmud, just in time for the 13th cycle of the global Daf Hayomi (Daily Page) daily Talmud learning initiative.

Developed for offline use by a team of more than 40 scholars and technicians, ArtScroll's Schottenstein digital edition of the Talmud is said to retain the integrity of the original printed form while introducing state-of-the-art learning enhancements to deepen and broaden any Talmud learner's study.

Gedaliah Zlotowitz, ArtScroll's vice-president of sales and marketing, said, "People should understand that this is neither a scan nor a PDF of the Talmud. Each page is highly interactive in a way no print edition could be. We spared no expense in producing a quality product and made it easy to acquire with differing price packages, including a daf yomi cycle option for just a few dollars a month. You can even purchase a single *blatt* [page] or a few *blatt* if you are going on the road and don't want to carry a heavy print volume."

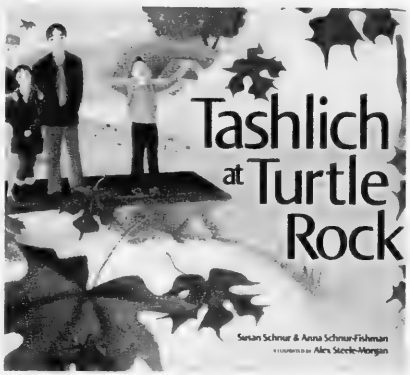
Users of the Talmud app can choose from three different pricing and download options available through the Apple app store, with the first seven pages given away free for users to experience the digital learning. ArtScroll reported hundreds of downloads of the app following the first hours of release on July 27.

Version 1.0 of the ArtScroll Digital Talmud contains several features. The Hebrew page of Talmud is formatted to appear similar to a print version, with its familiar signature commentary on the facing pages. However, at the press of a finger, the learner can access all the notes, including the Talmud with vowel points and commentary while never leaving the original Hebrew page.

Rabbi Mayer Pasternak, ArtScroll's technical director for the Talmud app, said, "You'll be able to hold in hand the entire Talmud – 73 volumes – in a two-pound digital tablet reader. And imagine being able to tap on a phrase in the Talmud and up pops a content box showing the Hebrew with vowel points, along with an elucidated translation and complete commentary... Students completely new to Talmud study can learn through the English section while progressively improving their Hebrew and Aramaic skills."

The ArtScroll digital Talmud does not require an active Internet connection once it is downloaded. The publishing house was sensitive to today's concerns regarding digital technology, so they worked carefully to follow the directives of leading rabbinic authorities that web devices have appropriate filters and controls.

The iPad app for the Schottenstein Babylonian Talmud is the first of several projects for development under the Wasserman Digital Initiative. ArtScroll co-founder Rabbi Meir Zlotowitz said, "Our long-term goal is to help tens of thousands of Torah learners become more proficient in the major classic sources."




# *Books educate children about Jewish festivals*

**Lauren Kramer**
Special to The CJN

I love starting out the Jewish New Year by adding to my kids' Jewish book collection. Jewish literature is a great way to educate kids about the festivals without overtly appearing to do so, and this year Kar-Ben has four new books that do just that, specifically focused on Rosh Hashanah.

In ***What's The Buzz*** by Allison Ofanansky, readers get to accompany a group of Israeli children on a visit to a bee farm. Along the way, they learn to temper their fear of being stung, and they find out how and where honey is made and extracted.

The text is accompanied by informative colour photographs that help explain pollination and give kids age three through eight an appreciation of the complex process that results in the sweet treat we enjoy on Rosh Hashanah. The book concludes with some fun facts about honey in Israel, including the fact that there are more than 90,000 beehives in the country. To make a single pound of honey, bees must collect nectar from two million flowers.

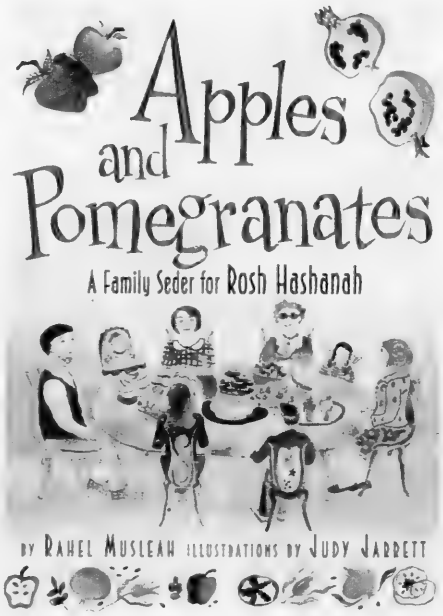
This is the third in a Jewish holiday series by Ofanansky, an American writer who made aliyah in 1996. Her previous two books, *Harvest of Light* and *Sukkot Treasure Hunt*, were named Sydney Taylor Notable Children's Books.

The Rosh Hashanah customs at my holiday table have been identical since I was old enough to remember, so I was thrilled to learn about other customs in ***Apples and Pomegranates: A Family Seder for Rosh Hashanah*** by Rahel Musleah. Musleah, an Indian Jew, reminds us that far from restricting our symbolism to apples and honey, there are other foods that are rich in meaning and tradition that we might wish to include. She discusses pomegranate, green beans, beetroot leaves, leeks and lettuce, adding a shopping list and recipe ideas for their incorporation at the Rosh Hashanah seder table.

Her recipe suggestions are practical and tasty, and for each of the ingredients she includes a prayer, a story and an activity appropriate for parents and children. Each chapter also contains a sidebar titled "Think!" wherein families can explore some of the concepts at the heart of Rosh Hashanah.

Musleah concludes with a list of the prayers to be recited at the table on the Jewish New Year, complete with *Birkat Hamazon* and music and lyrics for songs. She's added a couple of informative pages on New Year's food customs around the world, from the American South to China, Japan and Spain.

*Apples and Pomegranates* is a great resource for families looking to extend the symbols they include at their Rosh Hashanah tables and teach their children more than just the applies-and-honey basics of the holiday.




In ***Talia and the RUDE Vegetables*** by Linda Elovitz Marshall, a young girl tries to help her grandmother by digging vegetables from the garden for a Rosh Hashanah stew. Only problem is she misunderstands the instruction, and instead of "root" vegetables, hears "rude." So she finds the most twisted, ornery carrots and parsnips, figuring they must be the rude ones. Anything that looks remotely good she hands to the rabbi for redistribution to other families.

She returns to the kitchen with "rude'agabas," a terrible turnip, a lumpy bumpy potato, a garish garlic, a crooked carrot and an ornery onion. The story is comical, with cute illustrations by Francesca Assirelli.

Tashlich is a tradition rich in meaning, and in the book ***Tashlich at Turtle Rock***, Susan Schnur, a Reconstructionist rabbi, discusses one family's exploration of the custom. "My friend Fanny who lives in New York does it in the fountain at Lincoln Center, and my brother's friend, Matt, says he once did it in a toilet," notes Annie, the protagonist. "My family has its own tradition."

That tradition involves a hike with four stops along the way, and at each stop family members contemplate their plans for the new year and the milestones, good and bad, of the year past.

"We have written this book so that your family has the confidence to add to Tashlich, too," writes Schnur, "[with] songs, a real hike and honest thoughts about yourselves at the New Year: what you're grateful for, what your last year was like, what you vow to do better in the months ahead."

It's a sweet story that inspires some thought about Tashlich and what it means to truly reflect on our behaviour and achievements.

The toddler crowd may be familiar with the Sammy Spider series of stories, which covers Pesach, Chanukah, Purim, Rosh Hashanah, Shabbat, Shavuot and Sukkot among other Jewish themes. If your children are fans, consider ordering ***Sammy Spider's Jewish Calendar***, which comes with illustrations relevant to Jewish holidays, recipes, craft ideas and more. The glossy calendar retails for $8.95 and is a colourful, age-appropriate addition to the kitchen, bedroom or playroom.

**'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING**

**The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising** reads as follows:

"In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibits the use of the word kosher or any letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is kosher, if the food does not meet the requirements of the Kashruth applicable to it.

The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

***The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.***

## EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

### CHAVA ROSENFARB REMEMBERED IN TWO UPCOMING EVENTS

Famed Canadian Yiddish writer **Chava Rosenfarb** is being remembered in two upcoming events, one this week and the other in November.

The Ashkenaz Festival presents A Tribute to Chava Rosenfarb (1923-2011), directed by and featuring **Theresa Tova**. Others featured in the tribute are **Mitch Smolkin**; Rosenfarb's daughter, **Goldie Morgentaler**; **Freydi Mrocki** and **Moish Kanatkin**. Musicians are **Henri Oppenheim**, **Brian Katz**, **Aleksandar Gajic** and **Bret Higgins**.

Co-presented by the Committee for Yiddish and the Workmen's Circle. Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, 100 Elder St. (parking off Wilmington). $10 at the door. See the full Ashkenaz Festival lineup at www.ashkenazfestival.com.

The Workmen's Circle has also announced it is hosting a staged reading in English of Rosenfarb's play, *The Bird of the Ghetto*, by the Threshold Theatre. Co-sponsors are the Committee for Yiddish and the Friends of Yiddish. Steelworker's Union Hall, 25 Cecil St. Sunday, Nov. 4, 2 p.m.

* * *

**New Holocaust Art at Shaarei Shomayim:** Last summer some 250 Holocaust survivors and their families contributed funds for a work of art honouring Holocaust victims for Toronto's Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. A proposal from Toronto photographer-artist **Yuri Dojc** was chosen from 27 submissions. The result, according to a statement from the committee, "was a museum piece that not only conveyed the message of the Holocaust but was also exciting" and "of its time – the 21st century."

A three-dimensional bridge between the past and the present, Dojc's photo installation is the result of a collaboration with Israeli designer **Ido Bruno**. Sponsoring families are to welcome the art installation to Shaarei Shomayim at a reception on Sunday, Aug. 26, 3 p.m.

* * *

**Yiddish Vinkl Presents:** Described as one of the greatest living treasures of Yiddish song and language, **Arkady Gendler**, born in Ukraine in 1921, lost most of his family and friends in the Holocaust but never stopped singing, writing and teaching in Yiddish. He also began composing songs deemed to be of exceptional musical and poetic quality. Recently, German clarinetist **Christian Dawid** collected and recorded some of Gendler's work on a CD that will be officially launched at a concert at the Ashkenaz Festival, Harbourfront Centre, on Sept. 2.

Dawid also discusses the project and presents excerpts from the CD at the Yiddish Vinkl, Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. Thursday, Aug. 30, 12 noon. Buffet lunch $18. Reservations, 416-967-1078.

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation is co-sponsor of the North American debut concert of Israeli composer-performer **Shye Ben Tzur** during the Ashkenaz Festival at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre. Admission is free. WestJet Stage, Sunday, Sept. 2, 8 p.m.

• The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre's Active Seniors group now calls itself Active Seniors & Boomers to draw more of the so-called "baby boom" generation as well as seniors to its meetings. The next program is Metropolitan Opera with **Iain Scott**. $5. 750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor. Thursday, Sept. 6, 1:30 p.m. 416-924 6211, ext. 155.

• **Norene Gilletz**, author of *Second Helpings Please!* speaks on sharing food memories (*"Essen by Mayn Mame's Tish"*) at the annual membership breakfast of Friends of Yiddish. $15, free for paid-up members. Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave. Sunday, Sept. 9, 10:30 a.m. RSVP Sandy at 416-736-8073, email yiddish18@yahoo.ca by Sept. 3.

• Time to dust off or finish that short script that's never been produced. Alumnae Theatre is seeking script submissions for its annual New Ideas Festival. Deadline is Sept. 15; $10 fee applies. The festival runs March 6 to 24, 2013. http://alumnaetheatre.wordpress.com

• Jewishfiction.net recently released its eighth issue, featuring 14 pieces written originally in Ladino, Spanish, French, Hebrew and English by authors originally from Iran, Argentina, Romania, the Ottoman Empire, Israel, Canada and the United States. Among the works that editor **Nora Gold** was able to secure is a preview of *Hostage*, a new novel by **Elie Wiesel**. View it at jewishfiction.net

# *A cinematic ode to a master pickle maker*

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Simcha Leibovich, a Romanian Jew and a Holocaust survivor, died in Montreal on Dec. 5, 2005, but his legacy as a legendary pickle maker lives on.

For close to 40 years, Leibovich, the proprietor of Simcha's Fruit Market at 3953 St. Laurent Blvd., plied his trade, satisfying the palates of gourmets and gourmands alike.

Leibovich is brought back to life, at least fleetingly, in *Posthumous Pickle Party*, a cinematic ode to him scheduled to be broadcast by Vision TV on Wednesday, Aug. 29, at 11 p.m.

In this poignant documentary, a group of his customers converges on Leibovich's shuttered shop to reminisce about this unobtrusive man and to sample the last remaining batch of his aromatic pickles.

The film is supplemented by clips of Leibovich and his beloved wife, Fanny, who predeceased him.

As his niece, Anne Avram, recalls, her uncle arrived in Montreal after working on a ship. He and Fanny, whom he married late in life, opened a shop at the old Rachel Market in the late 1950s and relocated to St. Laurent, two blocks away, in 1966. A tireless worker, Leibovich was at his store seven days a week and never took a vacation, probably because he and Fanny were childless. "Work is good," he says. "It's healthy."

One day, about a year after his wife's death, he failed to appear at his shop. Having taken ill, he checked himself into a hospital. He was 75 when he passed away. His niece says he was tired and wanted to sell the store.

According to a young man who appears in the film, Simcha's Fruit Market, a bare-bones operation devoid of flash or glitter, was the last vestige of Jewish St. Laurent. This is a misleading observation, but Leibovich was certainly a throwback to the days when St. Laurent was still known as St. Lawrence Blvd.

Simcha Leibovich in Simcha's Fruit Market

His wife, in file footage from the late 1990s, observes that Jewish merchants on St. Laurent have been supplanted by Italian, Portuguese and Spanish shopkeepers.

"We remained," she says.

But as the first minutes of *Posthumous Pickle Party* unreel, Simcha's Fruit Market remains closed, abandoned to the elements. At this point, Leibovich's army of customers, spearheaded by musician Josh Dolgin and food critic Barry Lazar, move in.

To their surprise and delight, they stumble upon barrels of pickles slathered in brine and pickled cabbage that Leibovich left behind.

"This is a serious dill pickle," Lazar states, savouring the taste. "For a foodie, this is an amazing feeling."

"I see the fields of Romania," intones Dolgin as he bites into a pickle.

Someone else offers the reflective commentary that this pickle-tasting party is akin to walking "a fine line between archeology and desecration."

In the end, the leftover pickles are sent to a deli across the street and to a soup kitchen for the homeless. In the soup kitchen, a Vietnamese Canadian employee who normally hates pickles is persuaded to try one. "Very good," she says, a big smile creasing her face.

Unfortunately, no one else will ever be able to eat a Leibovich pickle. Simcha took the recipe to his grave. But *Posthumous Pickle Party* leaves us with a tantalizing impression of what might have been had he still been alive and making irrepressible pickles.

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# *Lemon Bucket Orkestra is a super party band*

**Kathryn Kates**
Special to The CJN

One of Toronto's liveliest party bands, the Lemon Bucket Orkestra, will be performing free at the Scotiabank BuskerFest and at the Ashkenaz Festival.

The 14-piece "Balkan-klezmer-Gypsy-punk-super-party-band" made headlines earlier this year when they played an impromptu concert aboard a delayed Air Canada flight to Romania.

Mark Marczyk and Tangi Ropars founded the band in 2010 because they were missing folk music in their lives in Toronto, along with the sense of community that they feel it brings.

"I had just spent a few years in Ukraine and was really immersed in Ukrainian folk culture, which includes klezmer and Gypsy culture. Tangi grew up playing Celtic music in the west of France," Marczyk says.

When Marczyk came back from Ukraine in 2009, he felt that mainstream music was dominating the scene, and although there were music scenes such as Small World Music and a few festivals – he was not aware of Ashkenaz at the time – he felt that no one was living this music every day.

"We are really into different types of eastern European folk," says Marczyk. "What we wanted to do is to take our favourite music from all the folk cultures and bring the energy of these cultures and then add to that western jazz and punk

**The Lemon Bucket Orkestra**

music and all the different influences that our members bring and embrace that. There is not really a name for that. We just lump everything together."

He said the band tries to take traditional music and rearrange it for different types of instruments. "We try to change the structure a little bit and take pieces of one thing and another and put them together. I like to think what we do with traditional music is all original."

Surprisingly, there are no Jewish members in the group. Marczyk a Catholic whose family hails from western Ukraine, was introduced to klezmer when he lived in Ukraine. He says a large part of the klezmer repertoire came from Ukraine, Moldavia and Romania, specifically the Carpathian region.

"I took part in folk-music festivals where I met bands dedicated to preserving that culture," says Marczyk. "We would swap tunes. In a lot of cases, the tunes were the same. Everybody knew each other's repertoire but would play it in a slightly different style."

The name Lemon Bucket Orkestra came from an old Odessan klezmer tune called *Lemon/Cheeky*. "It is slang in the Russian-speaking Jewish community for money," Marczyk says. "The song is about a hustler singing about how he makes lemons on his balcony, so because we started as a street band and busking was really important to us, we wanted to give people the opportunity to pay what they can, or not pay if they couldn't afford it. To make music as accessible as possible, we would joke that we would put our bucket out and busk for our lemons."

In 2011, Toronto filmmaker Justin Friesen made a short documentary on the band titled *Let's Make Lemonade*. It was accepted into Air Canada's EnRoute Festival and will be presented on board its flights in November, ironically the same time the band boards their flight for their second European tour. There's no word yet if travellers will be treated to another inflight impromptu concert after the film airs.

The Lemon Bucket Orkestra releases its first full-length CD, *Lume, Lume*, which means "World, World" or "People, People" in Romanian, on Sept. 21.

*The Lemon Bucket Orkestra performs at the 2012 Scotiabank BuskerFest in the St. Lawrence Market neighbourhood in Toronto on Aug. 24 and 26. www.torontobuskerfest.com*

*They also give a free performance at Harbourfront Centre on Sept. 2, 11 p.m., as part of the 2012 Ashkenaz Festival. www.ashkenazfestival.com*

# *Corpse Bride* set to live music at Ashkenaz

**Vicky Tobianah**
Special to The CJN

An ancient Jewish folk tale about a man who mistakenly marries a corpse has been turned into a theatrical production that will be performed as part of this year's Ashkenaz Festival.

"It's sort of an urban legend. No one knows if it's true," said *The Corpse Bride*'s co-producer Niki Landau. "It seemed to be absurd, but there was something interesting about it, so we started to develop it."

She originally came across the story while teaching a course at York University in 2002, and together with her husband, co-producer Paul Lampert, they developed it into a workshop production in 2007 and now into a theatrical production by their company, Theatre Panik.

The story is told as a movement piece set to live music, with an ode to traditional Yiddish theatre and German cabaret. "I learned a type of movement theatre which is quite common in Europe," Lampert said.

"In Canada, there is a much more oral tradition, so this particular style is unique. It's a cross between rhetorical gestures, as was seen in silent films, and partly mime as well, so you need really good actors for it."

The tale comes from a collection of stories about the 16th-century mystic, Rabbi Isaac Luria of Safed.

According to the tale, a man on the way to his wedding puts a ring on a branch protruding out of a forest and says the Jewish wedding vows, and is surprised when the branch turns out to be a corpse who claims they are married. The corpse fights with the man's fiancée, both determined to become his wife. The case is brought before Rabbi Luria who rules that the marriage is not valid.

"The story became more popular during the pogroms of eastern Europe in the 19th century," said Landau. "I found it interesting that it focused on women's experiences, which is hard to find."

The play festures 14 actors, including Evelyn Hart, a former prima ballerina with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and four live musicians. "The play asks you to think about what you do when your life doesn't work out the way you want it to or the way you thought it would be," said Landau. "It's a life question – what do you do next?"

Both producers share ties to the history of the tale. Born in Poland, Lampert was interested in the "shtetl" feel of the story. "It's a time of great innocence, and you see that exemplified by musicals like *Fiddler on the Roof*," said Lampert. "I wanted to explore these aspects of Jewish Yiddish theatre."

Landau's great-grandparents were from Poland and Russia, "so in a way, it's an ode to that time," she said. "I wanted to look back at that time, to see how we got to where we are today."

The story is also the basis for Tim Burton's 2005 movie *Corpse Bride* featuring Johnny Depp and Emma Watson, but there is no Jewish aspect incorporated in his version. "I felt like the Jewish history of the folk tale was really important," said Landau. "We wanted to preserve that."

Overall, they hope the production appeals to a diverse audience. "Everyone loves to see the problems that arise when a wedding goes wrong and that's what this is," said Landau.

*The Corpse Bride plays Aug. 30, Sept. 1 and 2 at Enwave Theatre at Harbourfront Centre in Toronto. This is a ticketed event. For more information about this and other Ashkenaz events, visit www.ashkenazfestival.com.*

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# Banned U.S tennis player restarts his career

**Marvin Glassman**
Special to The CJN

American tennis player Wayne Odesnik will remember the Rogers Cup as his breakthrough tournament for 2012.

The 133rd-ranked Odesnik defeated Australian Marinko Matosevic 6-3, 6-3 and Teymuraz Gabashvilli of Russia 6-3, 5-7, 7-6(3) to go into the main draw before losing his opening-round match to Julien Benneteau of France 6-4, 6-4.

While this performance may not be particularly noteworthy, it was a significant breakthough for Odesnik, who was suspended from competing on the ATP men's tennis circuit for being in posession of human growth hormone (HGH) in 2010. For Odesnik, the Rogers Cup was his first major tennis tournament in close to a year.

"It felt wonderful to focus on tennis and let go of the past. I had fans from Toronto watching my matches and pulling for me. That has not always been the case since I resumed my career, and I feel excited and happy about playing again," he said after his loss to Benneteau.

Odesnik was charged with importing eight vials of HGH into Australia, where he had travelled to play in the 2010 Brisbane tournament. He pleaded guilty at a hearing by the International Tennis Federation anti-doping committee in March 2010. He was prohibited from entering tournaments for the next seven months and had to forfeit his ranking points and prize money ($90,000) for 2010.

At 25, Odesnik didn't want to quit and chose to rebuild his promising career. He was reinstated to the men's pro circuit in 2011. Odesnik competed in futures and challenger events (the minor leagues of pro tennis) in 2011 and won three singles titles to raise his rankings from 1,000 to be in the top 200 rankings by this past March.

Although Odesnik felt optimistic about returning to the form he showed when he had a career-high ranking of No. 77 (2009), many of his peers didn't want to see him play at all.

"What [Odesnik] did was just plain cheating, and they should throw him out of tennis. He should never have been allowed to return," American tennis star Andy Roddick said in 2010.

American player Donald Young felt that Odesnik should deserve credit for his achievements on the tennis circuit since returning from his suspension.

"I don't want to comment on whether Wayne should be allowed to compete or not. He has done well in playing up to form, and since he is allowed to compete, he should be acknowledged for his success," Young said after his Rogers Cup match in Toronto.

**American Jewish tennis player Wayne Odesnik at the 2012 Rogers Cup**
*- [Vidal Keslassy photo]*

Odesnik feels that continuing to have good results on the court will make peers and fans alike think differently of him.

"I can't comment on my suspension or anything about the case. But I will say that if the players think they really know what happened, just talk with me, investigate the issue and don't assume. I feel like I'm having a chance again to play well and want to make the most of the opportunity."

Born is Johannesburg, South Africa, Odesnik and his parents moved to Florida when he was three. He took up tennis lessons at Miami's Jewish community centre at age six.

Because he learned to play through a JCC program, Odesnik is working on creating a foundation for promising Jewish players who may not be able to afford to go to expensive tennis academies to develop their game.

"I am fortunate that the JCC was there for me to continue to play tennis, so I'm eager to give back and help other Jewish tennis players achieve their dreams. A lot of people don't have the money to go to the expensive tennis academies, so having a Jewish sports foundation would help. I don't know yet when the foundation will begin, but I'm optimistic that I will have a lot of sponsors interesting in creating the foundation over the next year."

Odesnik's performance at the Rogers Cup will likely raise his ranking to 125 as he prepares to compete at the U.S. Open in September.

Two other Jewish players competing at the Rogers Cup, Americans Jesse Levine (who was born in Ottawa) and Michael Russell, lost their qualifying round matches.

* * *

***Raonic favoured minute of silence***

Canadian tennis star Milos Raonic who played at the Rogers Cup and competed at the London Olympics, spoke out against the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) decision not to have a moment of silence for the Israeli Olympians who were murdered at the 1972 Munich Games.

"I am too young to remember them personally, but I know who they [the slain Israeli athletes] were and it was disappointing not to acknowledge them at the opening ceremony," Raonic said after his Rogers Cup opening match.

Meanwhile, Canadian tennis great Lorne Main, who won what was then called the Canadian Open doubles title in 1951 and 1954, felt that American Jewish tennis great Dick Savitt, whom he competed against when Savitt won both Wimbledon and the Australian Open in 1951, was a victim of antisemitism when he was not selected to play in the Davis Cup for the United States in the 1951 final against Australia, which the Aussies won.

"Savitt was the best American player in his time and was snubbed by Davis Cup captain Frank Shields in favor of Ted Schroeder, who failed to win a match in the final. It was obvious to me, and the players of the era, that Savitt was not selected because he is Jewish," Main said. Savitt retired from competitive tennis following his exclusion from the Davis Cup team.

Main, 82, was inducted into the Rogers Cup Hall Of Fame prior to the start of the men's semifinal round. He's the world senior champion for the over-80 age group.

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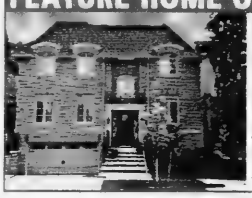

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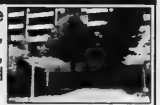

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# *Toronto cantor brings Moroccan flavour to Ashkenaz*

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Former Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Cantor Aaron Bensoussan said his latest musical release, *A New Journey*, pays homage to his rich Sephardi roots.

Although Moroccan-born Bensoussan is part of a prominent Sephardi rabbinic dynasty that dates back to Rabbi Yehuda Bensoussan, who is believed to have taught the medieval philosopher Maimonides, he has been immersed in the world of Ashkenazi chazzanut since his early teens.

As a child, Bensoussan had every intention of following in his ancestors' footsteps to become a rabbi. Bensoussan's father taught him about the art of Sephardi liturgical music and poetry, and he also studied with prominent Moroccan musicians.

But when he moved to New York at the age of 13, enrolled in yeshiva and was exposed to the cantorial music of Yossele Rosenblatt, he knew he wanted to be a chazzan.

"Even though it was a different culture, the Jewish *neshamah* [soul] is the same," Bensoussan said.

"The Jewish cry inside of the heart is the same, but I knew that it was a challenge because one culture is falafel and hummus, and the other is herring. Two different worlds. But I was intrigued by this cantorial art. It seeped into my soul and I wanted to know more about it, and it eventually became the work of my life."

Bensoussan has since served as cantor at three North American synagogues, and two years ago, he ended an 11-year stint at Beth Emeth.

**Cantor Aaron Bensoussan said his latest music pays tribute to his Sephardi roots.**

"I wanted to be more independent. I wanted to make the world more of a stage for me," said Bensoussan about his departure from the shul.

He said working at the synagogue meant he had to cater to the needs of many others.

"We had 1,400 families and I couldn't do a lot of what I had inside of me... As I was doing the cantorial work, I was missing my background," he said.

"It was like a void because [the Ashkenazi style] was not totally home for me."

Although Bensoussan said he is grateful for the years he spent as a cantor, he's looking forward to the opportunity to pursue his latest musical passion.

"I remember one time in the middle of a prayer, I caught myself in a flamenco mode – a real Moroccan, Tangiers, Spanish sound. And it sounded so wonderful. I was intrigued. I tried it another week and another week, and I found that the synagogue was very warm to it because it was something real that came out of this combination," he said.

"Now I'm coming back to my *piyutim* [liturgical poems] and to what I grew up with. I've missed it so much that I'm really finding the love again."

At 58, Bensoussan said his career has come full circle and feels it's never too late to start on a new path, or a new journey, as his latest album suggests.

"I'm a bit nervous [about starting over] but it's a good adrenaline. Part of performing is the nerves that go with it," he said.

He'll be launching the album with a performance at the Ashkenaz Festival on Sept. 2 with a band from New York directed by Adam Morrison.

The annual Ashkenaz Festival is North America's largest festival of Yiddish and Jewish culture and runs from Aug. 28 until Sept. 3 at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre.

"What is interesting and great about the festival is that even though it's called Ashkenaz, it features many Sephardi acts, like Yemen Blues," he said.

He said he's looking forward to promoting his latest CD, which he described as very unusual.

It contains 11th- and 12th-century poetry and prayers set to music that Bensoussan wrote.

"I wanted to use the poems in my own way. I wrote music to the poetry of these great sages. I used the influence of blues – Moroccan music is very influenced by blues," he said.

He credited a father-son jazz duo he worked with, Jaroslav and Daniel Jakubovic, for the album's distinct sound.

"Daniel brought the young side to it, and his father brought the jazz element. I brought in the Middle Eastern and cantorial element. The combination of these three elements is what made this record."

For more about Bensoussan, visit www.aaronbensoussan.com.

Check out our blog @ heebonics.ca HEEBONICS

# Toronto musician wins international singing contest

**By Viva Sarah Press**
CJN Israel Bureau

Toronto's Evan Malach is the new "Jewish star" after winning the Hallelujah Global Hebrew Singing Contest for Jewish Talent finals Saturday night in Israel. Malach topped the voting with his rendition of Ehud Banai's *K'nani Blues*.

"I feel incredibly humbled. The talent of the group was at an extremely high level. To be chosen as the winner is such an honour," Malach said in an interview the day after his win.

Of the 14 finalists, two were Canadian.

Winnipeg's Alex Dashefsky, who came in second in the Audience Favourite voting on Facebook, was really excited on being told he had made it to the finals a week earlier.

"I didn't expect to make the finals. I was quite honoured," Dashefsky, 18, told *The Canadian Jewish News*. "It's a great feeling."

One of the youngest contestants in the contest, Dashefsky said he felt "intimidated at first" by the other participants as some of them were "quite professional." But the University of Manitoba freshman, who will begin his studies next month, quickly showed that he was a singing force himself.

Both Malach and Dashefsky beat out hundreds of other Jewish singers from across the globe to secure their spots in the finale.

Some 1,000 people watched the Saturday night showdown in Ramat Hasharon, along with Sports and Culture Minister Limor Livnat and Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz.

"Hebrew song is the most beautiful, powerful and essential part of renewed Jewish culture. There is nothing more important than an evening like this that connects the Diaspora to Israel," Steinitz told the crowd.

Malach won a cash prize of $8,000, the opportunity to record a radio single with Israeli cantor and stage performer Dudu Fisher (which will be released as a single in Israel and on global Jewish radio stations), and a singing tour that will see him perform at Jewish communities across the globe.

Second-place winner Courtney Simmons of the United States won a cash prize of $4,000. Third-place winner was Russia's Polina Zizak, who took home $2,000.

The 27-year-old Malach said both before the finals and afterward that the level of talent among the contestants was "exceptional."

"To give you a sense of how amazing the people in the group are," he said, "[Simmons] has performed on Broadway and [Zizak] has been accepted to study voice at one of Russia's premier music conservatories. I am thrilled, to say the least, and so grateful for the opportunity to connect with such wonderful and passionate people."

**Evan Malach won the Hallelujah Global Hebrew Singing Contest for Jewish Talent.**

The Hallelujah contest brings Jewish singers age 18 to 30 to Israel for a one-month experience that includes music training and learning about Israeli heritage and culture.

The idea for the song contest was conceived by the Meitar Association for Fostering Hebrew Songs among the Jewish People, whose aim is to create a cultural dialogue between Israel and the Diaspora.

Hundreds of people applied to take part in the summer program. Participants had to pass three stages – sending YouTube videos of them singing Hebrew songs – before being selected. Only 30 of the applicants were chosen to come to Israel.

"This is like the Jewish Olympics for singing," Malach said of the experience. "It's already given me 30 really close friends from around the world – people from South America, Russia, Uruguay, Australia, Argentina, the U.S. and Canada."

There was no specific daily schedule for all the contestants. Some days the participants were taken on tours of Israel – Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, the Dead Sea. Other days, they met with Israeli musicians and producers for Hebrew pronunciation and interpretation of songs, rehearsals and group activities.

"The people here are world class. That's probably the best thing. Just being able to play music with these Israeli musicians has been a highlight for me," said Malach, who already has two albums on the market and is planning to record a third with Israeli musicians.

Of the 30 semifinalists, 14 participants were chosen to be in the finals.

Dashefsky sang Arik Einstein's *Oof Gozal* in the finals.

"I grew up listening to Israeli music my entire life," he said, adding that he understands the words and feels "a connection to Israel and Hebrew."

Malach looked at it somewhat differently. "Music is universal. I feel like beyond the language, you can feel something from a song even if you don't know what the words mean," Malach said. "Having said that, I did learn Hebrew throughout my formative years at Leo Baeck [Day School] and CHAT [the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto] in Toronto, so I can tap into the meaning of the song."

The final contest, which was broadcast live in Israel and streamed online for the global audience, gave the contestants a real audience in front of which to perform.

"Hallelujah is a new calling card. As opposed to being just another Jewish singer, I have 'Hallelujah winner' under my belt," Malach said. "I hope that this development will lead to future opportunities performing in front of Jewish audiences around the world. I also hope that the victory will lead to progress with my [original rock musical *sInagogue- The Shul of Rock*]. Ideally, it will be easier to open doors to producers and other theatre and entertainment professionals around the world looking to collaborate on exciting and original material."

*More news for young Jews on heebonics,ca*

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# Series promotes sustainable business practices

Have you considered idea-sharing and networking as a way to help make the world a more sustainable place?

Brad Zarnett is the founder of the Toronto Sustainability Speaker Series (TSSS), a live and online community that celebrates sustainability innovation and leadership. Launched in 2008, TSSS dispels the myth that sustainability is a cost to for-profit and not-for-profit business, and shares the stories of companies and organizations that have found economic advantage by embracing sustainability.

TSSS holds events six to eight times a year. They are a learning opportunity and a networking forum to promote sustainable business practices.

***Sustainable Jew***

***Fred Winegust***

Zarnett's series is one of the only efforts I've come across in the Toronto area that combines physical meetings and extensive use of social media to share ideas and quantified results from action taken to reduce an organization's impact on the environment. Nearly 2,300 people belong to the TSSS group on LinkedIn, where they engage in discussions.

I recently met Zarnett for lunch to better understand what drives him. "We live in a world where resources are increasingly scarce... [and] our climate is changing. Individual efforts at recycling and reduced consumption can only go so far. Business holds tremendous power – corporations have great potential to help us tread more softly upon our Earth," he said.

Zarnett sees real opportunity for the Canadian Jewish community to show greater leadership toward a more sustainable world. "We can drive change through the businesses we operate, the schools our kids attend and the synagogues," he said. "Judaism and environmental ethics have long been in harmony. Respect for the natural world is firmly rooted in our traditional texts."

The biggest challenge for sustainability is that most people are neither prepared nor supported in their organizations to think innovatively. Old-style thinking focuses on quarterly results instead of assessing long-term impacts and possibilities. Zarnett is eager for the day when it becomes the community norm to focus on energy "consumption" rather than "expense." He sees change in mindset as the foundation of a new way of seeing opportunities rather than limitations. Zarnett feels that for true change to happen, organizations must be offered direct incentives (for example, through government initiatives), and/or visionary leaders must inspire real change. With visionary leadership, a new culture becomes embedded in all aspects of the organization: business managers and community leaders understand that *not* having a holistic approach is unacceptable, while employees and volunteers learn that innovative out-of-the-box thinking is the new norm.

"Organizations that develop a culture of problem solving and support unconventional thinking will be best suited to thrive in the sustainability era. The real winners will be the ones who develop the human capital both within their organization and in their stakeholder community," Zarnett said. "That human capital will present itself as sustainability change agents who will identify, imagine and implement the solutions needed to ensure more sustainable – and successful - operations." Perhaps some of these organizations would benefit by participating in TSSS. For more information, visit www.ecoopportunity.net.

*Winegust@gmail.com*

## APPLE NOODLE KUGEL

3 lg eggs
1/2 stick unsalted butter, melted & cooled
1/2 c sugar, divided
1 tsp grated lemon zest
1/4 tsp grated nutmeg
1 1/2 lb. (about 3) Gala apples, peeled & coarsely grated
5 oz. (4 c) fine egg noodles

Accompaniment: sour cream

Preheat oven to 425°F with rack in upper third. Coat a 1 1/2-qt shallow baking dish with cooking spray or butter. Whisk together eggs, butter, 7 tbls. sugar, zest, and nutmeg in a large bowl until well combined; stir in apples. Cook noodles in a large pot of salted boiling water until al dente, about 5 min. Drain noodles, toss well with apple mixture. Spread in baking dish ; sprinkle with remaining tablespoon sugar. Bake kugel until top is golden, about 30 min. Cool 5 min.

Source: Gourmet Magazine

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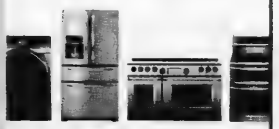
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Albert Sasson, former dean of the faculty of sciences at Rabat University, who talks about the position of Jews living in Morocco.

***Exclusive to cjnews.com***

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa says government decisions about Iran should be conducted in private, not in the newspapers.

American tennis player Wayne Odesnik will remember the Rogers Cup as his breakthrough tournament for 2012. The 133rd-ranked Odesnik defeated Australian Marinko Matosevic and Teymuraz Gabashvilli of Russia to go into the main draw before losing his opening-round match to Julien Benneteau of France.

For the third consecutive year, Israeli tennis star Shahar Peer, left, lost in the first round of the Rogers Cup to a player ranked below her. Peer was upset by up-and-coming 18-year-old Eugenie Bouchard of Westmount, before a partisan crowd favouring Bouchard at Uniprix Stadium in Montreal.

# Israel's Paralympians go for London gold

**Aaron Kalman**
The Times of Israel

With Israel's Olympic delegation back in the country, the country's medal hopes have turned to its Paralympic team.

The team will participate in the 2012 London Paralympics, opening on Aug. 29 and closing Sept. 9.

"We have a lot of spirit. We will do our best and try to return with the gold medal," sailor Dror Cohen told Army Radio last week. Cohen and his two sailing partners won gold at the Beijing Games in 2008 and hope to repeat their achievement.

Handcyclist Nati Gruberg, who cited cyclist Lance Armstrong as his inspiration, said that making the competition was an achievement. After being injured in a motorcycle accident and spending two years in the hospital, Gruberg was ranked seventh in the world in handcycling.

The cyclist said he is "very proud to represent Israel," especially since there were "no regular people" who cycled for the country at the Summer Olympic Games. "I will try to get the honours for everybody."

Team members last week met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who wished them luck in the upcoming competition. Netanyahu told the athletes that two months with a cast on his leg had helped him understand the difficulties of a physical handicap "just a little bit more."

He couldn't imagine the willpower and prowess they constantly had to call upon, he said, after he was forced to think twice about showering with his broken leg.

The Israeli delegation consists of 25 people, seven of them women, who are set to compete in nine events: sailing, wheelchair tennis, sharpshooting, marathon, handcycling, table tennis, swimming, riding and rowing.

Sharpshooter Doron Shaziri is one of the team's more decorated members with six Paralympic medals. This summer he hopes to win his first Paralympic gold. "It's coincidence that I haven't won gold... yet," he told the Israeli sporting site *One*. The same competitors attend every international competition, he said, noting that he won gold at the European and world championships.

The Ramat Gan resident was injured by a landmine at the age of 20 and had his leg amputated below the knee.

At the 1996 Games in Atlanta, he won two silver medals, and in the following two Paralympics, he added three bronze and another silver to his shelf. "It's a question of timing," Shaziri said, of winning the ultimate prize. "You have to bring yourself to the peak at the right moment, and that's what I've been training for."

Culture and Sports Minister Limor Livnat told the Paralympic team that they "do amazing things and... act as role models."

She said her office is trying to increase its support of the team, as Israel tries to bridge the gap between the able-bodied and disabled in all fields.

*Timesofisrael.com*

***Urban Writer***

***Avrum Rosensweig will return***

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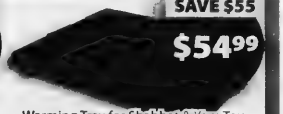

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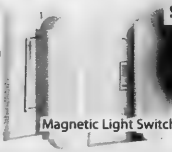

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# Community Focus

The Canadian Jewish news

Section B

# Community is made up of individuals

A community is made up of both people and institutions. In this Community Focus supplement, we look at some of the individuals who are part of the Toronto-area Jewish community. They represent a range of ages, and ethnic and geographic backgrounds.

Kitty Cohen, 99, is the most senior participant in this year's Shoppers Drug Mart Weekend to End Women's Cancers. She plans to complete the 30-kilometre walkers' route on the second day of the weekend. Her secret to staying fit? Among her other activities, she tap dances.

Moshe Modiera, the 30-year-old son of an Ethiopian kess (Jewish spiritual leader), may not have the typical "Jewish look," according to *CJN* reporter Sheri Shefa. But, she adds, he is "a good reminder of the true diversity of Toronto's Jewish community." A managing partner for a clothing company, Modiera has worked with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto as well as Hillel. He moved here at age 8 with his family, and Ohr Somayach in Thornhill helped them settle in.

*Editorial*

Erin Kleinberg, 26, and Stephanie Mark, 27, are childhood friends who met at summer camp. Last year, they created the style website The Coveteur, forging a new path in the fashion world.

We also look at new rabbinic leaders of three synagogues and how their congregations are evolving as a result of their being there.

Rabbi Rafi Lipner (the founder of The House, and now the spiritual leader of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation) is described as warm and engaging, with a belief in "community-inspired Judaism," while Rabbi Daniel Korobkin brings a California sensibility and openness to his congregants at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation.

Rabbi Micah Streiffer brings his views of community, and synagogue as a place where Jews can be themselves, to Temple Kol Ami in Thornhill. His outlook was shaped by his experiences growing up in the American South.

But as diverse as the Jewish community is, we are all connected.

*– FK*

# Caterers also walking the walk

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

Rose Reisman Catering and Pickle Barrel Restaurants have joined forces to serve 20,000 meals to the more than 4,000 walkers taking part in The Weekend to End Women's Cancers on Sept. 8 and 9.

Reisman and Peter Higley, president and CEO of Pickle Barrel, are the official caterers for the weekend, plus honorary chairs of their individual teams.

Reisman said she "couldn't be happier to be participating in this year's weekend. I know how important the research conducted by Princess Margaret Hospital is in support of a cure to end women's cancers."

She donated healthy lunches for last year's walk, she said, and decided to make it an ongoing commitment. "I have seen [women and families] struggle with women's cancers and it concerns me.

"I believe that eating healthy and living well can reduce risks. A better life might prevent diseases."

She is also participating in the walk herself, and her team of 22 walkers has raised $35,000 so far. Higley is part of a Pickle Barrel team, which will match whatever Reisman raises.

Reisman will be walking with her 28-year-old daughter, "who taught me that wrapping your toes and heels with duct tape helps prevents blisters. That was my major concern about the walk."

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# 99-year-old gets 'up and out' to end cancer

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

When Kitty Cohen turns 100 years old in December, she wants balloons to fly and her dancing shoes close by.

"I want to be effervescent, and do my jig, my jive and my jazz," says Cohen, who has been dancing since she was nine years old.

Before that big event, however, Cohen, who was born in Midland, Ont. and now lives in the Terraces of Baycrest, is taking part in Shoppers Drug Mart Weekend to End Women's Cancers, Sept. 8 and 9, benefiting the Campbell Family Institute at Princess Margaret Hospital.

She began participating in the walk five years ago, she said, in order to join her daughter, Bernice Riley. "The year before, I [had] greeted her at Downsview Park at the end of the walk, and I decided that I would take part the next year.

"I went into it for the exercise, but then I appreciated how much they need the money. I walked both days the first year, and one day each year after that. Last year I walked 20 kilometres."

Cohen, a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who has been a widow since 1975, said she gave a speech at a recent Shoppers Drug Mart event, and told the group that "aside from [the walk] being great for the lungs and great for the ticker, [it] is very important to me because it raises money [for] research, and research conquers cancer.

"Each and every walker is a vital part of this effort. I implore every able bodied male and female to join me," she said in her speech.

In an interview at Cohen's apartment, Riley said that the only reason it takes them longer to complete the walk than other walkers is because everyone stops them along the way.

"They make very kind remarks, and they tell my mother that she is an inspiration."

Cohen said that as of this interview, she had raised $1,000 for the walk. "I walk up and down the stairs in my building, knocking on people's doors, and I ask them to sponsor me. When friendly people hand me cheques, I'm so happy."

She said that keeping active is not new to her. "I was moving from day one. If not my feet, than my hands and my brain. I do crossword puzzles and I'm always looking for a Scrabble [partner]. I read the dictionary to find new Scrabble words. I also love reading *The CJN*, and I enjoy biographies. I just read about Napoleon."

She always worked, she said, "and when I retired from my job as a legal secretary at 62, I joined a dance troupe at the JCC.

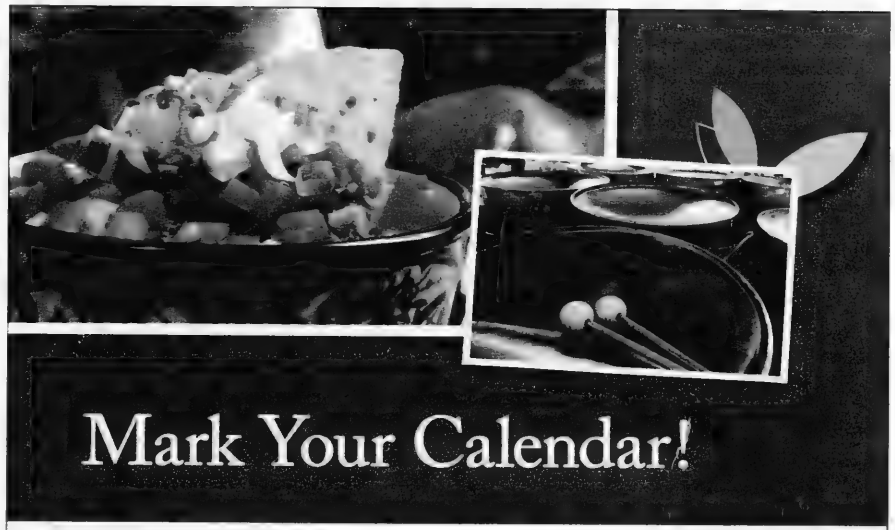
"I became an entertainer, and we danced at hospitals and senior centres. I kept that up for 35 years and I still dance three times a week. I do square dancing, tap dancing and folk dancing. There is no better way to live your life than to swing and sway. I always keep going. If my back hurts I do some yoga and the pain subsides. I don't give in."

She said that when she was "95 or 97" a couple from Belgium saw her dancing on You Tube, and were so inspired they came to meet her. "I spent the day with them, and they brought me flowers."

When people ask her secret, she said, "I tell them 'don't sit on your fanny. Get up and out of that chair.'"

Cohen said that her life has been blessed. "Every morning I thank God for another day, and I ask him to look after my family, and everyone else in the world. I have to do that, because I am the survivor."

Kitty Cohen

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# *Beth Lida synagogue turns 100*

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Gerald Litowitz still clearly remembers his bar mitzvah at Beth Lida Synagogue 63 years ago. "I remember them throwing nuts at me, and I had to duck," he said, laughing, as he recalled the memorable day.

At that time, Beth Lida was located on Augusta Avenue in Kensington Market, where many Jewish immigrants once settled. Now, the shul is in Forest Hill, and this year, it is celebrating 100 years of history.

Beth Lida's roots go back to the city of Lida, now a part of Belarus. Lida's large Jewish community, dating back to the mid-16th century, was threatened by the German invasion in World War I, and then all but eradicated in World War II.

Members of the community who had fled to Canada before the wars to escape rising antisemitism in the 19th and early 20th centuries, eventually settled in Toronto. In 1912, they founded Beth Lida's first predecessor, Shearith Israel Anshe Lida Synagogue on Terauley Street (now Bay Street), in the city's downtown core. Litowitz's family was among the founders.

As the congregation grew, the shul was moved to a frame cottage on Augusta Avenue – the same small synagogue where Litowitz fondly remembers being pelted with nuts and sweets in the winter of 1949.

"It was like a home away from home because most of the people there were relatives," he said of the atmosphere at the shul. The community became larger and more organized, purchasing a cemetery on Roselawn Avenue and establishing a Jewish learning group, a chevra kadisha, a group to visit the sick and another for collecting tzedakah.

"It was pretty active, considering it was a small synagogue," Litowitz said. Often, congregants would gather in his aunt's nearby store after services, because the synagogue didn't have a social hall at the time.

As the Jewish community in Toronto continued to move further north, Beth Lida made the move, too. In the early 1950s the community bought a church on Gilgorm Road in Forest Hill and converted it into today's Beth Lida Forest Hill Synagogue.

**Beth Lida Forest Hill Synagogue**
*[Malka Wolman photo]*

Because the building wasn't originally built as a synagogue, the Aron Kodesh faces west, instead of east toward Jerusalem, but Beth Lida's leadership was sure to seek rabbinical approval. As the synagogue's website says, this unique feature gives the building "character."

Litowitz is still a proud member of the shul. "My bloodline is attached to it, it's my history."

Today, the congregation is only about 55 families strong, but continues to hold regular Shabbat and holiday services. Although it may be small, according to president Simone Sherman it more than makes up for its size with its enthusiastic and inviting congregation.

**Gerald Litowitz**

"It's a small synagogue and every member counts," Sherman said, adding that the small community gives members the opportunity to be truly involved in creating and participating in shul programs. "If you want to do something in this shul, you can do it," she said.

Because the synagogue does not have a full-time rabbi, it relies on its active congregation and on guest rabbis to lead services and deliver sermons each week.

Earlier this summer, Beth Lida held a celebration for its 100th birthday. Families paraded through the streets of Forest Hill with klezmer musicians and a new sefer Torah, donated to mark the important anniversary.

During the celebration, the sofer who wrote the Torah invited men of the congregation to participate by placing their hands upon his as he wrote the last few words of the scroll.

"It was fantastic," Litowitz said of the celebration. The shul's 100th birthday is an important milestone in a history that is intertwined with his family's heritage.

Litowitz is happy to see Beth Lida keeping alive many traditions of the original congregation. No larger synagogue can replace his feeling of community from Beth Lida, even after so many years. "It gives you a very warm feeling, like being in a cocoon."

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# Student entrepreneur cleans up for the summer

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

Noam Slodovnick, 16, hasn't decided yet what he would like to study in university or the type of career he wants to pursue, but this summer he's getting a taste of what it's like to run his own business.

The Yeshivat Or Chaim student, who will enter Grade 11 in September, was among the youngest students to receive a grant this year from an Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation program called Summer Company, which encourages students to run their own summer businesses.

The program is open to students age 15 to 29. Applicants are required to submit a business plan as part of the application process.

Of the 778 students who applied this year, 480 individuals took part in the program and launched their own businesses (one student per business). Of those, 67 were in Toronto.

Slodovnick, whose only related experience was going door-to-door to shovel snow, decided to start a business power-washing decks and outdoor furniture. He named his company Panoma Services – a word made from the first two letters of his name, and of his two brothers' names, an idea his mother came up with.

He hired his friend and fellow Or Chaim student, Yaakov Spivak, 15, to work with him, and used part of his grant money – $830 out of a possible $1,500 – to buy a pressure washer and a wagon to carry it in.

Originally, Slodovnick planned to stick to pressure washing, but found that customers were also interested in having their cars cleaned out and their windows washed. "You need to adapt," he said.

The program includes meetings with business mentors, documentation of hours and finances, and the submission of a written report at the end of the summer. Participants and mentors discuss "how we're doing, what challenges we face and what we've learned," Slodovnick said.

He added that he's learned a lot about how to deal with people and think on his feet.

Spivak said that "so many things pop up, you have to learn on the spot."

Summer Company requires a minimum of 35 hours a week on the job, and because the boys don't work on Shabbat, their hours are spread over Sunday to Friday.

The program ends Aug. 20. Upon successful completion, Slodovnick and other business owners will receive up to $1,500 each to add to their profits.

**Noam Slodovnick, right, and Yaakov Spivak wield a power washer and broom respectively.** *[Frances Kraft photo]*

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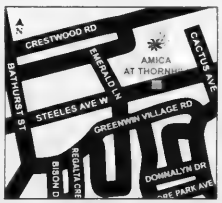


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# *Fifty-three years in special education*

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

The woman behind the Merle Levine Academy – a private school for students with learning difficulties – traces her interest in special education back to 1959, the year she began teaching for the Toronto Board of Education.

In an interview in her office, adorned with family pictures and artwork on the wall, school director Merle Langbord Levine reminisced about her first teaching job at Palmerston Public School.

A neophyte teacher at the time, she was 20 years old and fresh out of teachers college. Her class consisted of 42 Grade 2 students, 17 of whom were in a "bottom" reading group.

"By the end of June, every *bloody* one of them was reading," Levine said, stressing the adjective that reflected her determination, and laughed, delighted with her success. "I found that my forte was with the kids who had more difficulties."

Recently, Levine, 73, was recognized by the Council for Exceptional Children for her ongoing commitment to educational excellence.

Her school, located in a building on Dufferin Street in the northern part of the city, is 7,200 square feet with brightly coloured walls, plants, aquariums and bookshelves. Classes run from elementary through high school grades, and cover areas from social skills to more conventional academic subjects.

Levine, a first-generation Canadian, grew up in a multi-generational household in Toronto. Her grandparents were founders of the Workmen's Circle, and her father, Karl, a jobber, ran Camp Yungvelt. Emma Goldman was a family friend who lived in the Langbord home for a while. Levine was told the famous anarchist, who died the year after she was born, held her when she was a baby.

"It was an interesting household, very cultured, not affluent by any means, but we lived very nicely," Levine said.

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**Merle Levine**

Her future career was apparent to her by the time she was only three or four: she knew she wanted to be a teacher, she said.

Levine spent the first few years of her career at Toronto public schools before turning to private tutoring and her own university education while raising her two daughters. She also taught at two Jewish day schools, United Synagogue Day School (now Robbins Hebrew Academy) and Associated Hebrew Schools, before venturing out on her own.

It was at Associated that she first heard the term "perceptual learning disability" to explain the issues facing some of her students.

Now a grandmother of four teenagers, Levine started working on her BA at York University in her mid-20s. It took her 23 years to complete. "I didn't give up," she said.

In 1992, she graduated with her Master of Education degree in learning disabilities, also at York. By that time, her daughters were in university too.

A one-time itinerant "specific learning disability" teacher for the Toronto Board, Levine turned non-readers into readers by breaking down skills and teaching students one-on-one. Because of her success, it was suggested to her that she open her own clinic. "It was like an epiphany," she said.

Her first venture on her own was the Toronto Learning Centre (TLC), which she opened with a partner in a 1,000-square-foot space at Lawrence Ave. and Avenue Road in 1974. She believes it was among the first of its kind in Canada.

It grew so quickly, it "literally exploded," she said. Six months after the TLC opened, there was a strike at the North York Board of Education, and "we were just inundated."

Schools started referring students, and Levine's husband, Andy, helped with the business aspects of the learning centre. By the end of the first year, she said, parents were asking her to open a school of her own.

The TLC Day School opened with three classrooms, and moved to a 26,000-square-foot space at 3080 Yonge Street once it outgrew its original modest location.

In 1982, two years after her business partner bought her out, Levine opened the Canadian Heritage School in partnership with a psychologist. It ran until 1994, the same year Levine's husband died at age 56.

The couple had a long history: they first met when Levine was nine years old. Andy was the new boy in her class, a Hungarian war orphan who had just moved to Canada, and their teacher selected her to be his helper. She met him again as a teenager, and they married the day after her 21st birthday.

After he died, Levine opened the Merle L. Levine Academy, building it up from six students to its current 60.

To succeed in special education, Levine believes educators "have to have a lot of patience. You have to like the kids, and you have to really know how to break down a skill. You have to really have a calling to teach... If you have to stand on your head to find what way is best to teach a child a skill, that's what you have to do."

# Collector specializes in WWII comic books

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

Luridly illustrated, flamboyantly written and printed on easily frayed paper, American comic books published during World War II are now considered valuable artifacts of a bygone and perhaps heroic era.

No one knows that better than Gerald Hartman, a local collector who specializes in what he describes as "war propaganda" comic books.

"I collect comics that helped influence public opinion in America," said Hartman. "They helped turn public opinion in the United States from a very isolationist stance to one where the Axis powers, Nazi Germany, fascist Italy and Japan, were believed to be evil and America's enemy."

**Gerald Hartman**
*(Sheldon Kirshner photo)*

Warming to this theme, he observed, "This form of war propaganda was necessary because, prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, many people in America believed that the war in Europe was not their concern."

But thanks in part to the subliminal influence of comic book superheroes such as Captain America and The Destroyer, who were dreamed up by a band of Jewish artists working out of New York City, the tide of American public opinion turned against the Axis powers.

"In effect, Jewish artists and writers played a role in convincing Americans to side with the Allies," said Hartman, pointing out that 25 million comic books were published each month during the war years and that some of them were exclusively dedicated to advancing the Allied cause.

Jewish American comic book writers and artists were determined to push the United States into the war, if only to rescue European Jews from the jaws of death, said Hartman, a child of Holocaust survivors.

In his view, they succeeded in persuading legions of Americans that there was a moral necessity in defeating Germany and its allies.

"They convinced people that there was a right and a wrong," said Hartman, noting that Michael Chabon's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, addressed this theme.

Hartman, president of True North Imaging, Canada's largest private medical imaging company, specializes in war propaganda comics because they speak to his heart.

"I find them very meaningful," he said, explaining that his parents were Hungarian and Slovakian Holocaust survivors. "Ultimately, you collect what fascinates and inspires you. My desire to focus on this period is the direct result of being the child of survivors."

A 55-year-old former lawyer, he has been a comic book aficionado since his youth, when his collection consisted mainly of superhero, science fiction and horror titles.

Hartman started the collection with his twin brother, Alex, and at one point, they had anywhere from 8,000 to 10,000 comics. They stopped collecting comics when other interests intervened, but returned to them upon becoming fathers.

"We wanted to introduce our children to an art form we had enjoyed very much and to an epoch we appreciated."

To Hartman, World War II seemed like a simpler age, at least in retrospect. Black and white issues were clearly understood and resolved, while issues revolving around character and values were commonly addressed by comic book writers and artists.

Hartman began amassing his current collection of 250 wartime comics almost 20 years ago, buying them online through auctions or from private dealers.

Since some of his comics are extremely rare, he stores them in sealed plastic holders, never even opening them.

Although his collection is impressive, it remains incomplete. "I've got most of what I want," he said. "I don't have very much more to collect."

An object of his desire is the very first edition of Captain America, and he hopes to acquire it very soon.

Hartman's collection is in very good, if not excellent, condition, like the originals that rolled off the presses with a roar in the 1940s.

"Many comic books, due to wartime shortages, were printed on poor-quality paper. So it's rare to find copies in really great shape, or in newsstand mint condition."

To his regret, none of his children, all in their 20s, have shown an interest in his hobby. But two of his brother's children have taken to it.

At this juncture, Hartman does not know what he will do with his collection in the future, but he may yet heed the advice of friends and colleagues who have suggested that it should be donated to a museum or an educational institution.

"I may simply decide to do that."

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# Journeys to Judaism: two stories

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

Jenn Soer feels she is "more spiritual" as a result of her conversion to Judaism last year. She wears a silver Hamsa necklace that was a gift from her Israeli mother-in-law when she converted, and she has a particular affinity for Shabbat and Israel, which she visited for the first time last year.

But, because of her Chinese heritage, the 29-year-old preschool teacher – as she puts it herself – stands out in a Jewish crowd.

"I'm okay with that," she said over coffee near the Toronto condo she shares with her husband, Michael, and their two-year-old daughter, Abbie.

But she admits that it "sort of stung" that she was mistaken for Abbie's nanny while out with some of her Orthodox friends.

Overall, though, she said her experience has been positive.

A second-generation Canadian who grew up in Toronto, Soer met Michael six years ago through a mutual friend. He was born in Toronto, moved to Israel at age five, and lived there through elementary school.

**Jenn and Michael Soer with daughter Abbie at a family wedding**

Four years into their relationship, Jenn became pregnant with Abbie, the catalyst for attending conversion classes with Rabbi Wayne Allen. But the couple had already discussed conversion, and "we knew this would be part of our plan," said Jenn, who grew up without religion, aside from family gatherings for Christmas.

Her decision to convert was not only for Abbie, but "for us, too, as a family," she said.

She and Abbie were converted together last year by the Conservative movement's beit din. She recalls being nervous. "That was hard, but we got through it."

Having open-minded parents, and in-laws who have been "wonderful – very open and accepting right from day one," has made things easier for her, she said.

She enjoys Shabbat dinners at her in-laws' home with Michael's family. "I love the idea of Shabbat... I think without having our Shabbat dinners, we wouldn't see each other all the time, and I love that for Abbie."

Soer learned to read Hebrew as part of her conversion class, and was glad that her first trip to Israel followed her conversion, because she "felt more connected."

Michael speaks to Abbie, who attends a Hebrew-language daycare, mostly in Hebrew, and Jenn is still learning the language. "I feel I can understand a fair bit," she said, "[but] I have a difficult time stringing my sentences together."

Sometimes, she said, people ask questions about her Jewish observance – why she keeps kosher, for example. Her simple answer is, "I want to. It's part of my life."

* * *

Gina Zur, a friend of Soer's whose family background is Korean, is a mother of three children – Eitan, 6; Yael, 4; and Elad, 2 – and she is also married to an Israeli.

The 30-something Torontonian, who has lived here all her life, was raised Catholic and educated in a Catholic elementary school.

She met her husband, Gidi, in 2000, and they dated, but he told her "it could never get serious" because she wasn't Jewish. His family is "traditional, but not Orthodox," she said.

Although she wasn't ready to convert and at one point the couple broke up, Gina began to research Judaism to learn more about it.

"After a while, we decided together that we would speak to a rabbi," she said.

**Continued on page B9**

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# 'You need a lot of support from your friends'

**Continued from page B8**

Among her reasons for deciding to convert, she wanted to have only one religion in her future home. As well, she said, "I truly believed the beliefs, [and] loved the family time the holidays brought."

They approached rabbis from the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox movement, and began to take conversion classes together through the Conservative movement, although ultimately she opted for an Orthodox conversion.

They began to observe Shabbat and kashrut, and at the end of the year-long course, she was "ready to take it to the next level," she said, referring to Orthodoxy.

As well, she added, because she and her children don't "look Jewish," she didn't want there to be any question about their Judaism.

Before her 2003 conversion, Zur studied with an Orthodox woman for a year to learn about the Orthodox approach to aspects of Judaism, including *niddah* (family purity laws), Shabbat and kashrut. As well, she studied Hebrew with a private tutor.

The most challenging part was giving up her previous lifestyle and adjusting to a new reality with her family, she said. Her grandmother, who always enjoyed cooking for her, "didn't really understand why I wasn't able to eat her food any more."

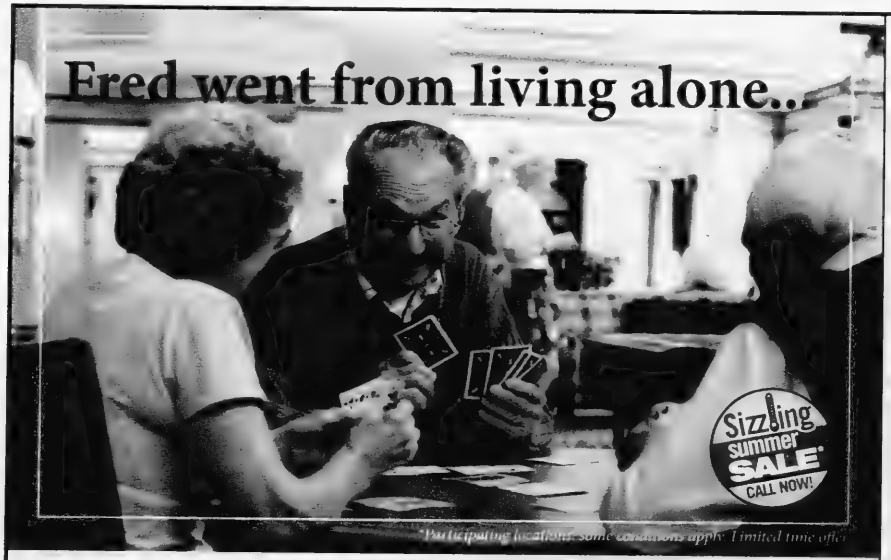
As well, Gina felt a bit lost at first in an Orthodox shul, without Gidi beside her during the service. However, she added, "A lot of the women were very welcoming."

The couple have since become involved at the Jewish Russian Community Centre. "It's been a change for him, too," she said of her husband.

**Gina Zur, left, with husband Gidi and children Yael, Elad and Eitan**

For her, becoming Jewish was "a new start.

"It's not easy. It's very emotional, especially during the [non-Jewish] holidays. You need a lot of support from your friends and family. My friends and family supported me a lot."

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# New spiritual leaders make their marks on shuls

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

How does a congregation evolve when a new rabbi takes over as spiritual leader?

In a number of Toronto synagogues, new rabbis are putting their own stamp on their respective congregations. We look at two congregations where new rabbis are marking the end of their first year, and a third where the associate rabbi has just become the spiritual leader.

Common threads include approachability on the part of the rabbis, and what one shul president described as a "positive vibe" in his congregation.

* * *

A June 2012 press release from Temple Kol Ami, announcing the appointment of the Thornhill synagogue's new director of education, described the congregation as being "rejuvenated" – at least in part – by the arrival of Rabbi Micah Streiffer last year.

Rabbi Micah Streiffer

The Louisiana native – who speaks without a drawl because he lived in Denver for five years as a child – told *The CJN* that his goal over the past year has been to engage the 170-family Reform congregation "as much as possible, and in as many different ways as possible." He cited worship, study, children, social action, and particularly music, as entry points to Judaism.

Kathy Stein, the synagogue's president, noted that Kol Ami has always been a "musical" synagogue, an area of common ground for Rabbi Streiffer and his congregants.

She added that he has endeared himself to them by not just embracing his new community, but "reveling" in it. He knows everyone's name and makes congregants feel welcome, she said.

As well, Stein added, "He enjoys learning, and it's infectious. He loves to teach, and loves to learn."

The rabbi, who grew up in an actively Reform family, decided as an adult to enter rabbinical school because it would allow him "to be a teacher, work with people, and make music, and to do those things in a Jewish context. That's what I love about being a rabbi. I get to do all my favourite things, and I get to do them Jewishly."

Among his initiatives at Kol Ami, the 33-year-old father of three boys, ages 4, 6 and 8, has created a monthly participatory family service on Friday nights. As well, he has introduced the idea of a Friday night "pre-neg" instead of an "oneg.

"The idea is to come straight from work for services and a bite to eat, and then you go home for dinner after."

Recalling his childhood in Baton Rouge and New Orleans, which he considers home, Rabbi Streiffer said, "You really need your Jewish community [there,] because unlike in Thornhill, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, you're the only Jewish kid in your class, if not your school.

"We learned the synagogue is the place to go to be yourself, to feel comfortable. And so I bring that sensibility to my rabbinate of wanting to create the synagogue as the place where every Jewish person can go and really be themselves, more than anywhere else."

* * *

At Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation in Thornhill, Rabbi Daniel Korobkin, 48, has also captured the attention of his congregants in the year since he began leading the shul.

Rabbi Daniel Korobkin

Leila Speisman – a former *CJN* reporter whose daughter Tammy died in February after struggling for many years with an eating disorder – said that the content and frank tone of Rabbi Korobkin's eulogy was not just unusual, but "unheard of." Eating disorders and mental illness are not subjects that Orthodox rabbis "run to talk about," she explained.

"I guess I come from a slightly different culture," said Rabbi Korobkin, who was raised in Los Angeles and served there before moving to Toronto. "I suppose that psychiatric care is very much in the forefront of the Southern California worldview." Part of that, he noted, is being able to address psychiatric needs in a more direct way.

**Continued on page B11**


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# Creating 'a real positive vibe'

**Continued from page B10**

"There's a certain European aspect to the culture here [in Toronto], where people aren't as willing to discuss problems or challenges as openly. My attitude is that if we want to be able to effect positive change, we have to identify what the problems are so we know how to address them."

If anything else points to the rabbi's West Coast upbringing, it's probably his "laid-back California approach" and "reputation for being easy-going" in his personal manner, according to shul president Harley Eklove.

He said that Rabbi Korobkin has created an "amazing atmosphere" at Friday night services, where an estimated 100 men now dance around the bimah after singing *Lecha Dodi*.

As well, Eklove added, the rabbi loves to sing, and has introduced clapping as part of the Shabbat service – an unusual innovation, given that there is a rabbinic (albeit not halachic) prohibition against it.

"There are two prevailing opinions among contemporary authorities," Rabbi Korobkin explained. He said the prohibition is mitigated by a number of halachic authorities, particularly in chassidic communities, "which emphasize servicing God with joy, which is to permit and even encourage clapping and singing during the prayer services on Shabbos."

Eklove said there is "a real positive vibe" at the shul.

Another change in the past year is that the rabbi has allowed women to serve on the board of the shul for the first time.

As well, Rabbi Korobkin has instituted weekly receptions so that he and his wife could meet all the congregants (more than 700 families).

"We're about halfway there," he said. "Hopefully, we'll get through the rest of the membership list over the next year." As a rabbi, he added, it's important to him to be approachable.

* * *

At Shaarei Tefillah Congregation – about 8 kilometres south of the BAYT – Rabbi Rafi Lipner took over as spiritual leader of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation this month. However, he has been a presence at the 600-member Orthodox shul for the past three years as associate rabbi.

**Rabbi Rafi Lipner**

The rabbi is probably better known in Toronto as founder of The House, a drop-in learning centre for young adults. He will continue to be affiliated with the centre, which is expected to develop a strong working relationship with the shul.

The 38-year-old father of seven, who has a BA in economics and a master of education degree, never planned to be a pulpit rabbi, but ended up being hired by Shaarei Tefillah to attract young families after he attended a minyan there and offered to help out.

A Toronto native who grew up at Congregation B'nai Torah, Rabbi Lipner started out in business school at Yeshiva University, but entered the rabbinical program after spending 24 hours in introspection based on his experiences in informal Jewish education.

"I had this internal struggle. I loved the learning, engaging, inspiring, interpersonal stuff," he said.

Among the changes he's introduced at the shul are a chesed program for children, and a break in the service that he instituted when he was leading auxiliary services at Rosh Hashanah.

Rabbi Lipner wanted worshippers to partake in kiddush so that they wouldn't be hungry during the last part of the service, he said, but he also encouraged them to go up to one or two people they didn't recognize and talk to them.

"People loved the idea there was a break in the service and an opportunity to meet people," said Mark Greenberg, Shaarei Tefillah's second vice-president and chair of its religious committee.

Greenberg described the rabbi as "a warm, engaging individual who's passionate about introducing people to Judaism. He's very non-judgmental and supportive.

"Even though he's an Orthodox rabbi, that's not what hits you in the face."

Rabbi Lipner told *The CJN* he believes in "community-inspired Judaism," which is related not just to his mid-service kiddush, but also to the open houses he and his wife have hosted on Shabbat at their home.

"The mantra we use at The House is that we hope you walk out the doors more than you were when you walked in. I think the shul's the same way," he said. "It's about nurturing the growth that everybody's on, in their own individual way."

Rena loves to dance. And she keeps herself fit.
Her favourite city is Miami and for 20 years
she and her late husband spent winters there.
She hosts birthday parties in the private
dining lounge for her grandchildren. All nine of them.
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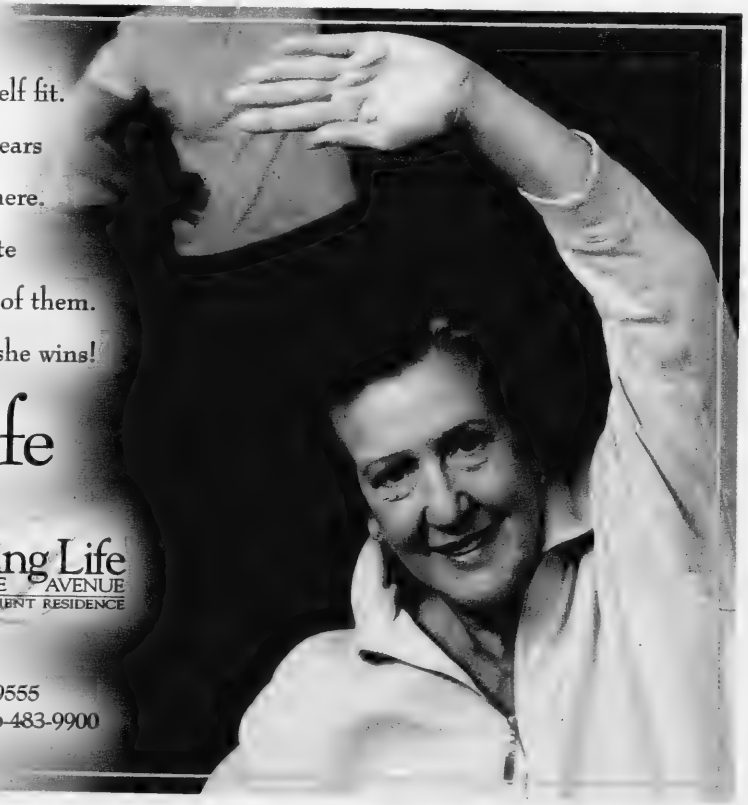

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# Toronto duo take peek into high-fashion closets

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

It's not every day that you get to peek into the closets of your style icons. Unless you happen to be Erin Kleinberg and Stephanie Mark: for them, it's all part of the job.

Toronto natives Kleinberg and Mark launched their style website The Coveteur (thecoveteur.com) in January 2011. Together with photographer Jake Rosenberg, they delve into the closets of the fashion elite, trendsetting designers, stylists and fashion magazine editors, and photo-document the treasures they find inside.

"We wanted to deconstruct street style and take it a step further than what was already out there by discovering the influences behind the trends and the stories behind the items people who we admire [wear]," said Kleinberg, 26, in an email interview.

She and Mark, 27, are childhood friends who met at summer camp. Each of them pursued careers in fashion before creating The Coveteur.

Kleinberg, a graduate of the University of Western

**Stephanie Mark, left, and Erin Kleinberg**
*[Jake Rosenberg/The Coveteur photo]*

Ontario's Media Information and Technoculture program, created her own line of "semi-couture" tops in 2008 under her name. Before she put her designing on hold to work on The Coveteur, her clothes were selling at high-end retailers around the world, including Holt Renfrew and Barney's New York.

Mark, who studied fashion marketing at the renowned Parsons School in New York, was working as a stylist, helping to dress Hollywood fixtures like Charlize Theron and Julianne Moore.

Both chased internships and job opportunities relentlessly, with Kleinberg working as the assistant to Alex White, former fashion director of *W Magazine*.

"It's not about what you know, it's who you know," Mark said, stressing the importance of interning and working to make connections in the fashion industry.

After spending some time in New York, she and Kleinberg found themselves in Toronto. Catching up at a late-night get-together, the stylish duo watched *The Social Network*, which tells the story of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's rise to success.

The tale of entrepreneurial victory inspired them to take The Coveteur from dream to reality. "If you have a dream, eat, sleep and breathe it," said Kleinberg, explaining the importance of perseverance and hard work.

The Coveteur was designed to fill a "voyeuristic void" in the fashion world, giving style enthusiasts a peek into the closets of their dreams. The two were determined to add something new to the world of fashion blogging, which, however inspiring to most fashion junkies, was not quite cutting it for them.

Within a day of the site's launch, it was obvious that Mark and Kleinberg were not the only ones itching for a glimpse of the world's most fashion-forward closets.

**Continued on page B14**

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# McDonald's founder a hands-on philanthropist

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

George Cohon, 75, founder and senior chair of McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Ltd., founder of McDonald's in Russia and a former member of *The CJN*'s board of directors calls himself a hands-on type of guy.

The Chicago native, who moved to Toronto in 1967 as the licensee of McDonald's Corporation for eastern Canada and served as president, chair and CEO of McDonald's Restaurants of Canada for 25 years remains involved in a number of community organizations, and tries to actively participate in all of them.

George Cohon

In June, Cohon, married with two sons and three grandchildren, received the key to Toronto from Mayor Rob Ford for his community work, which includes, among other things, founding Ronald McDonald House Charities in Canada and in Russia for sick children and their families receiving hospital treatment, co-chairing Toronto's Santa Claus Parade, and volunteering with the Ontario Science Centre, York University and Variety Village.

Cohon, who became a Canadian citizen in 1975, has received many distinctions for his charitable endeavours, including that of Officer of the Order of Canada, the Order of Ontario, Russia's Order of Friendship and the Israeli Prime Minister's Medal.

Getting involved, he said in an interview at McDonald's Canada head office, was a principle instilled in him at an early age. "I have always tried to support community organizations and get right in there and help out."

He has dinner at Ronald McDonald house, he says, and makes sure that he meets the parents and their kids.

"We opened a new house at the end of last year because we had been forced to turn away 70 per cent of the families [due to] lack of space. I found that unacceptable.

"I gave a speech at the opening, but I also went to meet the families. It was a [successful] $34 million campaign, but to me, getting to know the people staying there meant everything. Keeping families together when [one of them is sick] is very important."

When he visits, he said, he is often accompanied by his certified therapy dogs, mother and daughter Golden Retrievers, Tilly and Simmy.

"My wife Susan and I also take the dogs to Baycrest, often to the palliative care [unit.] We go from door to door and visit."

On one visit, Cohon, accompanied by Tilly, approached a closed door. "I knocked on the door and asked if we could come in. The woman responded that she wasn't dressed to see me but I could send in Tilly. After the visit, she told me that she wanted to keep Tilly as her roommate. When I told her my wife wouldn't let me in the house without the dog, she responded 'learn to live on the street.'

"That started a relationship between her and Tilly, and two weeks before the woman's death, her doctor told me the dog had brought her much happiness."

Cohon, who takes part in the Santa Claus Parade each year dressed as a clown and mingles with all the volunteers, says he is certainly a people person.

"I was at a McDonald's having coffee with my wife one day and saw a pregnant woman who looked like she was suffering from the heat. I gave her a card with a free coupon, and a few days later I received an e-mail from her telling me that McFlurries have gotten her through her pregnancy. Those are the e-mails I like to get."

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# Exploring the tastes of fashion's trendsetters

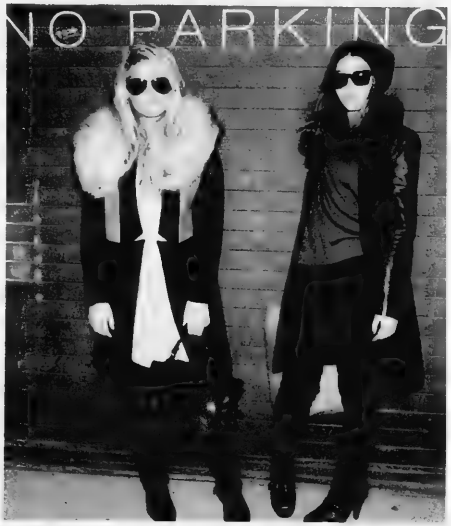
**Continued from page B12**

"Our success was pretty immediate—it suffices to say our site crashed. People really connected to what we were doing," Mark said.

In a year and a half, The Coveteur has found its way into well over 100 closets, documenting inspiring pieces with Rosenberg's sharp photographic eye. Style gurus who have opened their closet doors include accessories designer Rebecca Minkoff, *Globe and Mail* style reporter Amy Verner and Anna Dello Russo, editor at large and creative consultant for *Vogue Japan*.

Getting fashion celebrities to welcome The Coveteur into their homes and closets is becoming easier as the site gains popularity. "We're fortunate to have industry icons profiled on the site and they're eager to promote us, refer friends for the website and so on," Kleinberg said. Each fashion giant also brings a new fan base to The Coveteur, making it easier for Kleinberg and Mark to recruit new participants.

The Coveteur creators have offices in Toronto, but they fly often to New York and Los Angeles to get to some of the most coveted closets. Still, it was in Toronto where their own fashion obsessions began.




**Erin Kleinberg, left, and Stephanie Mark have their own cutting-edge style.** ***[Jake Rosenberg/The Coveteur photo]***

"My bubby Sidia Cowen was always dressed to the nines," Kleinberg said when asked about her first style inspiration. In fact, she once created a line of shirts made from her grandmother's chic vintage scarves.

For Mark, it was her mother who sparked her interest in all things fashion. Her "cool, laid back late 70s, early 80s style," taught Mark how to pick pieces that accentuate both her figure and her personality.

Although the six-inch stiletto heels and itty-bitty cocktail dresses in some of the website's pictures might leave you dubious about a fashionista's abilities to go about her daily tasks with ease, Mark and Kleinberg said their personal style is all about comfort.

"We're practical dressers. Being on set and going from shoot to show means comfy flats – we both love [French ballet shoe designer] Repetto – and transition dressing," Kleinberg said.

As the pair make their way from photo shoot to fashion show, they'll continue to expand The Coveteur. They're not ready just yet to divulge the details of what's to come, but they promise "big, big, big things!"

Bigger has usually proven to be better. "The bigger the risk, the bigger the payoff. We abandoned our careers to focus on The Coveteur and the rewards have been invaluable," Mark said.

Now that they've forged their own path into the fashion world, they can tell young fashion enthusiasts with certainty that hard work, intense dedication and constant networking and emailing really will pay off.

Kleinberg urges those chasing fashion careers to put their financial fears aside for a bit and to simply follow their dreams. "At the end of the day, do what you love and the rest – the money – will come."

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# Former CJN intern a CTV anchor

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Abigail Bimman loves telling stories.

As a teenager, Bimman spent a lot of time acting in community theatre, relishing the opportunity to relay a playwright's stories to an audience. At the time, she didn't know she wanted to be a journalist.

Now, from behind the news desk at CTV Kitchener, where she anchors the weekend news and works as a reporter and videographer during the week, the 26-year-old journalist can clearly see the connection between her love of theatre and her love of journalism: it's all in the stories.

"My passion is telling stories that matter to the community and matter to individuals," the Toronto native said. Working in local news lets her engage people in her community and tell their stories in depth.

After high school, Bimman decided to combine her love of storytelling and her strength in writing with a bachelor's degree in journalism at Carleton University in Ottawa.

There, she had her first introduction to broadcast reporting. "I was always very comfortable in front of a camera, or in front of an audience." In broadcast classes, she quickly felt at home as an on-camera reporter.

Bimman used the skills she learned at Carleton, both in broadcast and print journalism, to work as an intern in the news industry. In 2007, during her last summer as a student, she interned at *The CJN*, and was sent to Ukraine to see first-hand and to report on summer camps run by the Jewish Agency to help foster Jewish identity in the country's youth.

"I really learned a lot in that summer," said Bimman, who spent many summers at camp and understands the important role it can play in a child's life and development. Seeing the children learn about their heritage while having fun was "very special to watch."

Following graduation in 2008, Bimman went on to intern and work at TV news stations across Canada, including CTV News Channel in Toronto, the local CTV Ottawa station, CBC and Rogers TV for York Region. Before her current job at CTV Kitchener, Bimman helped to launch a nightly newscast for Durham Region with Studio 12 News at CHEX TV.

"What really helped my career was all of my internships," Bimman said, adding that, in many cases, internships led to jobs. She encourages students to intern as much as possible, and to speak to people in the industry to find out if the career is a good match for them.

**Abigail Bimman**

For Bimman, internships helped her meet industry professionals and were integral in finding her path within journalism. They helped her "not only to discover that this is what I wanted to do, but also to prove myself."

**Continued on page B17**

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# *Young chef's menus focus on "eating the whole animal"*

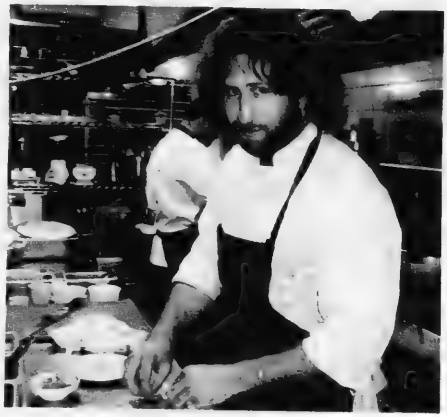
**Cara Edell**
Special to The CJN

Noah Goldberg, owner and executive chef of The Feasting Room, grew up eating Jewish foods and having Friday night dinners with his family.

Goldberg, 29, is an internationally trained chef who has recently returned to Toronto, where he was born and raised. The Feasting Room, located in the Orbit Room on College St., marks his professional culinary debut.

The Feasting Room is a "pop-up" restaurant, part of a contemporary trend in the food world where a concept restaurant opens for a relatively short time, in this case six months. And while it's not kosher, he said his Jewish background has definitely influenced his cooking. It may even be responsible for one of his latest dinner creations - roasted duck breast with blueberry blintzes and sweet potato latkes.

Goldberg's unique cuisine centres around his personal philosophy of using all parts of animals to craft a daily tasting menu, creating a gourmet experience for diners based on various, and at times, unexpected, cuts of meat.



**Noah Goldberg**

"I started cooking as a hobby in university," studying economics at Queen's University. Eventually, he said, "I... couldn't see myself doing anything else after graduating."

He decided to switch gears and pursue his passion for food as a career.

"Economics was very rigid. Cooking is very different. You can be more creative, expressive and original. I've developed a love for food and service and creating an environment for people," he said.

To further develop his knowledge and skills, Goldberg trained with top chefs in North America and the United Kingdom. After completing his degree in 2006, Goldberg worked with chef Susur Lee at Lee restaurant in Toronto. He then moved to New York in 2008 and worked at db Bistro Moderne for chef Daniel Boulud.

"This was your classic formal French restaurant run by a chef whose food I really look up to," he said. "It's as good as French food gets outside of France. I didn't have any formal kitchen training, so going there was a huge stepping stone."

After less than two years, Goldberg moved back to Toronto. Though he longed to work at Cyrus Restaurant in Sonoma, California, he couldn't get the proper visa. Instead, he worked as a butcher at Whitehouse Meats in St. Lawrence Market, which providentially led to his current passion.

"That job sparked my interest in butchery and using the whole animal. It was a different aspect of cooking that I hadn't been exposed to," he said.

Returning to the restaurant scene, Goldberg moved to London, England. He worked at Arbutus and Wild Honey, under chef Anthony Demetre. After six months, he was fortunate to get a job at St. John Bar & Restaurant.

**Continued on page B17**

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# News is not just about reporting

**Continued from page B15**

Bimman was hired at CTV Kitchener in February of last year. She began as a part-time videographer and reporter, meaning that she would go out to report on stories on her own, with just a tripod as her "cameraman."

"I can't count the number of times I've shown up at someone's house and they ask, 'where's the camera guy?'" But for Bimman, reporting, shooting and writing her own stories is thrilling.

"There are definitely challenges to being a one-person show, but there are huge rewards as well," like the freedom to work on all aspects of producing a captivating story.

About two months after she began her work at CTV Kitchener, Bimman was asked to become the weekend news anchor, while continuing her reporting duties during the week.

"It was a great, pleasant surprise," she said, and though she enjoys the storytelling aspect of reporting, anchoring has become another one of her passions. "I've come to really embrace it and enjoy it," she said.

Being an anchor means that Bimman has had to put her theatre and improvisation skills to use.

Reading the news live can be stressful, especially when technology does not co-operate, but Bimman said she and her small team are able to get through the occasional technological blunder. The key is to "keep calm and try to get through it in the best way that you can," she said.

Though her news career is still in its early stages, Bimman has been a part of some very important stories. Some of the most memorable have been reporting on the Goderich tornado and on the problems at telecommunication company Research in Motion.

But Bimman also loves telling the small stories in her community, and giving a voice to people "who may not have an opportunity otherwise to have their stories told," and she gets more chances to do just that when reporting on local, rather than national, news.

For Bimman, the news will never be just about her reporting. It's about the people she interviews and the stories they have to share. Despite her talent and flair for interviewing, she insists that "it's really about the person on the other side of the camera."

# A new menu every week

**Continued from page B16**

"St. John moulded me into the person and chef that I am today. It was the best experience of my life. Fergus Henderson, the chef, is incredible. The food they do there, it's just the right way to cook. They use entire animals, putting non-mainstream things on their menu."

A year and a half later, Goldberg returned to Toronto, driven to create something similar here.

"At St. John, during the holidays, we did feasting menus which were all based on one animal and I totally fell in love with it," he said. "Once the ball started rolling, everything led to this concept. I wanted my restaurant in Toronto to be different and to offer people something they've never had before."

The Feasting Room, which opened on May 24, encourages diners "to eat the whole beast," Goldberg said. "Every week we create a new six course blind tasting menu focusing on one animal."

He carefully butchers the animals "to get the most out of them with as little as possible going to waste. Not only does this reinforce the idea of conscientious eating, but it is a good example of sustainable eating practices."

Each week's menu depends on the animal on the block, so Goldberg and his sous chef must be constantly inventive. "We talk about what we want to do on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday is butchery day. Thursday we cook."

The animal of the week is posted on the restaurant's website, but the menu is kept secret until the meal is served. When diners are seated, they're given a card wrapped in butcher's paper with a diagram of the animal they'll be eating that night.

The animal is marked with numbers that show the part of its body that will be used for each course. Diners don't know what dishes they'll be eating until the food is presented to them.

"I'm thrilled with the food we're putting out," said Goldberg.

The Feasting Room has already received rave reviews by food critics, and Goldberg is pleased that his concept has been well received.

"The response has been great. Our diners seem to love the idea of eating the whole animal. It's a bit of an aggressive concept, but the meal and experience are amazing."

Family and friends have been "super supportive" of Goldberg's achievements, he said. "Part of the reason I wanted to come back to Toronto is because there's nothing better than cooking for friends and family."

The Feasting Room is a temporary venture, but Goldberg hopes to eventually open his own restaurant in the city. He's not yet sure of the details or location, he'd love a space that "relates," offering diners a venue as unique as his food.

For more information on The Feasting Room, visit www.thefeastingroom.com. The restaurant is open from Thursday to Sunday, 6pm to 10pm, and on Monday from 6pm until "late."

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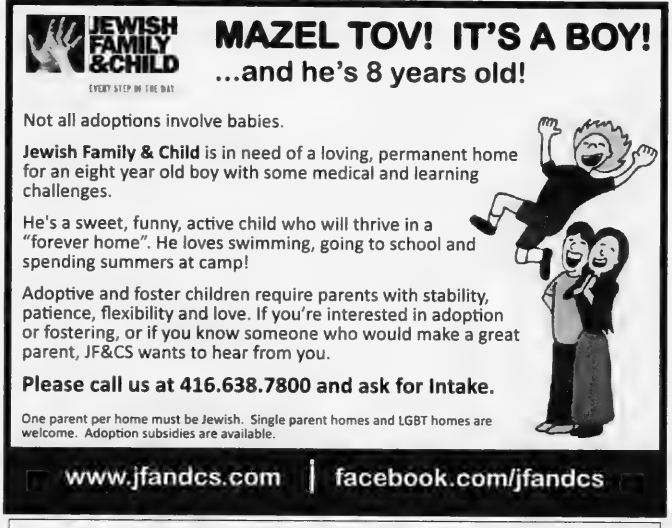
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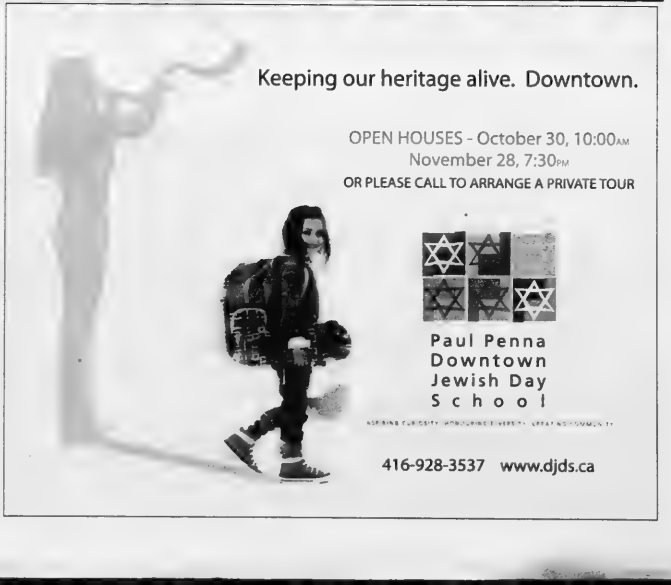


# Baseball is Mike Wilner's passion

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

There's something about baseball that attracts Jewish kids to the game – as players, fans and quite often as broadcasters.

That includes Mike Wilner, the radio host of Blue Jays games on Sportsnet 590 The Fan and a graduate of Bialik Hebrew Day School and the Anne and Max Tannebaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

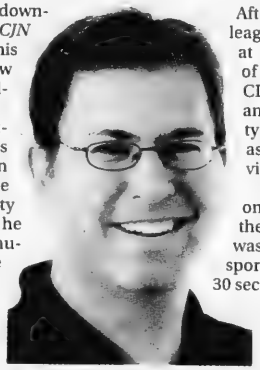
Wilner, 42, said that as a kid, he used to listen with rapt attention to legendary Jays radio broadcasters Tom Cheek and Jerry Howarth, the latter of whom he now works with.

"When I look back, I remember my father and grandfather watching sports and baseball, which is pretty common. But for some reason, baseball and Jews seem to go together. I don't know why," Wilner said.

The world of baseball broadcasting has produced many Jewish personalities, including the legendary Al Michaels and the great Mel Allen. And aside from Wilner, Toronto has also produced the likes of Elliotte Friedman, who once hosted Jays telecasts on CBC; ESPN radio baseball announcer Dan Shulman, another Bialik grad who also once worked at the Fan, and Sportsnet's own Shi Davidi, among others.

"Most nights, you could probably put a minyan together in the press box," quipped Wilner.

In a recent interview at a downtown café, he spoke to *The CJN* about how he developed his love for the game and how he landed what he considers to be his dream job.



Mike Wilner

He was always interested in baseball, but it was while he was enrolled in the bachelor of commerce program at the University of Toronto in 1988 that he ended up covering intramural sports for CIUT, the school's radio station.

It was around that time that he thought, "Why not go for a career in baseball?" he said.

He made it his mission to cover minor league baseball in order to gain experience as a broadcaster, and in 1989, he got a job calling games on the radio for the Class-A Welland Pirates.

He then used his dual U.S.-Canadian citizenship (through his mother) to move on to do play-by-play for other teams, including the Class-A Watertown Indians in New York state, and the Double-A Hardware City Rock Cats in Connecticut.

After working the minor league circuit, he interned at the Fan in the summer of 1993, then returned to CIUT as a sports radio host and would call in university sports scores to the Fan as well as various wire services.

The way Wilner tells it, one day in 1994, he called the Fan with his scores and was asked by the station's sports director to "give them 30 seconds" of recaps.

It turns out, the Fan's sports director at the time was the same guy who had hired Wilner at CIUT.

"So I gave them 30 seconds. Then the next week did it again and when I called 680 News [with varsity scores], I asked them if they wanted 30 seconds. And the woman who answered – I still don't know who she was to this day – said 'sure.' That was on a Sunday, and on the Tuesday after, I got a phone call to come audition for a job at 680 News," he said.

**Continued on page B19**

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# ´My work is what normal people do for fun´

**Continued from page B18**

The audition went well, but there was no job available at the time.

Wilner continued to pay his broadcasting dues for the next year by working various radio jobs before 680 News came calling yet again, this time with a bona fide job offer to be the weekend and evening "sports guy", covering all sports but also many Blue Jays games and milestone Toronto sports events.

That job lasted for seven amazing years, Wilner said.

"I got to cover the last game at the [Maple Leaf] Gardens, the first game at the Air Canada Centre, the first Toronto Raptors' game… if there was a big story for Toronto sports between 1995 and 2001, I covered it," he said.

After building his credentials and making a name for himself at 680 News, other suitors came calling.

In March 2001, Wilner received a "very nice offer" from a sports news syndication service seeking to woo him away from 680 News, but simultaneously, longtime Fan 590 Blue Jays pre- and post-game announcer Scott Ferguson decided to leave his job.

"That April, Fan 590 sports director Scott Metcalf called me. He'd remembered me from my summer internship and that I was really into baseball and asked me if I wanted the job. And I said yes," he said.

Wilner spent one year reporting for the Fan 590 about baseball and other sports, and in March 2002, after Roger's Communications bought the Jays and the Fan 590, he was handed the pre- and post-game announcing position.

The rest is history.

Wilner has spent the last decade working exclusively with the Jays.

It's been a dream come true, he said.

"It really flies by. I don't remember a lot of the early days of the show, but working with Tom Cheek was amazing.

"My work is what normal people do for fun. My office is the ballpark. Even after 10 years, it's still fun. While I'm not overwhelmed by it anymore, I'm also not jaded. I remember the first time I walked out onto the field at [what was then called Skydome]. It was the first day it opened. That was incredible. It's all still really exciting," he said.

Wilner, who also hosts the popular Jays' post-game show *Jaystalk*, doesn't suffer callers who can't back up their statements or make coherent arguments about the team.

"I call things as I see them, with no agenda one way or the other. People get angry, but it's usually people on both sides of whatever issue I'm discussing, so I figure I'm doing something right," he said.

Some consider his style polarizing, but he likes to analyze the team and the sport with as much balance as possible.

"I try to impress on casual fans who may be more reactive to news about the Jays and less knowledgeable than hardcore fans that in baseball, if you lose every other game, you'll be fine. If you win five out of every nine games… that's 90 wins and that's a great year," he said.

**Continued on page B26**

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# Jewish texts and history bring artist's vision to life

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Laya Crust has been drawing since she was a little girl, but it wasn't until she was in university that she began to realize that her passion for art could be more than just a hobby.

"I always, always drew – all the time," Crust said. "Even when I was in elementary school, I used to make little notebooks and hide them under my desk."

The Winnipeg native studied French literature and design at the University of Manitoba before making the move to Toronto to pursue her passions. She ended up staying in the city, where she now lives with her husband and their six children, who range in age from 16 to 28.

"I thought I'd come to Toronto to study art and Judaism at the same time," she said. Crust came from a traditional Jewish home, and had always taken an interest in her heritage.

She studied at the Three Schools of Art, since closed, as well as at the Ontario College of Art (now OCAD University). She took classes in printmaking, papermaking and book binding, but focused mainly on lithography, a printing process that traditionally uses a stone or metal plate to press ink onto paper. Crust also took classes about Judaism, and participated in Hillel activities, including a Hebrew calligraphy course that would later help launch her career.

"It was another expression of Jewish art," Crust said of the calligraphy class. Shortly after she completed it, she got a phone call from a person who wanted her to make a ketubah for their wedding.

"It was sort of out of the blue," she said, but she was eager to use her skills to design a ketubah. These Jewish marriage contracts are often elaborately decorated, and Crust saw it as an opportunity to research and try out new aspects of Jewish art.

**Continued on page B21**

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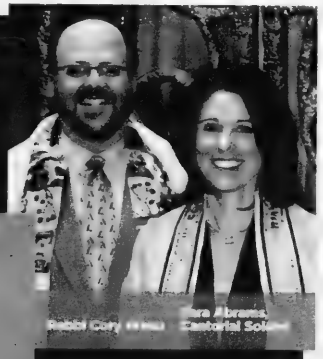

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# Research is a major part of each ketubah

**Continued from page B20**

With that project, Crust found her niche. Now, she has designed more than 600 original ketubot, featuring different styles of art and depicting everything from elaborate land- and cityscapes to a pair of embracing doves. Her studies in Judaism and art with experts both in North America and in Jerusalem, shine through in her detailed work.

**Laya Crust mixes Persian-Jewish imagery with quotations and historical religious symbols in her art.**

Though she initially studied printmaking, Crust enjoys working in various media, including fabric and stained glass.

"If an artist stays in the same style forever, they don't grow as an artist and the work loses its edge of excitement," she said. Any time she has an opportunity to try a new type of art, she embraces it.

Crust's Torah mantles, parochets (coverings for the Aron Kodesh) and huge mosaics can be seen in Jewish institutions and private homes in North America and Israel.

One collaboration, with glass artist Sarah Hall, is a stained-glass window themed with the biblical story of the binding of Isaac, installed at the Union for Reform Judaism in New York City.

Before she started creating Jewish art, Crust says, "I'd always loved all of the stories in the Tanach and tfillah, but I read them more as beautiful history and literature, rather than expressing them visually." Now, those texts often inspire her designs.

For Crust, research is a major part of each ketubah or Jewish work of art that she creates. She spends days researching the history of the imagery involved, and in the case of ketubot and personal gifts or commissions, she makes a special effort to learn which themes and images are important to the clients.

**Artist Laya Crust**

In 2011, Rabbi Shalom Schachter and his wife Marcia Gilbert commissioned an illuminated Megillat Esther, the scroll read each year on Purim. Crust learned the art of sofrut, Jewish scribal technique, in order to complete the project.

According to Jewish law, women can write megillot and ketubot, but not other sacred texts, like a Torah. For Crust, who is observant, the opportunity to learn sofrut was an honour.

"I felt I was becoming a member of an ancient club," she said, referring to the scribal tradition that has been passed down for thousands of years. "Getting to that amount of focus for a long period of time…it was like going into a meditative state with the letters."

The bright, detailed art that accompanies her megillah's text is based both on extensive research of art in Persia, where the story of Purim is set, and on the interests and family history of Rabbi Schachter and his wife. The scroll was displayed in the John M. Kelly Library at St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto.

Crust is currently working on creating a set of images for each Haftorah portion as a project for Beth David Synagogue in Toronto.

She studies the texts and their history to find the details that will make the art come alive for viewers. "I want to give them a connection to history, to possibility and to Judaism through the image."

For Crust, sharing the inspiring qualities of Judaism with viewers is central. Through art, she explores her unique understanding of Jewish life. "Nature and creation and beauty are all connected, and the fulcrum, or the centre of the wheel for that, for us, is our Judaism."

To see more of Laya Crust's art visit layacrust.com.

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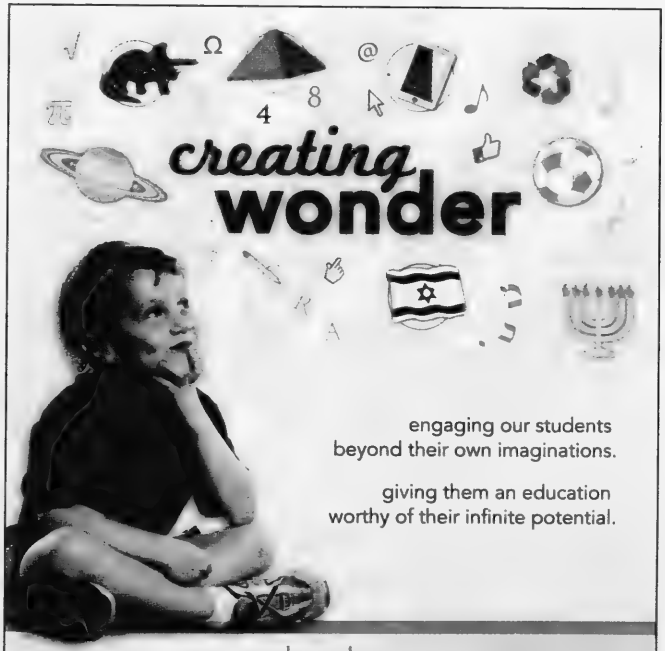


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# *Ghana experience transforms Toronto rebbetzin*

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Joan Dolgin and her family have been at the heart of Temple Sinai congregation since her husband, Rabbi Michael Dolgin, took a position there 20 years ago, when they moved from the United States to Toronto.

As a rebbetzin and a special education professional, Dolgin has run the shul's children's choir, participated in sisterhood organizations, tutored children at the congregation's school and prepared children with disabilities for bar and bat mitzvahs.

Seeing her pupils stand confidently in front of the congregation "was extraordinarily fulfilling and beautiful." For Dolgin, who has always connected with children, it is amazing to see students with disabilities and their families learn how capable they truly are.

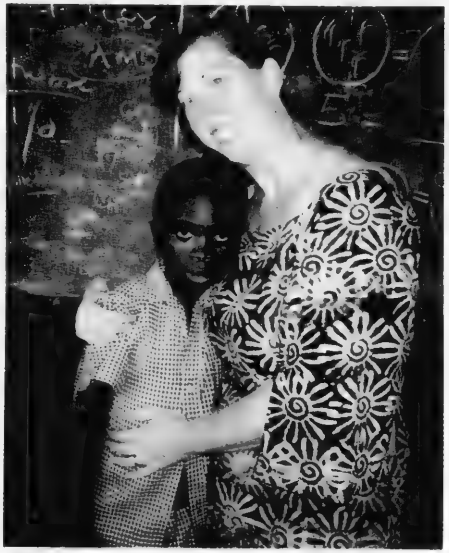
"I have always taken my role very, very seriously," Dolgin said of her work in the congregation. Working nonstop at the shul is a labour of love, but about a year and a half ago, she decided she needed a temporary change of scenery.

"I wanted to go somewhere where I could sort of rekindle and re-discover the value of what I was doing." For Dolgin, that place was Ghana. From January to March of 2011, she joined a volunteer program at a school for children with special needs.

"I immediately fell in love with the people," she said of her first experience in Ghana. Dolgin spent two months volunteering at the Gbi Kledzo Special School in the village of Kledzo.

She helped the students, who ranged in age from six to 30, get ready each morning, and organized activities for them throughout the day. Dolgin was most impressed with the way in which the children at the school were able to play freely and joyfully, without being instructed or taught to play particular games.

"In general, the minute you try to teach play, it's no longer play," she said. The typical North American approach towards caring for children with disabilities can sometimes be too structured when it comes to playtime.



**Dolgin with 12-year-old Prince. The children she met in Ghana hold a special place in her heart.**

"They play in Ghana – it's just breathtakingly beautiful," she said. Dolgin quickly felt a special connection, cherishing the time she had with the students. "I've always had a deep, deep love of children – and the children at this school, I can't talk about them without crying," even after only two months.

**Continued on page B23**

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# Life-changing volunteer work in Africa

**Continued from page B22**

Dolgin came back to Toronto enamoured with the people, the culture and the experiences she'd had in Ghana. It wasn't a question of whether she would return, but when.

"I came back and my husband was like, 'tell me stories.'" But though she'd kept a blog documenting her travels, she found herself at a loss to explain the true impact that volunteering had made on her. "It's just so hard to put into words."

Dolgin decided she would take her husband to see what her world in Ghana was all about. The couple took a trip there this past winter.

The organization she had volunteered with on her first trip stopped running the program at the Gbi Special School, so Dolgin decided to create her own organization to bring volunteers to Ghana.

She named the organization The Sky is My Limit, and last fall, when it was still very much in its beginning stages, she met with Ryerson University's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) co-ordinators to talk about a possible collaboration.

ASB Ryerson is a student-run group that organizes travel volunteer experiences in developing countries for university students. The group was looking for a program and destination for the spring of 2012, and Dolgin's organization was a perfect fit.

Because The Sky is My Limit was just starting out, planning for a spring trip to Ghana meant Dolgin had to design the ideal volunteering trip right away. The collaboration with ASB "pushed the agenda into lightning speed."

**Dolgin holding 10-year-old Akos, one of the children she met through her volunteering.**

This May, 18 ASB Ryerson participants joined Dolgin on a month-long volunteer trip to Kledzo. The youngest of the Dolgins' three sons, 15-year-old Zachary, joined the group as well.

Their goal was to build a residence for the young adult students with disabilities that she had met earlier in Ghana. Living on their own would allow them to develop more independence, and work on their vocational skills, like traditional Ghanaian kente weaving and batik fabric dyeing.

"In Ghana, having a disability is really devaluing," Dolgin explained, adding that the opportunity for young adults with disabilities to learn these skills will give them a chance to contribute to their communities.

By the time the ASB students left, after four weeks of construction and spending time with children from the Gbi Special School, the residence was nearly complete. It was named Selma's Place, in memory of Dolgin's longtime friend and Jewish educator, Selma Sage.

The trip "was extremely transformative, not just for me, but for the Ryerson students and for the community of Kledzo," Dolgin said. The community "opened their hearts, their homes and their arms for us."

She's already planning to return to Ghana, and hopes to one day build a community centre for the people she has come to know and love there. What began as a single volunteer trip taken to reinvigorate herself became a life-changing connection that she hopes will continue for many years to come.

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# Clothing entrepreneur values community, education

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

At first glance, Moshe Modiera, the brand director and managing partner for Rebus Productions, a clothing company, may not seem like someone with the typical "Jewish look."

But with his father a kess, the equivalent of a rabbi within the Ethiopian Jewish community, plus his own years of experience working for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and promoting Jewish and Israeli causes, Modiera is a good reminder of the true diversity of Toronto's Jewish community.

Born in Toronto, the 30-year-old Modiera lived in Israel, Italy, Sweden and the United States before settling here permanently in 1991.

He grew up religious. "My father is a kess, my father's father was a kess." Adds Modiera with a laugh, "I think that might end with me – I'm a lowly shmatte peddler."

He calls settling into the Canadian Jewish community at the age of eight "emotional."

"When I lived in Israel, we were in Ramat Gan and there were a lot of Ethiopians, Moroccans and people of different minorities... It was only when we got here that people would ask, 'How are you Jewish?'... That was a bit of a shock for me," Modiera recalled.

**Moshe Modiera**

"As time went on, people became more interested but initially, they didn't get it. I remember writing this essay in [high school]... about our identity and heritage and I wrote an essay that was tongue-in-cheek called 'Too Black to be Jewish, Too Jewish to be Black.' We were in this weird island in the middle."

But overall, his experience with the Toronto Jewish community was nothing but positive. His family was welcomed with open arms by Ohr Somayach in Thornhill, which helped them settle in.

"One of the things that made living in different cities easy for me is that my father always impressed on us not only to learn about Judaism, but to learn about the cultures around us... To adapt to the minhagim of whatever community you're in."

Modiera said he also learned about people's natural tendency to assign labels to others.

**Continued on page B25**

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**Continued from page B24**

"People want to put you in neat little boxes that they can deal with – like 'you're an Ethiopian Jew,' but my mother's Moroccan, and also has Dutch heritage. My father is Ethiopian, but he also has Portuguese heritage. I'm an African-Jewish mutt."

Despite people's confusion about how to peg Modiera, he said he never experienced discrimination from the Jewish community and was more than willing to give back as an adult.

"For most of my 20s, I did a lot of Israel advocacy. I did a lot of work with Hillel, I worked with UJA for just under a year promoting Israel, showing Israel as a diverse melting pot and a country rich with technology and finance leaders."

Working with UJA strengthened his belief in volunteerism. "You start to realize that it is the bedrock of the Jewish community... I was volunteering on these committees with people between 20 and 40 years old, no matter where they fell along the religious spectrum... but there was a sense that [Jews feel] they need to give back to the community."

Modiera's devotion to social activism extended beyond Jewish causes. Before delving into the fashion industry with a short stint with Hugo Boss, he worked on the Toronto Live Green program, an environmental marketing project for the City of Toronto, "trying to get Torontonians to think about their purchasing decisions that supported a more environmental concept and being conscious of your carbon footprint," he explained.

Despite his success and experience in the working world, Modiera, raised by parents who impressed upon him the importance of education and who has already earned two degrees from McMaster University, still has ambitions to further his academic career.

> ***'People want to put you in neat little boxes'***

"Education and school was very important to my family. My mother speaks 12 languages – she's a linguistics major... My father is also very schooled," he said.

"Law school is something my parents really wanted for me. I wrote the LSATs twice and got into a school in Australia and in England, but I got involved in business because I'm a creative guy."

He said he plans to obtain an MBA that he hopes will hone his business skills.

For now, Modiera is getting hands-on experience in the business world as Adam Bledin's partner and brand director for Rebus Productions.

Although Bledin and Modiera have known each other since high school, it was a chance meeting in 2010 that led to their current partnership.

"I ran into him and he told me about Rebus and told me what he was trying to do... He showed me some designs and told me about his contacts in Turkey... I thought, 'that's really hard to get.'"

They decided to combine their expertise and contacts and have been running the company together since 2011.

They started with denim, making jeans from high-quality Turkish cotton, "But denim is a tough market and it's very competitive," he said, adding that his vision is to brand Rebus denim as Toronto's label.

"As time wore on, wanting to pay homage to our high school days and going to camp, we thought, 'let's come up with some sweatpants,' and we came up with Lazypants. We trademarked it. We own the word."

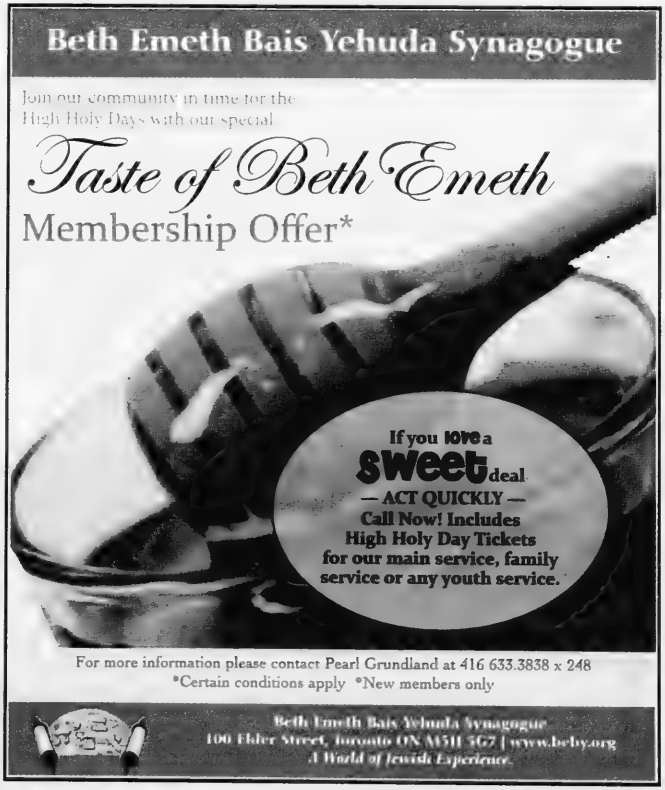
People have really been responding to them. Even *GQ Magazine* caught on, calling Lazypants the "best of what's to come in 2012."

"It's been meteoric. People love the branding, and love what we're about. We're about Toronto lifestyle and really trying to share the diversity of Toronto life with the world."

"When I look at Ralph Lauren or Calvin Klein, how they were able to export a certain kind of Americana to the world, it was something that I really wanted to do with Rebus – export the Canadian, cottage, easy-going, east coast lifestyle."

True to his charitable origins, Modiera said a portion of Rebus' profits goes towards charitable causes such as Peace Builders International, an organization that works with at-risk youth to keep them out of the criminal justice system.

Rebus products are available at Toronto clothing stores such as TNT and Dew, as well as online at www.rebuslife.com.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# Wilner working his ´dream job´

**Continued from page B19**

Wilner thinks the general obsession with hockey in Canada can sometimes muddle the casual fan's viewpoint on baseball.

"Hockey's season is half as long as baseball's. So living and dying with every game and every loss [of the Blue Jays] is really counterproductive to your health as a baseball fan. Even the best team is going to lose 60 games a year. That's maybe hard for a hockey fan to understand."

Asked if being Jewish helps inform his perception of baseball or his analysis, Wilner said he believes it does.

"It's so firmly ingrained, it informs everything you do. But aside from a little sprinkling of Yiddish on the broadcast once in a while or 'mazal tovs' to [players] on Twitter when they hit big home runs, that's a tough question to answer," he said. "Everything comes out of being Jewish. Not that it makes me watch baseball differently, or talk about it differently.

"One of the pillars of Judaism, aside from the routines and observances, is the intellectual side – the thinking more deeply about issues, not accepting things at face value, and the questioning that comes from being Jewish... that probably has something to do with [my style]."

Wilner said while he hasn't done too much volunteering within the Jewish community specifically, he would "love to do more, if anybody's interested."

It should be noted that he has spoken to students at TannenbaumCHAT for its career day, and this past June he helped coach Bialik's baseball team to the Toronto Jewish Day School League co-ed softball championship.

He said when he speaks to young people interested in pursuing a career in broadcasting, he advises them "not to do it the way I did."

Instead, he said, they should go to school and then work hard as an intern.

"And never say 'no' to any work [in the field]," Wilner said.

"It's funny, the first time I was on the radio was in 1988. The first time I earned a cent for being on the radio was in 1995. Today, people intern for three months, and if they're not hired somewhere, they get all huffy," he said.

"The first 13 years of my broadcast career I spent doing anything and everything anybody asked me to do. So my advice is to do whatever you can... and once you get in, if you're good, you'll get wherever you need to go."

While he realizes he's working in a dream job, there is a cost: lack of family time.

Wilner is on call literally 24-7. If Blue Jays' news breaks, he needs to be on top of it and ready for an interview or to provide analysis. Plus, the rigours of a 162-game schedule offer little chance to spend quality time with his wife and two daughters during the baseball season.

"I try to spend as much time with them as I can in between games. But when they're in school and the Jays are playing at home, I almost never see [the family]," he said. "And in the winter, I try to just get away with them."

Ironically, it was a family member who inspired him to pursue a career in broadcasting.

Wilner's grandfather, Percy Wilner, who passed away at age 92 in 2007, was a prime influence in his life.

"He always had a radio near him, always listened to ball games. So me going on the broadcast and knowing he was always there, listening, that was phenomenal."

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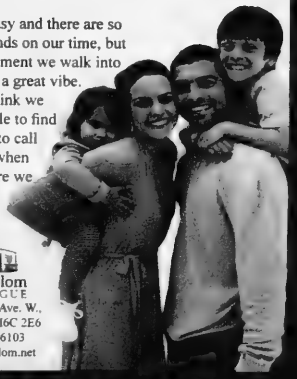
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# Jewish-Muslim dialogue debunks stereotypes

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

A new Toronto-based Jewish-Muslim dialogue is garnering worldwide interest from those who'd like to replicate the program in other cities.

Dialogue co-chairs David Nitkin, founder of EthicScan Canada, an ethics consulting company, and Tariq Khan, a journalist with the Canadian newspaper *Weekly Press Pakistan*, joined forces earlier this year to launch a program to help Jews and Muslims learn about each other and debunk baseless stereotypes.

"It's a chance to break down barriers. We stress that we are all children of the same God, we stress that we have a lot of things in common," Nitkin said.

"It's non-political, it's non-religious, but it includes people who are religious and secular on both sides and it is an attempt to dispel ignorance of the other and to learn how much we have in common."

**David Nitkin**

Most participants are not religious, said Nitkin. "To be honest, some of them are anti-religion and some of them don't ever enter a mosque. We don't invite imams and rabbis… The idea is to just talk… about our values… what makes for a good person."

The invitation-only group has grown from six people at the March meeting in Khan's home to 22 people at a second session in Nitkin's home and finally, in June, to 40 people hosted in a Toronto library. The next session is scheduled for late September.

Through his work with the *Weekly Press Pakistan*, Khan, a 30-year journalism veteran who moved to Canada 10 years ago, writes articles in Urdu about the dialogue and sends them to 14,000 Indian and Pakistani journalists who are members of the news outlet's online forum.

As a result, news about the dialogue has gone global, reaching Turkey, France, Israel, the West Bank, the United Arab Emirates, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Malaysia, and the United States.

Nitkin said, "I've had calls from Vancouver, I've had calls from Detroit, Calgary, Miami asking, 'What is this bizarre thing you're doing, and can we replicate it?'"

"This is not rocket science. It's just opening your heart and your home to somebody that you might otherwise not meet and not have an opportunity to interact with."

The first time Nitkin and his wife met Khan, they quickly realized they "knew nothing about Muslims, we knew nothing about the difference between Arbi and Ajmi Muslims and [Khan's] kids knew nothing about Israel and more shocking… they knew nothing about the Shoah. And they were absolutely fascinated about the Shoah."

It was this encounter and realization of how little they knew of their respective cultures and backgrounds that motivated them to organize the dialogue.

Participants at the third meeting, in June, were split into four smaller working groups to get to know one another and dispel myths about each group.

Nitkin and the other Jewish participants learned about the difference between Arbi and Ajmi Muslims.

"Arbi, or Arab, Muslims – there are upwards of 375 million of them – live in places like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Iran." This group is further split into two groups, Sunni and Shi'ite.

"They're politicized, have certain views about Israel and they know about Palestine and believe themselves to be the [entire] Muslim world."

But there are also about 650 million Ajmi Muslims, living in countries like India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, who are "looked down upon by the Arbi Muslims because they are not Arab-speaking, and they don't have attitudes toward Israel. If anything, the ones I've met are quite sympathetic to Israel… This was a revolution to me."

Muslim participants learned more about the Holocaust, while Jewish group members were made aware of the violent 1947 partition of India into the Hindu nation of India and the Muslim nation of Pakistan, which displaced up to 12.5 million people and resulted in the deaths of up to two million others. The meetings have also addressed stereotypes harboured by each group, which Nitkin said are born not out of hatred, but ignorance.

"One of the things I remember from the first meeting in Tariq's home was that in the 25 years he lived in Pakistan, he'd never seen an article produced about Israel from the Israeli government," he said.

"There was an enormous gap and lack of knowledge in Pakistan about Israel."

Nitkin feels encouraged by the scores of people who are eager to "replace stereotypes with a little bit of knowledge.

"We Jews know something about being alone in the world and not having friends, and there are literally hundreds of millions of people who we think of as being hostile to us or to Israel who literally know nothing about it."

For more information about the dialogue contact Khan at 905-565-8179 or Nitkin at 416-783-7569.

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# *Deputy consul general keeps low profile, but does key work*

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Israeli consul generals usually get the bulk of media coverage and requests for interviews, while their deputies often go unheralded.

In Toronto, that person is Hadas Wittenberg Silberstein.

Since her arrival in late 2010, the unassuming deputy consul general for Toronto and Western Canada has quietly gone about organizing numerous events and galas on behalf of Israel, mostly to do with bringing cultural exhibits and artists to Canada.

But Wittenberg Silberstein's role is also to be the glue that holds the diplomatic functions of the consulate together.

Assisting the consul general – first under recently departed Amir Gissin, and now for D. J. Schneeweiss – she provides crucial support for her busy bosses.

It's a role she relishes, she said.

Speaking to *The CJN* in a recent interview at a Bathurst Manor café, Wittenberg Silberstein, 37, spoke about her role and why she joined Israel's foreign ministry more than 10 years ago.

"The deputy consul general is No. 2 in the hierarchy of the consulate. And I do whatever the consul general asks of me," she said. "But it's interesting, because I've been the No. 2 in my [other postings], and you end up defining what that job is at the various consulates" depending on what's needed in any given city or community, she said.

**Hadas Wittenberg Silberstein**

In the case of the consulate in Toronto, she said, she didn't replace anyone. The position was created by Gissin, who had embarked on an ambitious plan to use Toronto as the epicentre of Israel's rebranding strategy, and her job was to take pressure off the consul general.

"The foreign ministry realized that [the consul general's duties] in Toronto were too big for just one diplomat," she said.

Wittenberg Silberstein likened her position to that of "interior minister" for the consulate, with the consul general's role being that of a "foreign minister."

"For every project the [consul general] initiates with local partners in Toronto and Canada, I have to [contact Israel's] foreign ministry to get the budget and find Israeli partners for it."

As someone who loves the arts, Wittenberg Silberstein has also cultivated ongoing Israeli cultural programming in Canada.

She has built relations with art galleries, festivals and artists across Canada to further Israel's ability to export its culture to North America.

"This is one area where I've taken a central role," she said, noting that over the last two years she's helped create more links between Israeli cinema and the Toronto International Film Festival, as well as with Toronto's Luminato festival.

"Canadian and Israeli cultures bring different elements to the [artistic] table, and I think they're a good mix."

As a result of her efforts, Israeli directors are increasingly choosing Canada as a film-shooting destination, and Canadian directors are doing the same when it comes to Israel, she said.

Prior to becoming deputy consul general in Toronto, Wittenberg Silberstein held the same role at Israeli consulates in Belgrade, Serbia, (from 2004 to 2007) and in San Jose, Costa Rica (2008 to 2010).

She holds a master's degree in social work from Hebrew University and was a medic in the Israel Defence Forces.

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**Tel: 416-489-7400**
**Website: www.melton-toronto.org**
**or www.fmas.org.il**
Let the Melton Adult Mini School bring you into the world of Jewish texts and thinkers, ancient and modern. Ask your questions, enjoy challenging discussion with students from a variety of backgrounds. Meets two hours once a week for 30 weeks on Wed morning or Wed evenings; 8 or 10 week continuing ed classes available. See www.melton-toronto.org or www.fmams.org.il , call 416-789-7400 for more information.

**JEWS FOR JUDAISM**
**2795 Bathurst St, PO Box 41032**
**Toronto, ON M6B 4J6**
**T: 416-789-0020 F: 416-789-0030**
**toronto@jewsforjudaism.ca**
**www.jewsforjudaism.ca**
**Jews for Judaism** is an international organization dedicated to countering the multi-million dollar efforts of Christian missionary and cult groups that target Jews. We also connect Jewish people to the spiritual depth and wisdom of Judaism. We accomplish these goals through a variety of free educational programs, materials and counselling services.

**JOURNAL FOR THE STUDY OF ANTISEMITISM**
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**Albuquerque, NM 87111 USA**
**Tel: 505-918-2750**
**Email: skbaum@comcast.net**
**Website: jsantisemitism.org**
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Latin American Antisemitism Vol 3#1
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## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

**HILLEL HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES @ YORK UNIVERSITY**
**Scott Religious Centre,**
**4700 Keele Street, Toronto**
**Tobi Liederman**
**905-764-0212**
Moshe and Dan Ronen have been leading this interactive and informative service for over 30 years. They provide a unique, community oriented service in a welcoming family atmosphere with noted guest speakers. The service encourages its congregants participation, children and adults alike. Babysitting is also available. Post secondary students with valid ID are complimentary.

**JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD (JF&CS)**
**4600 Bathurst St., 1st Floor**
**Toronto, Ont. M2R 3V3**
**Tel: 416-638-7800**
**E-mail: info@jfandcs.com**
**Website: www.jfandcs.com**
Supports healthy development of individuals and families within the context of Jewish values. Child welfare & protection | foster care & adoption financial assistance | individual & group counseling women abuse programs | adolescent mental health centre Jewish healing | hospice & chaplaincy programs | bereavement Volunteer opportunities | Just A Second Shop.

**REENA**
**927 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill**
**Tel: 905-889-6484**
**Email: info@reena.org**
**Website: www.reena.org**
Reena, a non-profit social service agency, supports individuals with a developmental disability, and their families through residential and social work programs. Community day, evening, respite and Sunday programs focus on recreation, education, life skill/vocational training, support and leisure. Charitable donations call: Reena Foundation 905-764-1081, ext. 3, or toll free 877-324-4141 ext. 3033.

## EDUCATION

**ADATH ISRAEL NURSERY SCHOOL**
**37 Southbourne Ave.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 1A4**
**Educational Director:**
**Wendy Steinberg-Himmel**
**Tel: 416-635-5340 Fax: 416-635-1629**
**Website: www.adathisrael.com**
A nurturing learning environment that encourages the social, emotional, physical cognitive, creative and spiritual development of each child. Jewish values, traditions and holidays are are highlighted. Nursery – 3 yr. olds – 5 mornings or full day. Pre-nursery – 2 yr. olds – 2, 3 or 5 mornings.

**AHAVAT YISRAEL HEBREW SCHOOL**
**54 Glen Park Ave.**
**Toronto, Ont. M6B 2C2**
**Tel: 416-781-8088**
**Website:**
**www.ahavatyisraelhebrewschool.com**
**Thornhill Woods**
**Bathurst & Lawrence, Forest Hill**
Ahavat Yisrael Hebrew School in its 19th year, offers classes on Sunday mornings, or Tuesday evenings. Our curriculum includes Hebrew reading, writing, language, a love for Israel and the holidays. All curriculum is taught from a Traditional perspective. Remedial and enrichment reading programs.

**ASSOCIATED HEBREW SCHOOLS OF TORONTO**
**Tel:905-889-3998 x 337**
**www.agreatschool.com**
Associated provides an outstanding academic program from pre Nursery to Grade 8 in an environment rich with Jewish values. Graduates attain a superb foundation in English, math, science and the social sciences, in addition to Hebrew, Jewish texts and Israel. With 4 campuses across the GTA we offer before and after care, busing and financial assistance.

**BETH SHOLOM HEBREW SCHOOL**
**1445 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto**
**Principal : Karen L. Goodis, RJE**
**Tel: 416-783-6103, ext. 225**
**E-mail: karen@bethsholom.net**
Beth Sholom Hebrew School offers small classes, an individualized Hebrew program, Judaica, music and outstanding Family Education. Jewish values and Mitzvot are emphasized in every grade. Children with special education needs are welcomed. Dedicated professional staff welcomes every child.

**BIALIK HEBREW DAY SCHOOL**
**2760 Bathurst St.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6B 3A1**
**Admissions: Danielle Waltman**
**Tel: 416-783-3346**
**Website: bialik.ca**
Bialik focuses on developing life-long learners through our enriched, stimulating academic programs and multi-language curriculum. Bialik develops a love of Israel and Jewish culture. We welcome children from a broad spectrum of Jewish affiliation and observance. We offer before and after school care as well as financial assistance from JK to grade 8.

**DOWNTOWN JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL (Miles Nadal JCC)**
**750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor**
**Principal: Joan Schoenfeld**
**Tel: 416-924-6212**
**E-mail: joan@djcs.org**
**Website: www.djcs.org**
Supplementary pluralistic Jewish school. Sunday only or Sunday and Wednesday classes. JK - High School. Tuition fees FULLY tax deductible. Azrieli bursaries available.

**THE JOE DWEK OHR HAEMET SEPHARDIC SCHOOL JDOHSS**
**Menahel: Rabbi Zvi Kamenetzky x268**
**Principal: Mrs. Sarah Wasserman x229**
**7026 Bathurst St. Thornhill ON**
**Tel: 905 669-7654**
**Website: www.orhaemet.com**
JDOHSS provides orthodox Torah education in accordance with Sephardic practice, focusing on Midot. JDOHSS' strong commitment to academic excellence is evident in its enriched Judaic and General Studies program standards, set by Torah U'Mesorah and Ontario Ministry of Education and Training.

**THE LEO BAECK DAY SCHOOL**
**North Campus**
**36 Atkinson Ave., Thornhill**
**Tel: 905-709-3636**
**South Campus**
**501 Arlington Ave., Toronto**
**Tel: 416-787-9899**
**Website: www.leobaeck.ca**
Reform Jewish day school and IB World School. Academic day uniquely divided into equal thirds: English Language Arts; Math Science and Social Studies; and Hebrew Language Arts French, Music, Art, Drama, Computers, Library and Physical Education enhance our enriched curriculum.

**MONTESSORI JEWISH DAY SCHOOL**
**55 Yeomans Road, Toronto, M3H 3J7**
**Contact: Regina Lulka, Director**
**Tel: 416-784-5071**
**Fax: 416-784-2049**
**Email: adminMJDS@mjds.ca**
**Website: www.mjds.ca**
For over 10 years Montessori Jewish Day School has been opening the minds and hearts of children age 2.5 to 14 years. We are delighted to announce the opening of our new TODDLER program (18 months+) starting in September, 2012. Visit us at: www.mjds.ca. To arrange a tour please call 416-784-5071 ext. 1 or email adminMJDS@mjds.ca

**NESHAMAH CONGREGATION OF YORK REGION**
**Tel: 647-930-1709**
**Rabbi: Erin Polonsky**
**Email: info@neshamah.ca**
**Website: www.neshamah.ca**
Neshamah's youngest members from JK and up can join Rabbi Polansky and professional educators at ACE Daycare in Thornhill Woods for Religious and Hebrew School. Interactive programs promote Jewish identity and social responsibility while providing children with fun, engaging opportunities to learn about their Jewish culture.

**PAUL PENNA DOWNTOWN JEWISH DAY SCHOOL**
**750 Spadina Ave., Toronto, ON. M5S 2J2**
**Principal: Laila Lipetz**
**Tel: 416-928-3537**
**E-mail: info@djds.ca**
**Website: www.djds.ca**
Driven by the values: inspiring curiosity, honouring diversity, and creating community, our SK to Gr.8 integrated curriculum blends the Jewish and general facets of education through an arts enhanced approach and commitment to social justice. Registering now for SK to Gr.8. Subsidies available.

**THE RENANIM YOUTH SINGERS**
**Prosserman Jewish Community Centre**
**4588 Bathurst St., Toronto**
**Tel: 416-449-2296**
**E-mail: susan.michaels@rogers.com**
**Website: www.renanimyouthsingers.org**
As "The Musical Voice of Jewish Youth," The Renanim Youth Singers sets the standard for musical excellence and the joy of singing in the GTA. High school students earn community service hours. Auditions open to students currently in grades 7 to 12. **Artistic Director: Susan Michaels.**

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**(Continuing a Proud USDS Tradition)**
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**Email: mviner@rhacademy.ca**
**Website: www.rhacademy.ca**
RHA is in a league of its own in terms of teaching children critical thinking skills. Our students learn to ask questions and to think critically, both at school, and in their everyday lives. At RHA, your child will learn to view the world through a global lens.

**TanenbaumCHAT**
**Recruitment Manager, Rosemary Tile**
**Tel: 416-636-5984 ext. 377**
**Email: rtile@tanenbaumchat.org**
**Web site: tanenbaumchat.org**
Toronto's Jewish Community High School (1500 students, co-ed, Gr 9-12). Every student attending TanenbaumCHAT receives the highest quality education. From science and math to Judaic Studies; and from literature and humanities to athletics and performing arts. TanebaumCHAT prides itself on quality learning, instilling a strong Jewish identity and creating positive lifetime experiences.
THIS IS the high school experience your child has been waiting for.

**THE TORONTO HESCHEL SCHOOL**
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**Toronto, Ont. M3H 2T3**
**Principal: Ms. Gail Baker**
**Tel: 416-635-1876 Fax: 416-635-1800**
**E-mail: info@torontoheschel.org**
**Ideology: Community School**
With a low pupil/teacher ratio, an integrated curriculum based on well-founded research and a staff of active learners, we will help your child love to learn, for life. A Heschel education is rooted in academic excellence, artistic expression, environmentalism and repairing the world.

## FUNERAL CHAPELS

**BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL**
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**Contact: Michael Chas Benjamin**
**Tel: 416-663-9060 Fax: 416-663-9417**
**E-mail: info@benjamins.ca**
**Website: www.benjamins.ca**
Since 1922, Benjamin's has been part of the fabric that binds together the Toronto Jewish community, even in times of sorrow. Four generations of the Benjamin family have provided support to bereaved families. We devote ourselves to upholding Jewish law and traditions, a responsibility we regard as a sacred trust.

**HEBREW BASIC BURIAL**
**3429 Bathurst St.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3**
**Contact: Lawrence Scheinman**
**Tel: 416-780-0596 Fax: 416-780-0638**
When economy is a major consideration, you should know that we offer the lowest interment costs available from any Jewish establishment. Guaranteed. Families who have used Hebrew Basic Burial's services have all found that dignity and observance of Jewish law were exactly as they should be. Hebrew Basic Burial - a non-profit organization.

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**Managing Funeral Director:**
**Carol P. Saucier**
**Tel: 905-881-6003 Fax: 905-881-8539**
The Toronto Jewish community has, for over 70 years, entrusted us with its most sacred and important task. We accept your trust with a measure of humility and a great sense of responsibility. As a community run organization we have established a tradition of tzedaka towards organizations in the city and in Israel.

## HEALTH

**L'CHAIM CANCER SUPPORT GROUP FOR JEWISH WOMEN**
**a project of National Council of Jewish Women of Canada-Toronto Section,**
**4700 Bathurst St. Toronto,**
**Ontario M2R 1W8**
**416-630-0203**
L'Chaim volunteers are Jewish women cancer survivors who provide **confidential peer support and lovely gift bags** to Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment. L'Chaim also presents cancer-related educational programmes.
Email: lchaim@ncjwc4s.org
**Confidential hotline: (416) 630-0203**

## ISRAEL BASED ORGANIZATIONS

**CANADIAN FRIENDS OF BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY**
**1750 Steeles Ave. West, Suite 214,**
**Contact: Dov Altman, Exec. V.P. & CEO**
**Concord ON, L4K 2L7**
**Tel: 905-660-3563 Fax: 905-660-1612**
**E-mail: davaltman@cfbiu.org**
**www.cfbiu.org**
Bar-Ilan University is the fastest growing institution of higher education in Israel. BIU is a worldwide leader in nanotechnology, brain science, archaeology, engineering, law and business, and Jewish studies. We are very proud of our New School of Communications, and Medical School in the Galilee, already in the process of spearheading new initiatives. *Securing Israel one mind at a time.*

**CANADIAN FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM (CFHU)**
**3080 Yonge St. Suite 3020 Toronto, ON M4N 3N1**
**Chairman: Nathan Lindenberg**
**President & CEO: Rami Kleinmann**
**Tel: 416-485-8000**
**Email inquiry@cfhu.org**
**Website: www.cfhu.org**
CFHU facilitates academic and research partnerships between Canada and Israel; establishes scholarships, supports research, cultivates student/faculty exchanges, recruits Canadian students to attend the university. Hebrew University is consistently ranked #1 university in Israel and among the top 100 worldwide with 8 Nobel Prizes awarded.

**CANADIAN FRIENDS OF LANIADO HOSPITAL**
**534 Lawrence Ave. West, suite 217**
**Toronto, Ont. M6A 1A2**
**Executive Director: Tony Lipsey**
**Tel: 416-785-8946 Fax: 416-785-9236**
**E-mail: friends@laniado.ca**
**www.laniado.ca**
Laniado Hospital serves over 300,000 people in Netanya and is the only Israeli hospital with a no-strike policy. Laniado's highest standard of medicine is practiced with compassion. Help provide state-of-the-art equipment by supporting CFLH.

**CANADIAN FRIENDS OF THE ISRAEL GUIDE DOG CENTER FOR THE BLIND**
**607-7601 Bathurst Street**
**Thornhill, ON L4J 4H5**
**Contract: Sara Gabriel**
**Tel: 416-577-3600**
**Fax: 905-597-8778**
**Website: www.ca.israelguidedog.org**
**Email: sara.israelguidedog@rogers.com**
We are Canadian Friends of the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind. We enable blind Israelis to achieve independence, mobility and self-esteem through partnerships with guide dogs. All this is done at no cost whatsoever to the recipient. Any blind adult Israel citizen, regardless of creed or race is a candidate for a guide dog. In the last 21 years, we have been able to provide over 422 "Partnerships".

**CANADIAN HADASSAH-WIZO TORONTO CENTRE**
**209-638A Sheppard Ave. W.**
**President: Sheryl Simon**
**CHW Toronto Centre Executive Coordinator: Ellen Ostofsky**
**Tel: 416-630-8373 Fax: 416-630-2370**
**E-mail: info@toronto.chw.ca**
**Website: www.chw.ca/toronto**
Founded in 1917, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) is a non-political women's philanthropic organization. CHW is dedicated to enhancing the lives of Israel's most vulnerable children, youth and women.

**CANADIAN TECHNION SOCIETY**
**970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 206,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6**
**Ntl. Exec. Director: Cheryl Koperwas**
**Ntl. Dir. of Development: Hershel Recht**
**Tel: 416-789-4545 Fax: 416-789-0255**
**E-mail:cheryl@cdntech.org**
**Website: www.cdntech.org**
National fundraising and education arm for Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel's oldest university. Supports faculty recruitment, promotes academic exchange between Technion and Canadian universities, provides information for undergraduate, graduate studies, raises funds for scholarships and research projects.

**EMUNAH WOMEN**
**333 Wilson Ave. Ste 300**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 1T2**
**Tel: 416-636-0036 Fax: 416-636-0039**
**E-mail: emunah@emunahtoronto.com**
**Website: www.emunahcanada.org**
Emunah is the largest religious Zionist Women's organization in the world. In Israel it supports daycare centres and nurseries across the country, educates girls in 6 high schools, supports 5 children's homes and youth villages, and provides counselling for all ages and backgrounds.

**ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND**
**1881 Yonge Street. Ste 616**
**Executive Director: Joy Wagner Arbus**
**Tel: 416-487-5246**
**Fax: 416-487-8932**
**Direct: 416-480-9138**
**Toll Free: 866-207-4949**
**Email: joy.wagner@icrf.ca**
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# COMMUNITY DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS

## ISRAEL BASED ORGANIZATIONS Cont'd

**JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF TORONTO**
**700-1000 Finch Ave. West**
**Toronto, ON M3J 2V5**
**President: Nathan Disenhouse**
**Executive Director: Lance Davis**
**Tel: 416-638-7200 Fax: 416-638-7345**
**E-mail: tor@jnf.ca**
**Website: www.jnftoronto.ca**
Throughout its 110 year history, JNF has been instrumental in developing communities in Israel and today plays a central role in creating and supporting communities in the northern and southern regions. JNF is 100% Israel whose action areas include: ecology and forestation, water, security, community development, tourism and recreation, research and development and education. Donors to JNF receive receipts for income tax purposes

**NA'AMAT CANADA**
**272 Codsell Ave.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 3X2**
**Lori Nusbaum, Senior Fundraising & Development Officer**
**Tel: 416-636-5425 Fax: 416-636-5248**
**E-mail: info@naamattoronto.ca**
**Web: www.naamat.com/toronto**
A registered Canadian charity dedicated to improving the quality of life for women, children and families in Israel and around the globe. There are 32,000 reasons you can make a difference today! **Your donation goes straight to source** – a child in daycare, a family fleeing from domestic violence, a much needed playground repair. **You decide** where your generosity is used...

**ONE FAMILY FUND CANADA**
**36 Eglinton Avenue West, Suite 601**
**Toronto, ON M4R 1A1**
**Pam Albert, Executive Director**
**Tel: 416-489-9687**
**Fax: 416-489-9864**
**Email: info@onefamilyfund.ca**
**Website: www.onefamilyfund.ca**
One Family Fund is the umbrella organization that helps all victims of terror in Israel return to their pre-attack functioning level, providing financial, legal and material assistance, therapeutic workshops, camps and shabbatonim.

## JEWISH BOOK STORES

**THE BATNER BOOKSTORE**
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**E-mail: info@batnerbookstore.com**
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## MONUMENT COMPANIES

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**Tel: 416-784-5268 Fax: 416-782-0668**
Alef's Fairlawn Monuments has joined two trusted names in the monument business, to offer the Jewish Community the finest customer service. Our new showroom, factory prices and top quality granite, make us the number one choice for your monument or inscription needs. Our expert staff speak Hebrew, Russian and Yiddish.

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**Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3**
**Contact: Michael Levitt**
**Tel: 416-780-0635 Fax: 416-780-0638**
**E-mail: monuments@benjamins.ca**
**Website: www.jewishmonuments.ca**
We are Toronto's foremost Jewish monument dealer, continuing the proud tradition of service associated with the Benjamin family name. Schedule an appointment with one of our experienced monument counsellors and allow us to work with you to create a memorial that will honour the memory of your loved one.

**IZENBERG GOLDBERG MONUMENTS**
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**Contact: David Friedman, Shai Lobart**
**Tel: 416-667-1474 Fax: 416-667-1470**
Serving the Jewish community for many years, Stonecraft Monuments provides factory direct prices and sensitive, considerate service to their customers. Monuments using the finest granite can be made available within one week.

**YAD VASHEM AT LANDMARK**
**3429 Bathurst St.,**
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**Contact: Akiva Balter**
**Tel: 416-782-8995 Fax: 416-780-0638**
**Website: www.jewishmonuments.ca**
A monument should reflect the characteristics and values of the deceased. It is a tribute from a family who appreciated and recognized the uniqueness of the individual. Yad Vashem Monuments personalizes memorials by combining traditional inscriptions and innovative designs.

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**LIFETIME MEMOIRS**
**AUDIO & VIDEO MEMOIRS**
**Tel: 416-384-1800**
**Email: stephen@LifetimeMemoirs.ca**
**Website: www.LifetimeMemoirs.ca**
We work with our clients to identify and organize their life stories. Then we professionally record them telling those stories. We add photos, heirlooms and music to bring the stories to life - and their memories are saved for all time. We like to say that we "save people's lives." Let us "save the life" of your loved one. Check out our website for sample clips.

## RELIGIOUS LIFE

**ADATH ISRAEL CONGREGATION**
**37 Southbourne Ave.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 1A4**
**Executive Director: Bernie Rabinovitch**
**Tel: 416-635-5340 Fax: 416-635-1629**
**E-mail: bernie@adathisrael.com**
**Website: www.adathisrael.com**
Family oriented Synagogue. Centrally located. Daily minyanim, Shabbat and Festival services. Hebrew School, with High School program. Religious, social and educational programs for babies, toddlers, youth, families and seniors. Social hall. COR catering by Caterers York. SPECIAL OFFER for New Members.

**BEACH HEBREW INSTITUE**
**109 Kenilworth Ave.**
**Toronto ON M4L 3S4**
**Tel: 416-694-7942**
**President Sharon Hershenhorn**
**E-mail: info@beachhebrewinstitute.ca**
**Website: www.beachhebrewinstitute.ca**
The Beach Synagogue is a small conservative egalitarian shul located in an historically designated building (Queen East/Woodbine). Year-round Shabbat morning and holiday services are led by our Cantor, Moshe Saadon. Non-members' children are welcome at our Hebrew School.

**BEIT RAYIM SYNAGOGUE AND SCHOOL**
**209-1118 Centre Street, Thornhill**
**Tel: 905-889-0276**
**Fax: 905-889-4113**
**shalom@beitrayim.org**
**www.beitrayim.org**
Bait Rayim is a family-oriented, fully egalitarian conservative synagogue, located in the heart of York Region's Jewish community. Contract us for introductory membership specials, High Holy Day tickets or our community Hebrew School.

**BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM**
**55 Yeomans Road,**
**Tel: 416-633-5500**
**Fax: 416-633-1740**
**E-mail: info@bethdavid.com**
**Website: www.bethdavid.com**
Beth David is a vibrant, family oriented Conservative community encouraging full participation from all of its members. Come experience and enjoy our award-winning youth and family programming, and engaging educational and social activities. Introductory Family membership is $500, single, $250.

**BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE**
**100 Elder Street, Toronto M3H 5G7**
**Executive Director: Pearl Grundland**
**Tel: 416 633.3838**
**Email: info@beby.org**
**Website: www.beby.org**
Welcoming, accessible, family-oriented traditional conservative synagogue. High Holy Day services, daily minyanim all year long. Programming for all ages. Adult education, Sunday morning supplementary school/ theatre excursions /Mah Jongg, knitting, active young families group and youth programming. Community outreach including Out of the Cold and The Kadima Centre for special needs. Friendly, caring clergy and a warm and supportive community. Join us!

**BETH SHOLOM SYNAGOGUE**
**1445 Eglinton Ave. W.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6C 2E6**
**Tel: 416-783-6103**
**Website: www.bethsholom.net**
Beth Sholom connects you to a vibrant community that upholds traditional values and customs in a way that is relevant. Our warm and inviting atmosphere allows our members to feel like they truly belong. Come to Beth Sholom and find what makes you feel good.

**BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE**
**3080 Bayview Ave.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M2N 5L3**
**Director of Administration:**
**Doris Alter x307**
**Tel: 416-221-3433 Fax: 416-221-1602**
**E-mail: info@bethtikvahtoronto.org**
**Website: www.bethtikvahtoronto.org**
Beth Tikvah is a Conservative synagogue founded in North York in 1964. We are committed to the land and people of Israel, to the study of Jewish learning, and to the music and spiritual richness of prayer. We are known for our outstanding rabbis and cantor, for our top-notch youth, family and educational programs, and for the warmth of our community.

**B'NAI SHALOM NORTH CONGREGATION**
**15 Ravencliffe Road**
**Thornhill, ON L3T 5N7**
**Project Manager: Irene Novak**
**Tel: 905-707-1886**
**E-mail: bnaishalomnorth@gmail.com**
We have been holding Conservative High Holidays Services in the main, air-conditioned, auditorium of the Garnett A. William Community Centre in Thornhill for the past 30 years, accommodating 500 people to attend each year and enjoy our wonderful kiddushes with us. Be part of our family 905-707-1886.

**BOROCHOV CULTURAL CENTRE & KOL YISROEL CONGREGATION**
**272 Codsell Ave.,**
**Downsview, Ont. M3H 3X2**
**Contact: Dale Noble**
**www.kolyisroel.ca**
**Tel: 416-630-9444 Fax: 416-630-9451**
A Conservative synagogue situated in the Borochov Cultural Centre. Weekly Shabbat services are held in a warm, friendly atmosphere, apparent during the kiddush when everyone socializes. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and other special occasions are held. No membership fee. High Holy Day services are held in the main hall in the Centre.

**CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFORM JUDAISM/URJ CANADA**
**3845 Bathurst St., Ste. 301,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 3N2**
**President: Paul Leszner**
**Tel: 416-630-0375 Fax: 416-630-5089**
**Email: ccrj@ccrj.ca**
**Website: www.ccrj.ca**
Canadian national office of the Union for Reform Judaism, representing over 950 synagogues throughout North America, promotes liberal Judaism through social action, outreach, youth programs, Jewish camping, adult and child education, leadership development and synagogue support.

**THE CITY SHUL**
**36 Harbord St. C/O Wolfond Centre**
**Contact: Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**
**Tel: 647-799-3557**
**Email: tellme@cityshul.com**
**Website: www.cityshul.com**
The "Jewish heart in the heart of the city." Join our new, uniquely downtown Reform synagogue where singles, couples, and families are creating an inclusive, innovative "community of commitment." Every member matters, and tradition meets modernity through intellectual discourse, vibrant spirituality, joyful music, meaningful rituals and tikkun olam.

**CONGREGATION BINA**
**(A Community of Jews from India)**
**P.O.Box 92127, 2900 Warden Ave.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M1W 3Y8**
**Email: president@congregationbina.ca**
**Contact:**
**Elana Charikar, 905-940-4848**
**Ramona Abraham, 905-493-2148**
The main objective of Congregation BINA, a non-profit organization of Jews from India, is to assist, maintain, and promote traditional religious, social, cultural, and educational activities amongst its members. Each year, High Holy Day Services and social gatherings are held. A quarterly news bulletin, **'Contact'**, is published.

**CONGREGATION DARCHEI NOAM**
**864 Sheppard Avenue West, Toronto**
**Tel: 416-638-4783**
**Email: darcheinoam@bellnet.ca**
**Website: www.darcheinoam.on.ca**
Darchei Noam is Toronto's Reconstructionist Synagogue, providing the Toronto Jewish community with the Reconstructionist vision of an evolving, open, Jewish religious civilization, compatible with rational thought and modern knowledge, and to promote the values of historic Judaism and contemporary world civilizations. All areas of synagogue life are participatory and egalitarian.

**CONGREGATION HABONIM**
**5 Glen Park Avenue**
**Contact: Jeff Levy, General Manager**
**Email: office@congregationhabonim.org**
**Website: www.congregationhabonim.org**
Congregation Habonim, founded by Holocaust survivors, is a liberal egalitarian synagogue located in the heart of Jewish Toronto. Eli Rubenstein & Avrum Rosensweig conduct its friendly services, and its exceptional music is led by Cantor Esther Ghan-Firestone, Lisa Kent and Aviva Rajsky. The Jewish Heritage School (grades 1–6) at Habonim offers Judaic studies, Hebrew language learning and Jewish music in a fun, joyous and creative environment.

**CONGREGATION SHIR LIBEYNU**
***Mailing Address:* P.O Box 73509**
**Toronto, ON, M6C 4A7**
**Ritual/Spiritual Leader: Aviva Goldberg**
**Tel: 416-465-5488**
**E-mail: shirlibeynu@yahoo.ca**
**Website: www.shirlibeynu.ca**
Shir Libeynu is liberal, inclusive, egalitarian and unaffiliated. Participatory services combine both tradition and innovation with modern AND ancient prayers and music. Our diverse community welcomes all. Shabbat services and Kiddush monthly on Sat. mornings at MNJCC. High Holy Days, adult & childrens ed. and activities, and holiday celebrations all year long.

**DANFORTH JEWISH CIRCLE**
**283 Danforth Ave., Ste. 125,**
**Toronto, Ont. M4K 1N2**
**Contact: Kathryn Miller**
**Tel: 416-580-6303**
**E-mail: info@djctoronto.com**
**Website: www.djctoronto.com**
A progressive egalitarian community based in Riverdale. We are inclusive of interfaith and LGBTQ unions. We're a friendly, family-oriented group committed to nurturing Jewish life and traditions through holiday and life cycle celebrations, monthly Shabbat services, and education and social action programs.

**FIRST NARAYEVER CONGREGATION**
**187 Brunswick Ave.,**
**Contact: Marsha Frydenberg**
**Tel: 416-927-0546 Fax: 416-927-0486**
**Website: www.narayever.ca**
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**12 Heaton St.**
**Contact: Sarah**
**Tel: 416-636-6665**
**Fax: 416-636-8861**
**Email: lodzercentre@rogers.com**
**Website: www.lodzersynagogue.com**
Lodzer Synagogue is a dynamic, egalitarian, conservative synagogue, located at Bathurst and Sheppard. Originally founded by Holocaust survivors from Lodz, Poland, the shul has a unique and warm ambience that is enhanced by a friendly, embracing membership. Excellent adult edutainment programs, delightful Shabbat services with lunch and an active young family group.

**ORAYNU CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM**
**Tel: 416-385-3910**
**Email: info@oraynu.org**
**Website: www.oraynu.org**
Oraynu celebrates Jewish holidays, history and culture from secular humanistic perspective. High Holidays, Shabbat programs, adult and family education, social/cultural events, tzedakah. Outstanding Sunday School (Oraynu-Tots, JK-Gr. 7, Bnai Mitzvah). Est. 1969. Life Cycle, Cemetery (burial/cremation). A welcoming and enriching congregation for cultural, secular, agnostic and intermarried Jews. Join us!

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**Willowdale, Ont. M2R 2P2**
**Tel: 416-226-0111 x 10**
**E-mail: office@prideofisraelsynagogue.com**
**Website: www.prideofisraelsynagogue.com**
The Pride of Israel Synagogue is built upon a foundation of chesed, kindness and caring. The shul provides a conservative service, and is independent; providing a welcoming environment within which to experience all life cycle events. We offer diverse programming, throughout the year and are conveniently located just south of Steeles Ave. To reserve High Holy Day seats, please call 416-226-0111 x 10.

**SHAAREI SHOMAYIM CONGREGATION**
**470 Glencairn Ave.**
**Toronto M5N 1V8**
**Executive Director: Nicole Toledano**
**Tel: 416-789-3213**
**Fax: 416-789-1728**
**Email: info@shomayim.org**
**Website: www.shomayim.org**
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**SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE**
**2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill, L3T 4L1**
**Executive Director: Mel Fishman**
**Tel: 905-889-4975 Fax: 905-889-1575**
**Email: admin@shaarshalom.ca**
**Website: www.shaarshalom.ca**
Make SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE your spiritual home. A traditional Conservative synagogue serving the Thornhill and North York communities, we are fortunate to have twice daily minyans led by Rabbi Martin Berman and Cantor Ben Silverberg. The synagogue is dedicated to Jewish learning and worship at all skill levels, to social action and friendships. Come be inspired. Join our shul family.

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**Mississauga, Ont. L5L 2M6**
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**E-mail: info@solel.ca**
**Website: www.solel.ca**
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## ISRAELIS VISIT

**For the past several years, the One Family Fund has run a 10-day, volunteer-staffed camp in Toronto for Israeli teenagers who have been affected by terror attacks. Activities include trips to Canada's Wonderland, Niagara Falls, and Belle Ewart. From left, standing, are Canadian counsellor Daniel Belzberg, camper Aviel Mandel, camper Marom Mansour, Israeli counselor Menachem Ashbel, camper Chagai Bloomberg and Canadian counsellor Meir Grunwald. Kneeling in front, from left, are Canadian counsellor Elisha Plonka and campers Tamir Abukasis, Tzachi Hazan and Netanel Hamami.**

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**Website: www.winchevskycentre.org**
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## SENIORS

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**Toronto, Ontario M2P 2A9**
**Co-Ordinator: Tammy Parker**
**Tel: 416-635-2860 Ext. 458**
**Fax: 416-635-1692**
**E-mail: ajs@circleofcare.com**
AJS encourages seniors to participate in social action, lectures, Jewish Festival celebrations and social networking. Seniors are invited to contribute skills acquired during a lifetime of work and volunteering. AJS advocates on issues including: pension reform, anti-Semitism, elder abuse and health care. Affiliated with Circle of Care; annual membership $15.00, couples $25.00.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**
**1003 Steeles Ave. West**
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**Email: reception@betelcentre.org**
**Website: www.betelcentre.org**
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**Fax: 416-635-1692**
**E-mail: info@circleofcare.com**
**Website: circleofcare.com**
Circle of Care is a leading one-stop provider of services to seniors and disabled adults in the GTA. We help our clients live happier, healthier and longer lives in their own homes by offering services including: personal support; transportation; Kosher Meals on Wheels; counseling; case management and a day program.

## SERVICES

**ISRAELI LAW OFFICE**
**Contact: Itamar Cohen, B.A., LL.B.**
**Member of Israeli Bar Assoc.**
**Tel: 905-709-3896 Fax: 905-709-3898**
**E-mail: itamarcohen@rogers.com**
Israeli Law Office in Ontario advises clients from Canada on matters of Israeli Law, and represents their interests in Israel. Our office is approved as an **Israeli Legal Office** in Ontario by **the Law Society of Upper Canada**.

**JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto**
**4600 Bathurst Suite, Ste. 325,**
**Toronto, Ont. M2R 3V3**
**Executive Director: Janis Roth**
**Tel: 416-630-6481**
**Website: www.jiastoronto.org**
JIAS Toronto provides a full range of government and community funded settlement and integration services. We welcome, settle and integrate immigrants today to build a strong Canada and a strong Jewish community of tomorrow.

**JVS TORONTO**
**74 Tycos Drive**
**Toronto, ON. M6B 1V9**
**Tel: 416-787-1151**
**E-mail: services@jvstoronto.org**
**Website: www.jvstoronto.org**
JVS Toronto is a non-profit organization partnering with government and businesses to help people succeed in school, work and life. We offer a range of employment-related, educational and school support programs and services for newcomers, youth, people with disabilities, women and under/unemployed.

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*For more information or to make your gift to 'The Future Grows Here' Campaign please contact Brenda Gurvey, Director of Development 416-783-3346 ext 232 | bgurvey@bialik.ca*

Ben and Edith Himel Education Centre
The Future Grows Here Campaign

Jodi Tanentzap, *Chair, Capital Campaign*
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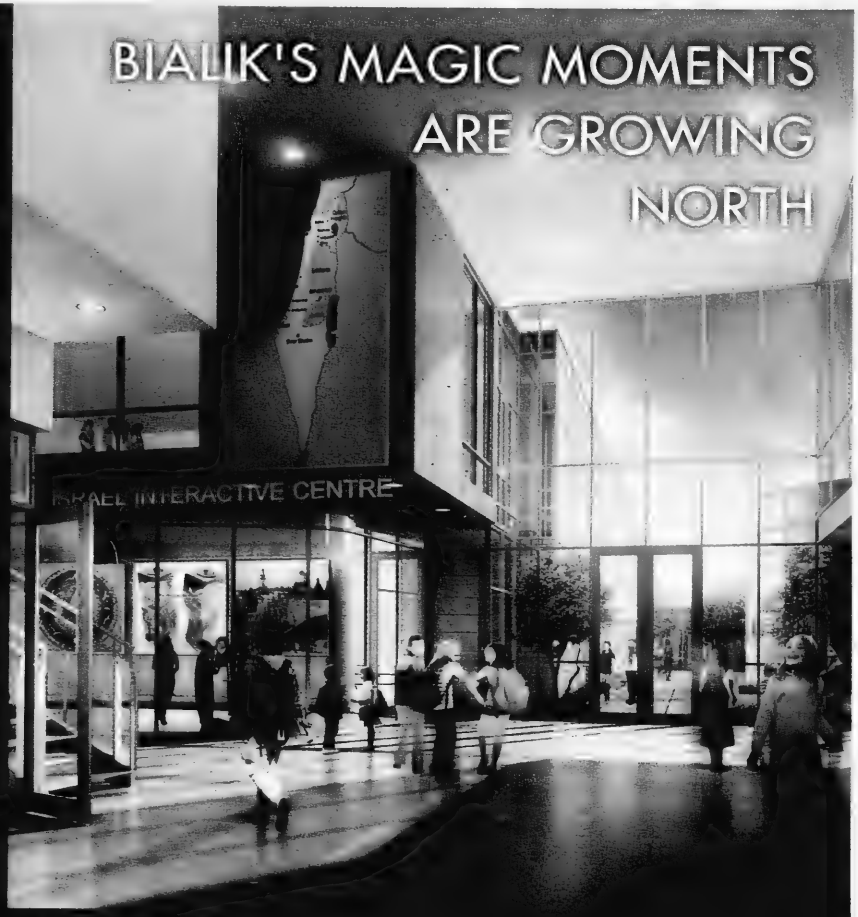
# BIALIK'S MAGIC MOMENTS ARE GROWING NORTH




The Ben and Edith Himel Education Centre, the northern branch of Bialik Hebrew Day School to be located on the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus, will open its doors to students on September 3, 2013, upon the completion of phase 1 of a 4 phase project. At full build-out, this branch will be approximately 85,000 square feet and will accommodate over 800 students from junior kindergarten to grade 8.

## *Gifts for the Ben and Edith Himel Education Centre*

Tomorrow Campaign

Joseph & Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus

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## This Week

National

**Recession puts** pressure on federation budget.
*Page 12*

**Thornhill teacher** writes children's book. *Page 29*

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**Have some** carrots with your yom tov dinner.
*Page 41*

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**TIFF loaded** wih Jewish/ Israeli movies. *Page 52*

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# *Look who went back to school*

**The school year began in Israel last Sunday. Among the returning students were Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, who dropped into an elementary school in Jerusalem, and Israeli President Shimon Peres, who visited a school in Shaar Hanegev.**
**[*Flash90 photos*]**

# Neil Armstrong praised in Israel

**David Shamah**
The Times of Israel

**JERUSALEM** — Israel officially bade farewell to Neil Armstrong Sunday, a day after the 82-year-old space pioneer died.

Speaking at Sunday's cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the first man to walk on the moon, who "symbolized the spirit of human curiosity, humanity's will to break through barriers, to understand the secrets of the universe, to understand the infinity of space and time, and the significance of our universe in that infinity.

"I do not think that many people have had the privilege of taking such a far-reaching step," Netanyahu said of Armstrong, who visited Israel in 2007. "There are those who reached new continents and crossed new oceans, but this was the first time that a human being set foot on another world. This was a breakthrough that will forever stand in the annals of human history."

NASA, the agency Armstrong worked for, has been making history for decades, and in recent years, Israel has been part of that history, the latest example being the Israeli-developed hardware and software that accompanied NASA's Curiosity probe to Mars. To develop the Curiosity and ensure that it could withstand the harsh elements of the Martian atmosphere, NASA used product life-cycle management (PLM) software developed by Siemens in Israel.

Also developed in Israel for Curiosity was a cryogenic cooler, made by a company on Kibbutz Ein Harod, to preserve materials gathered from the Martian surface for analysis.

Israel's co-operation with NASA goes back to at least 1985, Israel Space Agency officials said, and NASA has signed several co-operation agreements with Israel, the first in 1996.

**Continued on page 49**

**Ki Teitzei**
**Candlelighting: 7:36**
**Havdalah: 8:38**
*Greater Toronto Area*

**Jewish communities urged to boycott United Church – see page 28**

## CANADA

### Hat Firm Honoured

CALGARY — The Jewish-owned hat company that pioneered Calgary's iconic white cowboy hat was honoured earlier this summer by the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta. It unveiled a plaque July 30 at Hotel Arts, on the former site of Smithbilt Hat Co., as part of Historic Calgary Week, the *Calgary Herald* reported. The plaque was unveiled by Tema and Clara Blackstone, the granddaughter and daughter of Russian Jewish immigrant Morris Shumiatcher. He founded Smithbilt in 1919 after buying the former Calgary Hat Works factory with a $300 loan and changing its name. Its white hats have become a symbol of the city and have been given to visiting dignitaries since the 1950s.

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## WORLD

### Labelling Regulation

PRETORIA — South Africa has adopted a regulation against labelling of goods from the West Bank as being produced in Israel. The government said Aug. 22 that goods made in the West Bank should now say they originated in the "Israeli Occupied Territories." It said the move aims to prevent consumers thinking such goods come from Israel. Jewish leaders, including the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, the Zionist Federation and South Africa's chief rabbi, deplored the decision as biased against Israel, saying the "measures are discriminatory, divisive, inconsistent with South African trade policy and seriously flawed from both an administrative and procedural point of view."

### Hate Letter Received

LYON — The chief rabbi of Lyon, Richard Wertenschlag, received a letter threatening to "punish a Jew for every complaint the Jews make on TV." The threat came in a two-page letter delivered Aug. 10. It contained two photos of a concentration camp. Rabbi Wertenschlag reported the letter to police on Aug. 12. The authors of the handwritten text signed it "the righteous network." They added, "Every time you go on television to complain, a Jew – man, woman, child or family – will be punished." The rabbi said he received another hate letter in April, which was both "antisemitic and anti-Arab," but decided not to go to police. Last month, police arrested two youths in Lyon for allegedly attacking a 17-year-old Jewish boy. The boy is a student at Ozar Hatorah, a Jewish school in Toulouse where, on March 19, a Muslim extremist murdered three children and a rabbi.

### Cdn. Jewish WWII Airmen To Be Honoured

LEEDS, England — Seven Jewish Canadian airmen will be remembered at Stonefall Airmen's Cemetery in Harrogate, England, on Sept. 9 when the Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (AJEX) takes part in a Royal Air Force ceremony to honour those who died in World War II.

Harry Ratner

At a ceremony in the presence of the mayors of Harrogate and Knaresborough, senior military officers will lay wreaths flanked by many standards, a squadron of air cadets and a military band.

There will be an RAF fly-past to honour those who died. AJEX will lay a wreath and the standard of the Leeds Major Clive Behrens branch of the Royal British Legion will be present.

The annual event is supported by AJEX as the seven Jewish airmen have no known relatives to visit. Afterward, AJAX members visit each grave to say *Kaddish*, dip the two Jewish Standards in their honour and place a Shield of David poppy by each memorial stone.

The seven airmen are RCAF air gunner Jack Tass of Prince Albert, Sask., RCAF air gunner Harry Ratner of Winnipeg, RCAF pilot Ernest Israel Glass, RCAF air bomber Robert Sirluck of Winnipeg, RCAF flying officer Morley Bernard Stock of Regina, RCAF flight engineer R.P. Marks and RCAF air gunner Joseph Zareikin.

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Traditional dances were part of the powwow at the Shawanaga First Nation Reserve.

# Toronto congregations connect with First Nations at powwow

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

A recent invitation to a powwow on a reserve north of Parry Sound provided a timely opportunity for representatives of six Toronto synagogues, as well as the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism (CCRJ), to connect with a First Nations community.

This year, both the CCRJ and the Bayview Corridor of Synagogues (BCS) – an interdenominational group of six congregations that collaborate for social action events – will focus on issues faced by First Nations communities.

Helen Poizner, past chair of social action at Temple Emanu-El, told *The CJN* that the BCS came up with the idea last winter after reading news about housing issues facing First Nations communities in northern Ontario.

Kim Wheatley – a traditional hand drummer and singer originally from the Shawanaga First Nation Reserve, an Anishinabe Ojibway community – performed at an awareness-raising event in February at Temple Emanu-El, and became the BCS' resource person. At a subsequent event, she shared her perspective on water issues.

"My community spends over a million dollars a year purchasing water, and we're 20 minutes north of Parry Sound," she said in an interview. "We have water trucks that come to fill our reservoir, and we have to take an enormous amount of our budget to ensure we have water to drink, to bathe in, to cook. To me, that's the most massive issue. We're not far from the infrastructure of a big town.

"As a result of that [event], the concept of partnering came about," said Wheatley, who is also interested in establishing a library on the reserve.

**Continued on page 18**

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# So that our people thrives

The Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI) is an independent professional policy-planning think-tank based in Jerusalem. It was created eight years ago as a project of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

One of its founding members was the renowned Israeli thinker, visionary Prof. Yehezkel Dror, a frequent adviser to the Israeli cabinet and prime ministers, and the only Israeli to be a member of the International Institute of Strategic Studies and of the Club of Rome. Dror was instrumental in helping devise and formulate the mission of the institute, which is "to ensure the thriving of the Jewish People and the Jewish civilization."

I specifically mention Dror's involvement in the institute to point out that the members of the institute, then as today, were and are profoundly committed to the importance of their work.

The way in which the institute tries to ensure the "thriving of the Jewish People" is by "by engaging in professional strategic thinking and planning on issues of primary concern to world Jewry. Each year, as part of an annual assessment, the institute publishes essays of immediate and dramatic concern for the Jewish People.

One of the distinctive qualities of the various reports published by the institute is that they are "action-oriented, placing special emphasis on identifying critical options and analyzing their potential impact on the future, developing professional strategic and long-term policy perspectives."

One can read and hear Dror's language throughout the mission statement of the institute.

Thus, the institute's various reports and annual assessments are expressly intended to aid communal leaders – lay and professional – and even politicians in making difficult decisions, helping steer the Jewish People in our respective communities through the always-clouded horizons. The key "weakness" of the institute, of course, is that it can only offer advice. It has no way to get community decision makers to actually heed it.

The contents of the 2011-2012 Annual Assessment testify to the institute's earnest approach to its research:

- Foreword by ambassadors Dennis Ross and Stuart Eizenstat;
- 2011-12 integrated "net" assessment;
- Selected indicators of world Jewry – 2011-12;
- The Jewish People's agenda: dilemmas and suggested policy directions:
- Geopolitical turmoil in the Middle East – developments in the geopolitical arena and their possible implications for Israel and the Jewish People (2011-12);
- Creating Jewish meaning in the U.S. and Europe – emerging adults, cultural creativity and the Jewish future in the U.S. and Europe;
- Developments in Israel: (a) Analysis: a new political landscape; (b) New proposed Knesset bills and Israeli democracy; (c) Summer 2011 in Israel: the revolt of the "undeprived" – what it was, how it was, what's left; (d) The People's army? Orthodox soldiers and religious dilemmas in the IDF; (e) Science and technology policy in a Jewish People context, and
- Developments to watch.

It is impossible to summarize or even touch slightly upon the highlights of each of the reports in this space.

Ross and Eizenstat set the overall tone of the report in their foreword. "By 2011, it became clear that the geopolitical threats may be as great as at any time since Israel's founding in 1948 – with upheaval in the Arab Middle East and the rising tide of the Muslim Brotherhood, which ideologically remains fundamentally hostile to Israel; with the stockpiling of hundreds of thousands of rockets near Israel's northern and southern borders, and the uncertainty of what will emerge in Syria; and with the question of whether force will be needed to resolve the potentially existential threat from Iran.

"While the Annual Assessment identifies the difficult geopolitical dilemmas and challenges our people faces, other measures may look more hopeful this year. Statistics show an increase of 600,000 in the global Jewish population over the past several years, from 12.9 million to 13.647 million [in 2010]."

Canada's Jewish population in 2010 (375,000) was the third largest in the Diaspora after the United States (5.275 million) and France (483,500). Our community, along with Mexico, are the only Diaspora communities projected by the institute to grow in size by the year 2020.

The institute projects the population of world Jewry to reach 13.917 million by the year 2020.

The JPPI report is laden with information, analysis and insight. It amounts to a hand outstretched offering ideas, suggestions, heartfelt pleas and hope on behalf of the Jewish people.

In the words of Ross and Eizenstat: "The 2011-12 assessment is a remarkable statement on the direction of world Jewry and what needs to be done to foster its well-being. The question, of course, is whether those in a position to act on its recommendations will do so."

The report should be read. It can be found at www.jppi.org.il.

*–MBD*

## SeeJN

### *TRADE TALK*

**Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver spoke to representatives of Canada's business sector and various professionals in Toronto on Aug. 23. At the luncheon event, organized by the Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Oliver discussed the highlights of his June trip to Israel, where he promoted expansion of trade, investment, science and technology between the two countries.**

*[Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce photo]*

# UJA campaign off to quick start, officials say

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's annual fundraising campaign is off to its best start in many years, according to Bruce Leboff.

A co-chair for Campaign 2013, he announced at the annual UJA campaign launch Aug. 21 that $25 million had already been raised from more than 2,600 donors.

"We've been asking donors, where they can, to consider an increase of at least 10 per cent," said Leboff, whose co-chair is Sarena Koschitzky.

**Liza Fromer talks with Jon Voight**
*[Jen Arron photo]*

"It's so vital that we all take responsibility," Leboff told a crowd of more than 1,000 people gathered at the Fairmont Royal York for the launch.

The event featured an interview of actor Jon Voight by television host Liza Fromer and a performance by Hagit Yasso, 22-year-old *Israeli Idol* winner, a native of Sderot and the daughter of Ethiopian immigrants.

D.J. Schneeweis, new consul general of Israel for Toronto and Western Canada, made his first public appearance at the launch, emphasizing the importance of Jewish communities like the one in Toronto to Israel and Israelis. "More and more Israelis are coming to realize that... the strength and the well-being of this community is directly relevant to Israel," he said.

Last August, *The CJN* reported that the 2012 campaign had raised $7.8 million as of the campaign launch – only about one-third of this year's amount to date.

Campaign officials said that's because the pace of collections is ahead of last year, although the amount raised has also increased moderately.

In an e-mail exchange following the launch, Steven Shulman, UJA's campaign director and counsel, explained that this year's campaign is up $1.8 million in terms of comparing gifts from the same group of donors last year.

"We're out of the gates faster in terms of bringing in pledges," he said. "That's very important, because it creates momentum and gives canvassers an opportunity to reach out to new donors."

He added that "UJA has reverted to our past successful practice of reaching out to as many leading donors as early as possible, prior to the campaign launch... focusing on a greater number of leadership gifts early ensures that our volunteer canvassers and professionals can reach out to the entirety of the community more effectively in the precious months we have remaining."

Money raised in the annual campaign is used in the Jewish community here, in Israel, and internationally.

Speaking at the launch, women's philanthropy chair Laurie Sheff said that Toronto's federation has the third-largest annual campaign in North America.

Voight – an Academy-Award winner and the father of actor Angelina Jolie – said at the launch that his association with Israel dates back to 1987, when he was invited to appear on Chabad's annual telethon for the first time.

But his association with the Jewish community goes back to his childhood, when his father was a golf pro at a German Jewish country club in Scarsdale, NY.

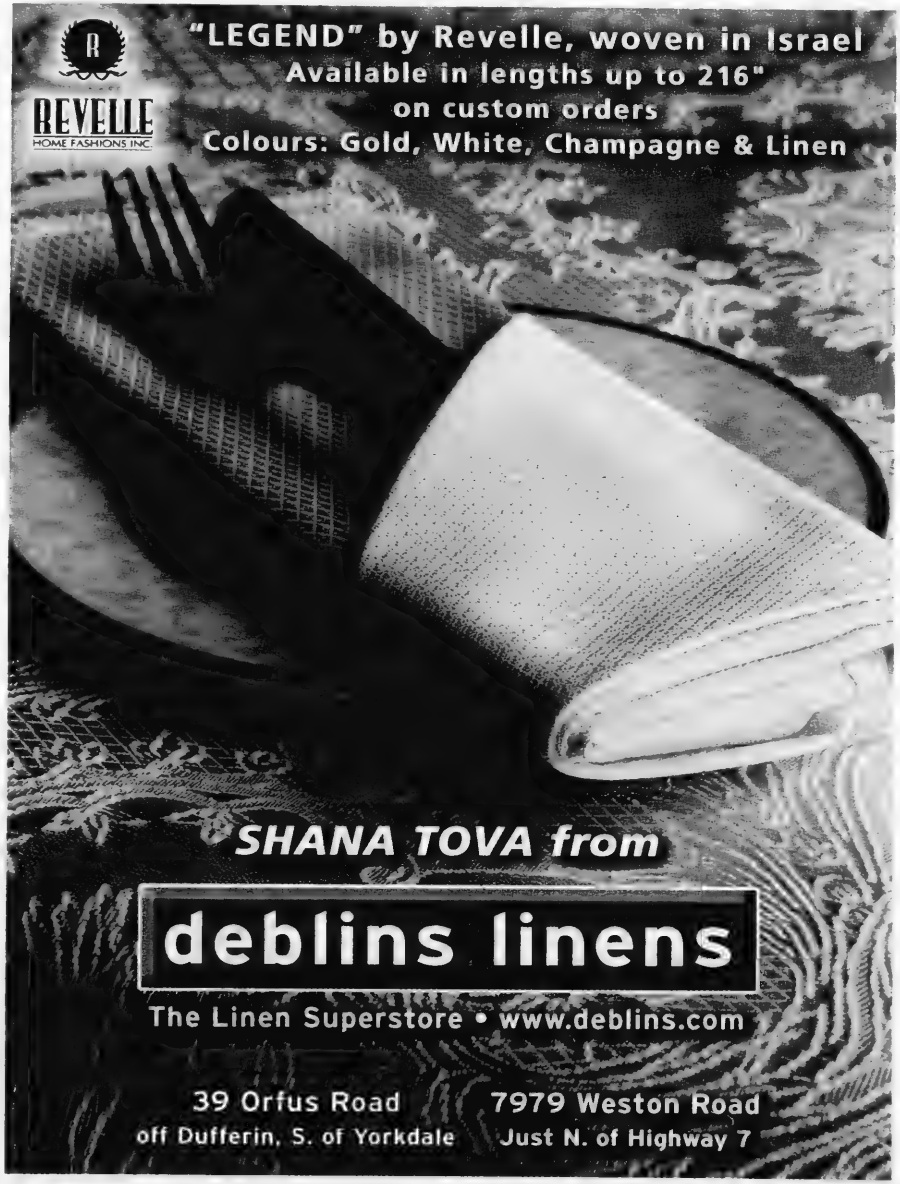
Voight, who was born in 1938, said that, because of his father's work, "one of the first things we knew was what antisemitism was."

He also told of filming a movie in 1991 in Moscow, where he ended up having dinner with a group of UJA-affiliated rabbis who were there to help Soviet Jews.

"I really do feel like I've had a certain kind of destiny come my way because of my deep need to protect the truth of what Judaism stands for. It stands for love of life, it stands for liberty, for treating your neighbour in the way you'd like to be treated. It stands for charity. It stands for every good thing."

Voight called Israel "God's gift to all mankind, because Israel is a... reminder of the survival of the Jewish People."

He called on everyone – Jew and non-Jew alike – "to keep Israel safe and free to worship democracy and freedom forever."



# B'nai Brith gets $5.4M for Alzheimer's care

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

Ottawa is giving B'nai Brith Canada $5.4 million to develop new technologies for Alzheimer's care, Gary Goodyear, minister of state for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, said last week in Toronto.

Anne Snowdon

Mark Adler

The announcement was made Aug. 23 at B'nai Brith's new 43-bedroom Alzheimer's facility on Bathurst Street north of Finch Avenue.

The federal money will allow B'nai Brith to create the Centre of Innovative Excellence for Alzheimer's Care, housed within the B'nai Brith home.

The centre will be managed in partnership with the Ivey International Centre for Health Innovation, which is part of the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario.

B'nai Brith Alzheimer's health care facility

The funds will be used to complete construction of the centre and hire eight employees, who will lead collaborations among industry, research and not-for-profit partners.

Within the centre, partners will develop, test and commercialize new Alzheimer's technologies, products, and care approaches, with the ultimate goal of reaching international markets, officials said.

York Centre MP Mark Adler said that the "announcement demonstrates [the] government's commitment to unleashing the potential of Canadian innovation to help Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers."

Anne Snowdon, chair of Ivey's International Centre for Health Innovation, said the centre will be one of the most important strategic centres of health-care excellence in Canada.

"I am speaking not only as a registered nurse, but also as the daughter of an Alzheimer's patient. It is my professional and personal goal to create this centre of excellence," Snowdon said.

"[Alzheimer's patients] deserve optimal quality of life, [and their families] should be able to rest assured that their loved ones are being properly cared for."

## Clarification

Since the article "Toronto chef's insights on sous-vide cooking" (Aug. 23) was written, chef Yehuda Goldberg, left, became the owner of Sepha Catering.

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# Quebec votes

Five days remain before Quebecers vote, on Sept. 4, to elect a new provincial government. As of this writing, the race is very close. It is too close to call. In the last few days, each of the three main parties – the Liberal party, the Parti Québécois (PQ) and the Coalition Avenir Québec – has led in the polls. The two other main contending parties – Québec solidaire and Option nationale – the latter viewed as being more aggressive than the PQ in promoting the separatist agenda, are given no chance by pundits to play a major governmental role, but could influence the election outcome.

It is no overstatement to write that the upcoming election is one of the most important for Quebec – and it must be added for Canada too – in at least 30 years.

Although Pauline Marois, the PQ leader has openly campaigned about her desire for Quebec sovereignty and the possibility of a further referendum to achieve it, it has been her unselfconscious ardour in promoting the curbing of minority rights that has attracted the attention of Canadians from all walks of life.

Not surprisingly, minority communities in Quebec have been affronted by the PQ leader's willingness to curtail rights that are enshrined and guaranteed to them in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Quebec's own Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

Early on in the campaign, Marois announced that she would restrict access to English-language CGEPs. She then pronounced that she would restrict the democratic rights of Quebec individuals to stand for office on the basis of language. She backpedalled on the latter pronouncement, but not on the former.

Marois's demand for French-language proficiency tests and her decision to introduce a charter of secularism, proposing to ban religious symbols in the public service, with the apparent exception of Christian symbols, have offended the sensibilities of a great many in the province and beyond, including the various minority groups.

In her campaign stops, Marois has urged voters to choose a government "that will defend the interests of Quebec."

We would agree with that statement.

In the same way that all provincial governments strive to defend and advance the interests of their respective provinces, so too should the government of Quebec. But surely, defending the interests of Quebec cannot require stripping away the fundamental rights of large pockets of its people.

No great society can flower in a soil of intolerance and prejudice.

That soil is certainly not the soil of the Quebec that we all know, need and love.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Israel's cabinet voted 13 to 12 to discontinue Israel Aircraft Industries' Lavi project. The $7 billion plane was to be Israel's first homegrown fighter jet, but the government decided it couldn't fund it on its own, and the United States pressured Israel to abandon the jet, for fear it would compete with U.S. F-16 exports.

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## United Church boycott (1)

It was with great sadness that I read of the decision by the United Church of Canada to endorse a series of recommendations that include a boycott of products from the Israeli settlements in the West Bank ("Community 'outraged' at United Church," Aug. 23). I view this decision from my personal perspective and my professional role as the executive director of the Christian Jewish Dialogue of Toronto, and while I claim no particular expertise in international affairs, I cannot help but wonder how choosing sides in a foreign conflict will help bring them together to reconcile their differences. I have devoted much of my career to listening to the perspectives of other faith communities. While the commissioners of the United Church drew on their own sources of wisdom, I thought about Felicia and Erwin and Max. These are people with whom I work. These are people who survived boycotts. They survived the Holocaust. I know how much the thought of the United Church boycotting Israel has hurt them. And I can't turn my back on that. Perhaps someone from the United Church can come and speak to me and Felicia and Max and Erwin. Perhaps they can help us understand how the boycott of goods produced in Israeli settlements will help resolve the situation in the Middle East.

**Barbara Boraks**
**Executive Director**
**Christian Jewish Dialogue of Toronto**

* * *

## United Church boycott (2)

In responding to the United Church recent actions, which include a boycott of products from the Israeli communities in the West Bank, we have to remember, as noted in previous issues of *The CJN*, that probably only a few hundred people are involved in these actions ("Community 'outraged' at United Church," Aug. 23). Even so, we should point out to the United Church that the re-establishment, after 2,000 years, of Israel as a Jewish state is the direct result of events in Europe: 2,000 years of Christian churches preaching hatred of Jews, culminating in the greatest atrocity in human history. If the Palestinians want a fair deal, all they have to do is stop preaching their own brand of hatred and stop sending the rockets.

**Edward J. Farkas**
**Toronto**

* * *

### *LET THEM GO...*

**Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Guy Hever, Yehuda Katz**

## Israel needs communities in Judea, Samaria

*The CJN*'s Aug. 23 editorial, "Morally Irrelevant," launches into a diatribe against "settlements" before noting that the United Church's boycott against them is misguided. The editor claims that the expansion of Jewish communities is a foolish policy, that they are a drain on the Israeli economy and that they alienate Israel's supporters worldwide.

It is interesting that the editorial speaks about "history" without ever mentioning the fact that the West Bank, known by its proper name of Judea and Samaria, is the ancestral cradle of Jewish civilization. It is in this contested territory that the Jewish People came into being, where the Patriarchs and Matriarchs are buried, where the House of David ruled, the prophets prophesied and the Maccabees and Bar Kochba fought for Jewish freedom. The presence of Jewish communities in the highlands provides security for the Gush Dan area, which houses 80 per cent of Israel's Jewish population. Regarding the economy, few would argue that Israel should forfeit its rights to the Negev or the Galilee because they are not economically rewarding. Similarly, the resettlement of Judea and Samaria has national value, regardless of economic cost. As for international opinion, it seems unreasonable to bar Jews from living in their homeland in order to curry political favour. Let us not forget that most of Israel's decisions to secure its own security and well-being have been taken in opposition to world opinion.

At a time when the Jews of Judea and Samaria are so maligned, it would behoove *The CJN* to stand up for Jewish rights. As a Jewish warrior said more than 2,000 years ago: "We have neither taken foreign land nor seized foreign property, but only the inheritance of our fathers, which at one time had been unjustly taken by our enemies."

**Russell Sitrit-Leibovich**
**Dollard des Ormeaux, Que.**

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*cjninfo@gmail.com*

# Notes from a hospital bed

It is 3:01 p.m., my eyes suddenly pop open and I'm looking at the clock. Looming above me is the chief thoracic surgeon, who looks like an aging Green Bay Packers' linebacker about to sack a quarterback, me. Fortunately, I already met him, respect him and trust him.

"This is Dr –," the orderly says, "and he's going to remove the tube draining blood from your lung."

Barry Rubin

And remove it he does. His teeth are bared, he growls, his huge hands reach out and literally tear it out of me. It hurts, but I must admit he is skillful, and the pain is gone in seconds. Before the sting ends, he sews me up. The orderly puts on the gauze, and for the first time in three days, I enjoy the ultimate human luxury – not being tied to some piece of medical equipment by a tube. It is heaven.

The staff is good, though not all charming. I don't like talking to doctors. They bring out the pessimism in me, even despair. I am kept on a safe, steady line of treatment with good advice, thanks to my mother-in-law, who is a lung expert, has flown over from New York and keeps giving her calming professional opinion.

I quickly realize two things. First, most of us are years out of date in our medical knowledge and thus don't realize how much progress has been made. My mother-in-law muses that her own father wrote a book about lung cancer 40 years ago.

And I ask, "There must have been a lot of progress since then?"

"Oh no," she says, "there hasn't." My heart sinks. "But there's been incredible progress in the last five to 10 years."

The second thing is that the best-intended doctors often don't know what they are talking about outside their own speciality. My two thoracic surgeons overruled my two general internists and proved to be 100 per cent right. On the other hand, those two internists did save my life so I am grateful to them also.

The great weakness of the Israeli system – and it has many strengths far beyond the British and the American – is evident when you go from the level of general practitioner to a specialist. When I first made my appointment with my lung doctor, it was to have been one month away. That might have killed me. I went to my wife's doctor, and he had me in the emergency room within three hours, getting proper treatment. The woman doctor from the health fund was wonderful about getting me fast appointments, too.

The Israeli system is small enough to be managed and not so easy to abuse. Yes, there are incompetents and indifferent personnel, but Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, despite the often-callous night floor staff, is the only hospital I'd want to be in. Many of the most talented of the doctors here and in other hospitals left the former Soviet Union because they just weren't welcome there.

It's probably also the only hospital where they start asking you about contemporary Middle East developments while treating you. I have had great genealogy discussions with some medical personnel about our ancestors. At least three of the kindest technicians were Arabs – two men with crosses and a woman with a hijab. Perhaps there were more. I don't know.

Mr. Ibrahim, my neighbour to the right, is a real gentleman. Born in Istanbul of an Ashkenazi family, he is a lean, distinguished man, perhaps in his early 80s. He went to French schools during Istanbul's golden age and speaks Ladino, 15th-century Judeo-Spanish, native-level Turkish, perfect English, beautiful French and not one word – not one – of Hebrew. They moved him next to me so that I could translate for him.

He never loses his cool or his dignity. He tells me his life story. His father had a good American appliance franchise that he inherited. He loves Turkey, but has no illusions about its current rulers. He has many Turkish friends, but one day he realized his family had no future there so they came to the Land of Israel.

His two happily married, beautiful daughters dote on him. He had fallen in his garden. We find we know people and events in common since I wrote a book about Istanbul. One night I read him to sleep with first-person accounts his own father never told him about the labour battalions, virtual concentration camps where Turkish Jews, Armenians and Greeks were forcibly sent during World War II.

He is released within a few days.

File photo of a hospital ward in Israel [*Flash90 photo*]

My other neighbour is Mr. Meir, another fine gentlemen. These men, only a decade older than I, have such wonderful manners. How much I, and my generation, have lost! He was born in Casabalanca and he speaks Arabic, French and Hebrew with equal facility. He offers me a cup of tea, which I find touching. But I fear the hot drink. He, too, is surrounded by his loving family.

He tells me a story that makes me sob a moment. I ask when he arrived in Israel. As a refugee, he responds, in the week of his bar mitzvah. And the first thing he did was to celebrate his bar mitzvah here. (My son was to celebrate his bar mitzvah last week and I feared I would not be there.) I find something comforting in the coincidental symbolism.

He, too, is soon released.

Then comes the ordeal. A very elderly man is brought into the room on the left side of my bed. He is tall and spare, wearing a narrow black silk skullcap, looking every inch like a biblical portrait of Abraham, so straight and stiff as to resemble a human log. All night long, he moans piteously. He recounts the story of his life, a few words at a time. His daughters and perhaps sons-in-law or sons gather around him. They praise him, express their love for him and beg his forgiveness.

"We love you, father," they say. "You could not have been better to us. We are so grateful to you!"

On and on, hour after hour, it goes as he mumbles one prayer and then another. I listen fascinated, captured by every word. My double sleeping pill has no effect at all. Finally, at midnight, long after the visiting hours end – though no one dared ask them to leave – they all leave. But one young, religiously garbed daughter remains to tend him all night. She wears the hair net covering of the religious. Her face is ravaged with sadness.

An entire century of a family is laid out before my unwilling ears. It breaks my heart, but there is something inspiring in it, something of the essence of life beyond all the foolishness and external matters by which we divert ourselves.

Only family matters.

Only love matters.

Only good deeds matter.

I finally can bear no more. I go around the curtain and I address the young, hollow-eyed daughter with the traditional Hebrew words of hope for the mercy of the Creator of the Universe, for full healing and for a miracle.

But I see by the look of hopelessness in her eye, even her deeply religious, believing-with-a-perfect-faith eye, that no miracle is expected here.

I return to my bed, fall asleep. Three hours later I awake briefly and hear him still mumbling.

Again, I fall asleep, and when I wake up 10 hours later, he is gone. She is gone. And someone else is in a new bed in the place he occupied. May the Creator of the universe comfort this fine man's family and bring him his true reward for having lived such a good life.

My eyes open, and I look at the clock on the wall opposite me. It is 3:01 p.m. Two giant men loom above me. "This is your thoracic surgeon," the mighty orderly says. Rip, tear and the hole in my side is healed.

But the holes in our hearts, the pain in our souls are not so easily mended.

A few minutes later, they take me down for a CT scan. I wait for the results as they confer, begging for the half-dozen conferring doctors to just give me one sentence of summary. The kindly deputy director, a wonderfully decent man, looks at me for a moment and says, "You are much better now," then returns to the conference. Frustrated, I fall asleep.

Three hours later, my wife wakes me. They can't find any more damage, she explains, just the tumour on the lung, the emptied-out blood, the scar tissue.

After a bit of bureaucracy, the kind desk nurse holds up a brown envelope. "You can go home," she says. "Come back each week for an X-ray. Begin your therapy."

I can barely walk, but my wife helps me down the hall, into a wheelchair, out the door and into the ever startlingly bright Tel Aviv sunshine.

I, Mr. Meir and Mr. Ibrahim have been given another chance to go into the world and do some good, to do some right.

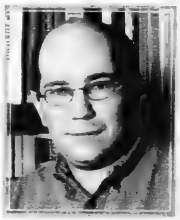
Mr. "Abraham" is on his way to somewhere else, somewhere better I hope, where he will reap the reward of his long life of good deeds.

They release me to go home, rest and begin my therapy. Thanks to our Creator for our lives and thanks to our Creator for the chances we are given, often more than we merit, to transcend those lives by good deeds, integrity, solidarity with those who stand for the just and the free, and for love for our fellows. This is not about fame, this is not about wealth, this is not about power. It is about how – or whether – at the end, those who know us best love us best.

*Barry Rubin is a Middle East commentator, a professor at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) in Herzliya, Israel, the director of the IDC's Global Research in International Affairs Center and a senior fellow at the its International Policy Institute for Counterterrorism. He was recently stricken with severe lung disease. And he did indeed celebrate his son's bar mitzvah last week.*

# PQ ethnocentrism could bring Jews and Muslims together

Amid a glorious summer, with great weather, fabulous festivals and deliciously lazy days, the collective blood pressure of most Quebec Jews spiked, as the provincial election contest heated up, referendum talk mounted and property values prepared to nosedive. You don't need the honed-by-history, trained-by-trauma instincts of a long-oppressed people to hear the demagoguery and nativism in the rhetoric of Pauline Marois and her Parti Québécois. All you need are the sensibilities of a humanist, the decency of a democrat, the passions of a liberty-lover. During the first great Palestinian terrorist onslaught of the 1970s, novelist Cynthia Ozick said Jews aren't paranoid, but narapoid – a term she coined to mean when you think people are out to get you, and they are.



The Jews of Quebec live in a gilded cage. For many, Canadian niceness and the average Quebecer's generosity generate many blessings: the standard of living is high, quality of life is good, community infrastructure is deep and Jewish identity is strong. Yet the nastiness of Quebec politics – and the ever-present, shouted today, perhaps whispered tomorrow, threat of separation, erodes community self-confidence and individual self-respect. Politically, most Jews are held hostage, forced to support the tired, ineffectual, tainted-by-corruption Liberal government of Premier Jean Charest, because the alternative isn't just worse, but potentially catastrophic.

The separatist threat is debilitating enough, but Marois has raised the trauma considerably with her Charter of Secularism. The notion of banning Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh symbols in government offices but not, dare I say it, God forbid, the crucifix, because of its "cultural"

***Gil Troy***

***in Montreal***

significance – not its religious meaning of course – would be laughable if it were not so offensive. Marois has made it clear that she would invoke one of the least democratic planks in any modern democracy – the Charter of Rights' Notwithstanding Clause – to impose her offensive, selective, Christianocentric, vision on Quebecers.

Fundamental rights of free expression and religious liberty shouldn't be up for grabs. All Quebecers of good conscience should vote against Marois' medievalism. This threat to peace, order and good government should also motivate Canadians across the country to rally against the Notwithstanding Clause. Provincial legislatures shouldn't be able to suspend fundamental rights temporarily. The clause mocks the notion of constitutional guarantees.

I don't get it. I thought the new generation of young, hip, cosmopolitan Quebeckers rejected their baby boomer predecessors' extremism. Yes, there were historic imbalances between Anglophones and Francophones that needed correcting. And yes, these young, prospering, sophisticated Francophones have benefited from their elders' boldness. But progress occurred, a new world developed, and now, this divisive, destructive demagoguery threatens all the good and goodwill that exist, while obscuring important work that needs to be done in improving the health-care system, cultivating the economy and making the infamous Quebec bureaucracy more respectful of individual citizens and their rights.

History teaches that a lynch mob atmosphere against some citizens ultimately hurts all citizens. So many people, be they of venerable French lineage or fresh off the boat, who have had run-ins with Quebec tax authorities or Quebec welfare boards or Quebec parking authorities understand that the province's power dynamics are too skewed toward officious bureaucrats and against regular folk. We need a grand government worthy of its marvellous citizens, not a banana republic. Marois' ethnocentrism and separatist talks diminishes individuals and the rule of law while preventing an important debate about this problem and many others.

There is one silver lining amid these gathering northern clouds. In targeting the hijab and the kippah, Marois has provided Muslim and Jews an opening for a much-needed dialogue. I have long wondered why every conversation between Muslims and Jews has to be about Israelis and Palestinians. We have many common challenges that could invite productive, meaningful exchanges. We should talk together about the tensions of preserving traditions in the modern world, of difficulties navigating smaller, more insular but nurturing communities along with larger, more expansive and empowering, yet sometimes alienating, communities.

In mobilizing together against Marois' ethno-ugliness, Muslims and Jews might find some Canadian common ground and build strong ties that could help alleviate Middle East tensions. That would make us not just narapoid, but what I would call "fedended." That's when by defending yourself, you make yourself – and others – stronger.

# *Do we really have room for hate?*

In June, my son sent round a Facebook post with the quotes from Israel's chief rabbis debating who thought it was more of a catastrophe that non-Orthodox rabbis were now being paid a state salary – just like *all* Orthodox rabbis. His posting asked, "Who hates Reform Judaism more?" My posting asked, "Is this a contest I can win?"

Let's start with the whole idea of a Chief Rabbinate. It's funded by the government – which means from the taxes of an already-overtaxed population – but the vast majority of Israelis are not Orthodox and utterly ignore that same Chief Rabbinate, except when they have to get married (often running to Cyprus to do so) or buried (and they're now finding loopholes even to that). The institution is so flawed, so patriarchal, so biased, so unbearably pre-modern that it's barely salvageable.

Corrupt politicians "buy" votes by getting local rabbis to support them. Religious factions fight each other other publicly, closing down schools, after-school clubs and organizations that don't please them. Religious councils grant seats to favourites, give grants to favourites, and ignore the others. Local mashgichim are appointed to hotels and restaurants without these establishments having any say as to whom they get. And of course thousands of Israelis – both secular and haredi – completely ignore everything these rabbis say.

And let's not ignore the fact that the new state salaries for these Reform and Conservative rabbis is going to come *not* from the budget of the Chief Rabbinate but from the Ministry of Sports and Culture. (Thank goodness I am not paid by the Canadian ministry. I don't play hockey and I'm a pretty poor curler. I'm terrible at art and I don't play a instrument, either. Yikes. Well maybe I'm cultural enough to get a paycheque.) And these salaries go only to rural rabbis (don't you dare dream of being paid to serve in Jerusalem, for example.)

But we accept small victories, because we know the road is long and hard, and we know how much we worked just for this "bone" from a religious ministry that often spews venom and places all manner of obstacles when it comes to their fellow, non-Orthodox Jews.

Now I know people will accuse me of Orthodox-bashing. Let's get real: just who is bashing whom? Rabbi Shlomo Amar, the Sephardi chief rabbi, called Reform and Conservative Jews "destroyers and saboteurs of Judaism," noting that the non-Orthodox movements "are poisoning the well of holiness and taking people to a nethermost pit." Most remarkable was his assertion that paying non-Orthodox rabbis from government money was more serious than the Palestinan threat.

Gil Kariv, director of the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism, wrote in response: "We will continue to build communities and to establish centres of education, convert immigrants from the former Soviet Union and to work toward social justice and tolerance."

***Rabbi Elyse Goldstein***

***in Toronto***

In an opinion piece published in *Ha'aretz*, Kariv writes: "The attorney general's decision will not end discrimination in marriages and divorces; it will not provide relief from the outrageous lack of justice in the ultra-Orthodox community's evasion of military service. Nor will it ease the distress of the new immigrants who lack a religious classification. It does not provide an answer to religious radicalization, racism or the exclusion of women, which are part of some rabbis' daily routine.

"These issues and others are still waiting for the people to come to their senses and say that enough is enough. But this underscores the importance of the decision – the future of democracy depends on the diversity of the faces of Judaism in Israel and on the establishment of a moderate, humane and tolerant Jewish voice."

The chief rabbis and their friends in high places can cry foul all they like. They can, and likely will, try to thwart this measure in any way available to them. But time marches on, and the modern State of Israel is getting more and more impatient with medieval theocracies. The only way that the Jewish state can stay Jewish and also democratic, egalitarian, diverse and modern is to disable the whole structure and purpose of the Chief Rabbinate and let all Jews in the Jewish state freely choose the form and manner in which they will practise Judaism, as their Jewish brothers and sisters all over the Diaspora can do.

# *Turkey's 'true believers'*

As my Istanbul-bound Turkish Airlines flight from Toronto began its descent, I caught a glimpse of a mosque in the bright sunshine, one of nearly 3,000 mosques scattered around Istanbul.

A few days later, I visited one of Istanbul's marquee tourist attractions, the Blue Mosque, which is adorned with several imposing domes and a profusion of minarets.

But of all the mosques I saw in this bustling and exotic city, the so-called Jewish mosque, found in an upscale neighbourhood of gleaming condominiums and fine shops, may well have been the most unusual one.

***Sheldon Kirshner in Istanbul***

A plain two-storey building with a beige exterior, a single white minaret thrusting into the sky and such decorative touches as fancy stone flourishes and four stolid columns shielding the front door, this is a mosque frequented by the *donmehs*. Or so I was told by a reliable source in Istanbul.

Members of an intensely secretive community that shuns contact with outsiders, the *donmehs* are descendants of Jews who converted to Islam in the mid-17th century.

Their story beggars belief.

Shabtai Zvi, a rabbi and a kabbalist born in the Ottoman Empire town of Smyrna in 1626, reached adulthood when the approach of messianic times seemed tantalizingly imminent. In 1648, when he was 22, he told his followers he was the messiah. The rabbis of Smyrna, fearing his deviant creed and his charismatic powers, excommunicated him and his flock.

Banished from the Jewish community, he travelled the world, landing in Istanbul, previously known as Constantinople, in 1666. Arrested by the authorities on suspicion of conspiring to overthrow the sultan, he was given a stark choice: convert to Islam or face execution.

He converted, disillusioning many of his followers, who now considered him a false messiah. Ardent loyalists, consisting of some 300 families, embraced his new faith and referred to themselves as *ma'aminim*, or "true believers."

Muslims called them *donmehs*, a Turkish word meaning "to turn." Outwardly, like the Jewish *conversos* of Spain, the *donmehs* made a show of embracing their new religion, living by the Muslim calendar and praying in mosques. Privately, they hewed to certain Jewish rituals, incorporating elements of the Kabbalah and Sufism into their beliefs, and recited prayers in Hebrew and Ladino.

After Shabtai Zvi's death in 1676, the *donmehs* splintered into three sects. The Yakubis scrupulously observed Sunni Muslim religious obligations. The Karakas, seemingly less devoted to Islam, attracted acolytes in Poland, including Jacob Frank, who eventually converted to Christianity. The Kapanci, a hybrid subgroup, adopted the practices of both the Yakubis and the Karakas.

By the 19th century, the *donmehs* were concentrated in Salonika, in present-day Greece, and were prominent in the textile, timber and tobacco trades. Clannish and insular, they lived in the same neighbourhoods, maintaining their own network of mosques, schools, communal courts and cemeteries.

Numbering upward of 15,000 when the 20th century dawned, the *donmehs*, having been branded incorrigible deviants by rabbis, were alienated from the Jewish community.

In 1914, the chief rabbi of the Ottoman Empire accused them of immorality, sexual promiscuity and perversity, dishonesty, blasphemy and trickery.

According to American historian Marc David Baer, the author of a book on the *donmehs*, they were increasingly assimilated into Muslim society as they internalized Islamic values and intermarried with Muslims. Indeed, some *donmehs* advanced into senior positions in the Ottoman bureaucracy and armed forces and in Sufi orders.

Drawn to progressive political ideas, they joined the ranks of the Committee for Union and Progress, or Young Turks, which pressed for reforms in the period leading up to World War I. Javid Bey, supposedly of *donmeh* origin, was the minister of finance in the first Young Turk government.

It has also been alleged that Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of Turkey's secular republic in 1923, was of *donmeh* descent as well. The allegation stems from the fact that Ataturk attended a school in Salonika established by Semsi Efendi, a *donmeh* who may have been one of his teachers.

With the end of Turkey's war of national independence, a war that defined its current geographic boundaries, Turkey and Greece agreed to a massive population exchange. Upward of 500,000 Muslims in Greece were transferred to Turkey, while about one million Greek Christians in Turkey were sent to Greece.

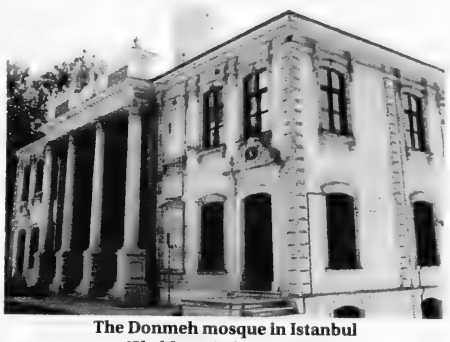
As part of this historic exchange, the *donmehs* were resettled in Turkey, having been forced to leave Salonika after Salonika's chief rabbi decreed that *donmehs* were Muslims rather than Jews. In the main, they settled in Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara, Turkey's capital.

In retrospect, the *donmehs* were fortunate to have left Salonika. Two decades later, during the Nazi occupation, more than 90 per cent of the Jews in the city were deported to and murdered in concentration camps in Poland. The *donmehs* would have suffered the same fate had the Nazis classified them as Jews.

But Jews they definitely were not. During the Ataturk era, from 1923 to 1938, a *donmeh* descendant, Teyfik Rustu Aras, was Turkey's ambassador to the Soviet Union and Britain and served as deputy foreign minister and foreign minister.

Oddly enough, however, the *donmehs* were affected by the punitive 1942 wealth tax imposed on minorities: Jews, Greeks and Armenians.

Today, nearly four centuries after Shabtai Zvi proclaimed himself the messiah, the *donmehs* have been completely absorbed into the Turkish Muslim fold. "There are few who keep the old traditions," said Rifat Bali, an Istanbul historian who writes on Jewish topics. "The rest have been assimilated."



**The Donmeh mosque in Istanbul**
***[Sheldon Kirshner photo]***

Izak Kolman, an adviser to Turkey's chief rabbi, claims there are three categories of *donmehs* in Turkey today. The first group denies its Jewish antecedents altogether. The second may still practise Jewish rituals in secrecy. The third openly acknowledges its Jewish ancestry.

The Jewish community has no formal connections with the *donmehs*. "We have no relationship with them," said Kolman.

Nonetheless, hardline Islamists and conspiracy theorists claim that their descendants control and have controlled the Turkish government. They also insist that Turkey's former foreign minister, Ismail Cem, was a *donmeh*, and that Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is a secret Jew.

Judging by these assertions, the *donmehs* continue to cast a shadow on contemporary Turkey.

*(Last in a series on Turkey).*

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# Recession puts pressure on federation budget

**Frances Kraft**
Staff Reporter

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has been spending much time on its budgeting process in the wake of the recession that began four years ago. The organization is now balancing greater need in the community with fewer dollars to spend each year.

*The CJN* met recently with senior federation staff members to discuss the amount raised in the annual campaign, and how budget and local allocations are affected.

In its 2012 campaign, which ended this summer, UJA raised $60.5 million. Of that, $3.3 million was earmarked by donors for specific causes. The rest constituted unrestricted gifts that are allocated according to needs determined by the federation and community volunteers.

The larger, unrestricted segment, makes the most difference to the community, explained Steven Shulman, campaign director and counsel.

Beginning in 2008, the entire philanthropic world was hit by the recession, Shulman said. "We've had challenges, but have been coming through better than the vast majority of organizations, because people recognize the primacy of UJA."

Federation has been tightening its belt to address what Shulman called a "diminution" of dollars. The 2011 campaign raised $63 million, $2.5 million more than this past year.

"We have a very lean staff, and almost 700 volunteer canvassers," said Shulman. As well, he added, there have been $2.2 million in "internal cuts" over the last four years, including eliminating the federation's legal department, to minimize costs.

As well, staff for the Joshua Institute of Jewish Communal Leadership and Top Bunk – a Jewish camp incentive program – were let go, although the programs are still running.

**Steven Shulman**

Most notably – and controversially – in 2009, the federation's Centre for Jewish Education (CJE) was downsized dramatically, and its annual budget was cut by more than $1 million.

Ted Sokolsky, the federation's president and CEO, said that the previous entity was "great for a different era. Schools are much stronger now, and have the resources to develop curriculum."

As well, Shulman added, costs have been cut by bringing in someone who works on contract instead of having a full-time staff member to organize events such as professional development days.

"None of this is at the expense of day schools," Shulman said, addressing concerns that have been raised.

Adam Minsky, senior vice-president of community capacity building, said the CJE has four priorities: affordability of Jewish education, developing a strategy for special education, school accreditation and supplementary education for kids who aren't in the day school system. Three of them relate to day schools, he pointed out, adding that the federation has increased the amount of money it allocates to day schools in recent years.

Despite overall cuts including $42,000 for seniors and $16,000 to the Committee for Yiddish, there were also allocation increases this past year. An extra $176,000 went toward providing financial assistance to vulnerable members of the community this year, and an additional $100,000 was allocated to women's abuse programs, Jeff Springer, senior vice-president of corporate affairs, said.

Jewish Family and Child's financial assistance program is "practically the only one of its kind in North America," Sokolsky said. Shulman added that more families have needed assistance this year, because severance packages are running out for middle-aged parents who lost their jobs in the recession and haven't found employment since.

Some of the federation's most ambitious projects, such as the new Schwartz-Reisman Centre at the 50-acre Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus, and the Prosserman JCC, which is expected to open in late 2014, are not funded through the annual UJA campaign.

With other pressing issues in the community – day school tuition, for example – where does the high cost of the new Jewish campuses fit in?

Sokolsky said the capital campaign for the new buildings and campuses have enhanced the UJA campaign by getting mega-donors to "reconnect with the Jewish community in a way they haven't before.

"When you have a big idea, you attract big money… This site [Lebovic] is finally going to anchor the northern Jewish community. It's an investment."

**Continued on page 36**

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# Tough times squeeze JF&CS budget

## *Costs are up, revenues are down, says Cummings*

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

A climate of government budgetary cutbacks is making it a challenging time for the child welfare sector, says Richard Cummings, executive director of Jewish Family & Child.

With the province reducing expenditures, his agency's allocations have been reduced to a level of funding it received in 2010, Cummings said.

In addition to being a children's aid society for the Jewish community, JF&CS offers services for abused women, as well as family services and counseling, including financial assistance and rehabilitation, and Jewish hospice services.

Cummings said that in the current funding cycle, which began in mid-July, the reductions have been accompanied by an increase in expenditures for services, as well as for salaries, benefits, insurance and pensions.

"The bottom line is that costs are up and revenues are down," he said in an interview at the agency's head office.

Richard Cummings

Over the past year, he said, in anticipation of the budget allocations, the agency had to do some trimming. "We reduced our expenses through lay-offs and other savings, but we are concerned that with further hits, we could be presented with new and difficult challenges.

"We are now endeavouring to identify effective ways to implement changes without eroding the quality of the services we provide to the Jewish community."

**Continued on page 16**


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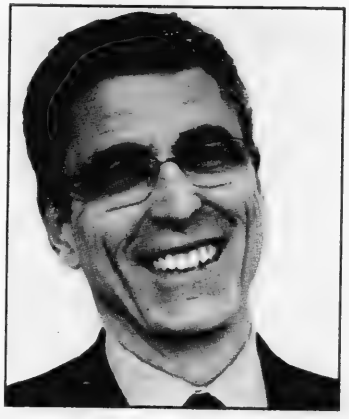

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# *Can you give Josh a home?*

## JF&CS seeks adoptive parents for foster child

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

Sheryl Ederman, a practice team manager at Jewish Family & Child, is "shocked and perplexed" that efforts to get a 10-year-old boy adopted into a Toronto-area Jewish family have gone unrewarded.

Josh (not his real name) has been in foster care for more than a year, and JF&CS has fulfilled its mandate to try to reunite him with his family.

"That was not possible, so it's [the agency's] responsibility to connect [Josh] to another family. The primary focus of all adoption services is the best interest of the child."

Ederman said JF&CS has placed posters about Josh along Bathurst Street from Bloor Street to Richmond Hill, as well as sent out more than 22,000 email blasts, posted the plea on the agency's Facebook page, and made it the lead story in *Family Matters*, its newsletter, but there has been very little response.

"I do believe there is a 'forever home' for this child, but I may have to go outside of the GTA. He has a solid, dependable extended family in the GTA, who, if possible, wants to maintain a relationship with him, but they are unable to care for him," Ederman said.

"We'd like Josh to maintain family contact that is meaningful and beneficial, but his family has said they will not stand in the way of another family who may not want him to have any contact."

In describing Josh, Ederman said that he shows excitement and enthusiasm in everything he does. "He enjoys karate swimming, playing with Legos, listening to music, and much more.

"[He] is friendly, charismatic, loving and inquisitive. His smile and big, blue eyes are hard to resist."

Ederman said that Josh has had family challenges, and has demonstrated great resiliency as he has adjusted well to his life circumstances.

Josh requires a "forever family" that is able to provide structure, calmness and consistency, she said. "He would benefit from a two-parent family, and he would welcome siblings – especially older siblings that he can look up to as positive role models.

"Josh has some learning challenges and will require academic support. His adoptive family would need to be open to learning particular parenting strategies, be open-minded regarding extended family contact, and be loving and caring."

Ederman wonders why no one has stepped forward. "I believe we have a responsive community, but this [lack of response] throws me. I don't know what else to do."

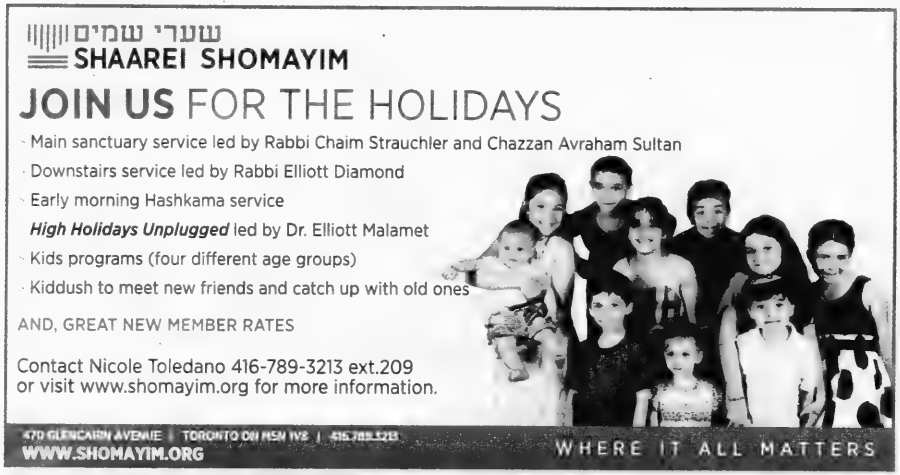
She doesn't want to turn to an advertising agency, she said, because that would make her feel like she's trying to sell a product. "We are looking for a home for one of our children."

JF&CS can provide support to families who give children in care a home through adoption. "A financial subsidy, which is reviewed annually, is available to a family who is eligible," Ederman said.

"We want to encourage the right family to step forward, even if they are worried about finances. Our priority is finding the right match. We do this through a consensual home study process to assist in determining the best interest of the child."

Josh is anxious to settle into a family, she said. "He has been with a great foster family, but foster homes are temporary. We have to get him out of the system, and into a permanent home. Permanence is a safe, nurturing relationship intended to last a lifetime."

For information on adopting Josh, call 416-638-7800 and ask for intake.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## Agency facing cutbacks

**Continued from page 14**

Cummings said the government must see the importance of maintaining these services. "Our voice needs to be heard. [They need to know] that the government should invest in services [directed] at the most vulnerable.

"I am distressed, but I can say without question that we will not put children and families at risk. We are passionately committed to providing child welfare services. It is a treasure to have the only Jewish child welfare agency in the country."

As a multi-service agency, said Cummings, "we have a unique approach to services that allows us to deliver effective responses. We don't want to lose the great programming, which provides a host of services beyond the children's agency envelope.

"We provide case management that allows us to address complex issues, we have a unique approach to services, and we deliver effective responses."

Cummings said that despite the challenges, he has always maintained trust in the agency's board of directors and the Jewish community to keep it afloat.

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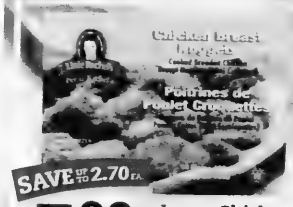

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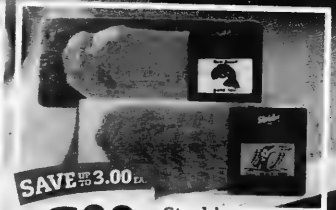

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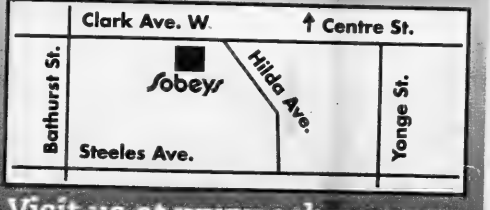


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# First Nations youth hosted at Camp George

**Continued from page 3**

She extended the invitation to the Aug. 18-19 powwow, which gave the Jewish visitors "a first-hand idea of a different culture and a different way of life," Poizner said.

Wheatley, who is aboriginal program co-ordinator at the Toronto Zoo, explained that powwows are open to anybody. "They're public presentations and sharing. It's just like a festival, except they have a sacred nature to them. They're immersed with cultural teachings."

In turn, Wheatley was invited to the Reform movement's Camp George for Shabbat dinner and services, "which was amazing," she said.

Rabbi Noam Katz – the dean of Jewish living at Camp George (which hosted two groups of First Nations youth this summer for activities and dialogue) and Leo Baeck Day School – said he was dazzled by some of the customs and traditions he witnessed at the powwow, and by having the chance to speak with Lakota elder Cliff Standingready. "I thought it was very inspiring.

"I realized there are so many points of intersection and commonality between aboriginal traditions and many of our own Jewish traditions... safeguarding the earth, respecting the elders and transmitting the old values and stories to the next generation."

The CCRJ came into the picture when Poizner and Fran Isaacs, chair of Temple Har Zion's social action committee, attended a meeting of the Reform movement's national social action committee.

**Lakota elder Cliff Standingready, left, poses with Rabbi Noam Katz at the 15th annual Shawanaga First Nation Traditional Powwow.**

In addition to the two Reform congregations, the BCS also includes Beit Rayim Synagogue, Beth Tikvah Synagogue, Shaar Shalom Synagogue (all of which are Conservative), and Kehillat Shaarei Torah (which is Orthodox).

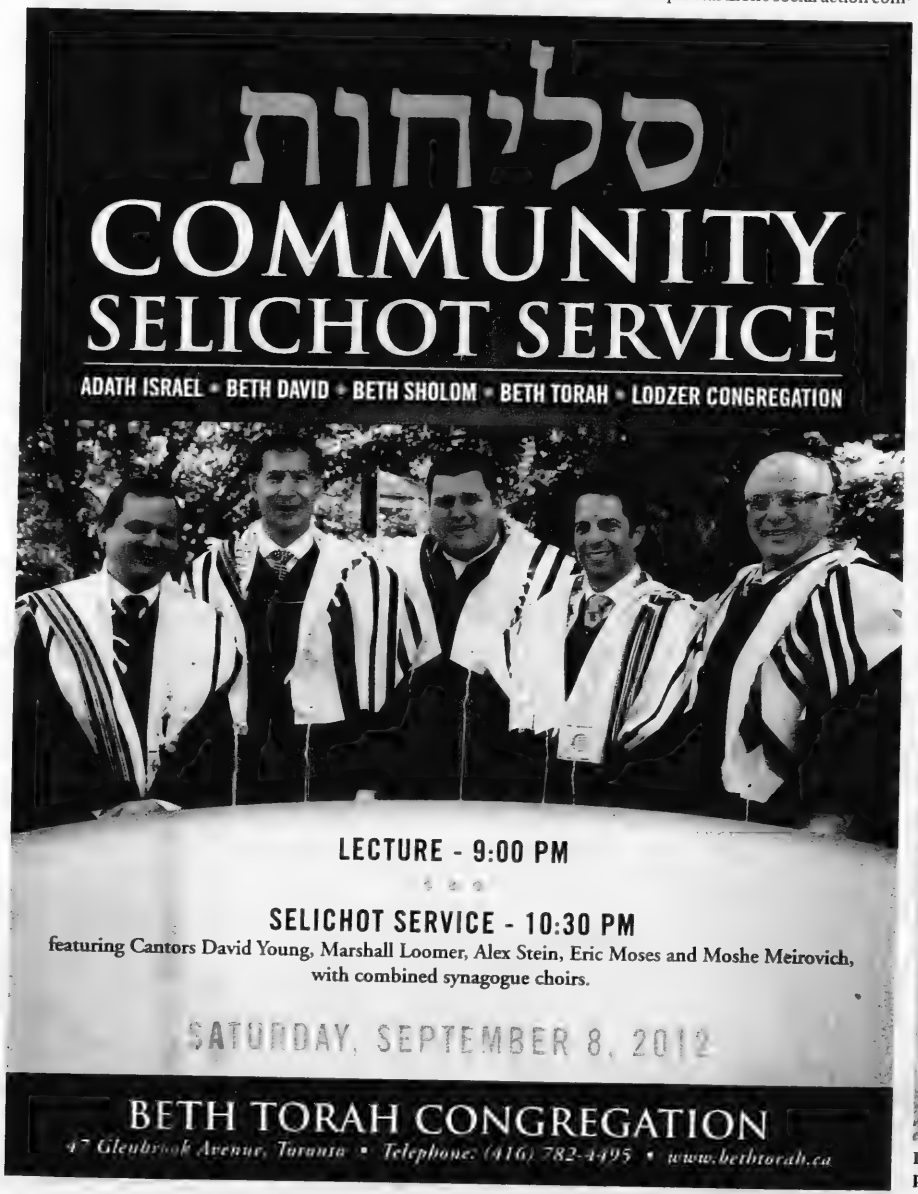
A total of almost 30 representatives of the two groups attended the powwow. Poizner and her husband Marty brought 50 backpacks filled with school supplies, donated by Ve'ahavta, as gifts.

Among other ceremonies, there was an honour dance for the Jewish group to thank them for developing the partnership and bringing the gifts.

Wheatley recalls feeling "so pleased, so happy, so proud" at the powwow. "It was a great opportunity [for visitors] to experience who we are in a very fun and welcoming atmosphere.

"I think partnership between communities that are connected by their hearts is really important, and I think the grass roots level is the most important way to get anything done."

**Lakota elder Cliff Standingready took part in the powwow.**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# Israeli youths enjoy camp experience

**Kortney Shapiro**
Special to The CJN

There is nothing like spending the summer by a lake, jumping into pristine waters after having spent the day bonding with new friends, and kayaking until sunset.

This summer, 25 Israeli campers personally affected by terrorism, ranging in age from 12 to 17, and their five counsellors came to Canada with the support of the One Family Fund Camp Timberlane program.

One Family Fund acts as an extended family of Israeli victims of terror attacks, providing them with financial, emotional and physical support.

The organization supports the wounded and bereaved – those who have lost loved ones or who have directly been physically or emotionally affected by terror.

Founded in 2002, One Family Fund empowers victims of terror with rehabilitative programs and support networks to rebuild their lives, one family at a time. Now in its sixth year, the Camp Timberlane program bridges the ties between Israeli and Canadian youth and their families.

This year, 17 families generously opened their Toronto-area homes for a week to Israeli campers who were treated to a three-week camp experience in northern Ontario.

Before heading off to camp, the group did some sightseeing that included a visit to Toronto landmark Casa Loma and Niagara Falls.

The participants, who were greeted by the Toronto Jewish community with affection and warmth, also enjoyed shopping trips, a bowling night, barbecues and lunches, which were donated by sponsors and families.

**Israeli youths at camp**

Overseen by One Family Fund's signature events director Michael Rosen, the program was a great success, proving that community support can help people cope with personal issues.

Dina Sheer, an Israel-based One Family Fund staff supervisor, said that when she was presented with an opportunity to take part in the summer program, "I took it with two hands.

"It was an amazing experience to get to know more of the One Family Fund children. It is very intense, and I learned a lot from [the Israeli participants] and the Canadians [whose] kindness and warm welcome was so nice."

One of the participants, a 17-year-old counsellor-in-training, took part in the program for the second time.

"The [Canadian] campers were happy to have us there. They wanted us to teach them Hebrew and we learned English," she said.

"I did this [program] again because of the warm people… Everyone is amazing. It was the best summer I had in my life."

Efi Zarbiv, an Israeli-based One Family Fund staff member who accompanied the children from Israel, also found the program to be meaningful as well.

"The kids loved the activities and meeting new people," Zarbiv said.

"They participated in everything. It was great to see how happy they were."

In a letter to the families who hosted the children before and after their camp experience, and to the staff involved in bringing the entire program together, One Family Fund Canada executive director Pam Albert wrote that the "amazing experience" left her speechless.

And to the Israeli participants, she wrote that they "really are cherished by your Canadian community. When I visited you at Timberlane, I left with a full heart, knowing that you were having such a great experience."

As the summer comes to a close and the children return home, it is clear that this program is an essential part of the Jewish community both here and abroad, and provides children who have suffered through trauma to experience a carefree summer.

*Kortney Shapiro is a One Family Fund volunteer.*

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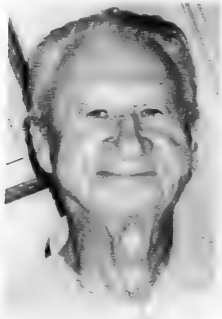
# Shabbat service honours Jewish war vets

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

For the sixth time in as many years, George Stern, a Hungarian-native who survived the Holocaust as a hidden child and fought in Israel's War of Independence in 1948 before settling in Canada, is organizing a special Shabbat service at Beth Tikvah Synagogue to honour his fellow Jewish war veterans.



George Stern

Stern, who strongly believes that all Jewish war veterans living in Canada should be recognized and organized, has been a volunteer and member of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada for about 13 years.

Since 2008, he has made it his mission to reach out to the hundreds of Israeli and Russian Jewish war veterans living in Canada.

Stern said that many members of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada – which, according to its website, functions as a "Jewish veterans association with all rights to operate independently, to recognize and assist the State of Israel in any way possible"– were machalniks, volunteers who fought in Israel's War of Independence after serving in World War II.

**George Stern, far right, is pictured with Jewish war veterans at a special Shabbat service he organized in 2008 in honour of Canadian, Russian and Israeli Jews who fought for their countries.**

But Stern has been working to recruit younger war veterans, Israeli-Canadians who have served in Israel's Six Day War in 1967, or the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

Stern, who is on Beth Tikvah's ritual committee, said since he took over organizing the Shabbat service in 2006, Canadians, Russians and Israelis have all participated.

He said in the years since he began trying to attract Israeli war veterans to join the Canadian organization, only about 25 have joined.

"But the Israelis don't show up [to the events]. The joined and they paid their dues, but they don't participate," Stern said.

Still, Stern is relentless in his mission to increase the organization's membership, which stands at about 140.

"It's very important to honour the veterans once a year, at least, and bring them together, and to teach the younger generations about the history," he said.

During the Nov. 10 service, the participating veterans – Stern is expecting about 50 – will march together before the service starts.

Stern will welcome the veterans and their families and Rabbi Jarrod Grover will address the gathering.

"My family will come, my six grandchildren will come," Stern said.

"It's important to show the younger generation, so they will not forget."

Stern said he's also looking forward to a vodka toast with his Russian war veteran buddies at the kiddush following the service.

The event will include an exhibit featuring pictures, articles and memorabilia supplied by the participating veterans.

Those interested in an aliyah l'Torah should contact Stern to make arrangements in advance.

The annual fee to be a member of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada is $35.

For more information or to inquire about joining, call Stern at 416-223-7481 or email g.stern@hotmail.com.

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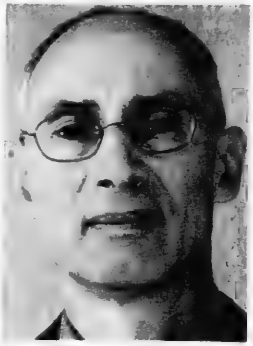
# United Church position on Israel is unbalanced

Guest Voice



Harry Schachter

In the past few days, the United Church has drawn widespread condemnation from the Jewish community for its position on Israel and Palestine.

Those of us who define ourselves as progressive Zionists agree that there is much that is difficult and troubling in the church's position. But there is also much that we can approve of in the church's stand, and it's important to acknowledge that.

For example, we agree with the Church's Working Group on Israel/Palestine Policy that the establishment of a viable Palestinian state alongside a Jewish, democratic Israel is the means whereby the people of the region can look forward to a peaceful and productive future together. We further agree that this two-state future must be achieved through legitimate, good-faith negotiations and based on a foundation of justice, human dignity, human rights and international law.

It's gratifying to see a clear statement from the church that to question Israel's legitimacy or its right to exist is unacceptable. It's also heartening to see the church denounce the "ongoing aggression and incitement to violence" aimed at the State of Israel and its people from parties, individuals and governments in the region and around the world.

And on the difficult issue of the right of return for Palestinians, the church now supports a negotiated settlement that maintains the demographic integrity of Israel.

Nevertheless, when we look at the result of the debate and the final vote at the church's General Council this month, there are important points on which we disagree.

Here are a couple.

The church has voted to make a lot of demands on Israel. It calls on the Israelis to end all settlement construction as a necessary step toward entering into good faith negotiation, to dismantle the separation barrier where it crosses over the Green Line and to ensure there is equitable access to water resources. We can agree with all of that. But the council ultimately makes no demands whatsoever on the Palestinians. There is one all-too-brief mention in the Working Group report of the need for Palestinians (and Israelis) to reject violence, and there is barely any mention at all of the rejectionist factions such as Hamas that are so strong among the Palestinians. This is a gaping void in the church's position.

And then there are the proposals for economic boycott. My organization, JSpaceCanada, has from its very beginning opposed any form of boycott, divestment or sanctions (BDS) when it comes to Israel. The international BDS movement is simply too saturated with anti-Israel bias and rhetoric, and many of its participants reject the entire notion of a Jewish state.

The United Church, to its credit, acknowledges the problems with the BDS movement. Instead the church, first in its Working Group report and now at its General Council, advocates a more targeted economic boycott aimed at settlement products. This is a more nuanced and defensible position, but it's one that we respectfully reject. In practical terms, it is difficult if not impossible to enforce without also hurting Israelis outside the settlements. Most significantly, it serves only to isolate and harden Israel and its supporters when what is most urgently needed is close contact and diplomacy.

Many in the Jewish community have called for cutting off ties with the United Church. Our disagreements with the United Church are serious, but not talking will resolve nothing. Rather, this is a time when it's most important to maintain ties and to keep a dialogue going. That's the only way that we'll be able to work through our disagreements and build on those areas where we can surely make common cause.

*Harry Schachter is on the co-ordinating committee of JSpaceCanada and a former television news producer.*

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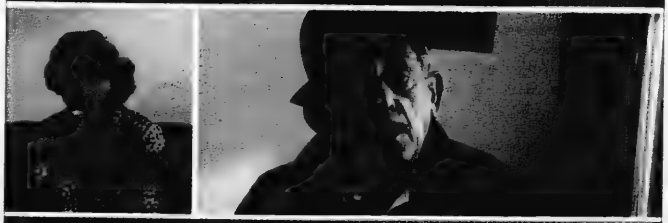

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In David Perlov's *Memories of the Eichmann Trial*, the filmmaker conducts interviews of survivors, their children, and young Israelis who, seventeen years after Eichmann's trial, give their perspectives on its impact on their lives and on Israeli society as a whole. The film was produced by IBA Channel in 1979, and was restored and re-released in 2011 by the Yad Vashem Visual Centre. It will be screened in Hebrew with English subtitles.

For more information, call 416.978.1624, e-mail cjs.toronto@utoronto.ca or visit www.cjs.utoronto.ca/eichmanntrial.

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# *Looking back on my summer as an intern*

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

Once a week, since I was a tiny toddler, I've walked, or wobbled in the really early years, into my kitchen and found *The CJN* lying open on the table.

As time passed, the table changed – from beige laminate to sleek glass – the appliances surrounding the table have been also been updated, but the paper has remained a fixture. So much so, that when my first *CJN* article as a freelancer was published almost three years ago, it felt like a huge milestone to my parents and to me, both as a journalist and as a member of Toronto's Jewish community. Here was my article in this stronghold of Canadian Jewish life, not to mention this staple in my kitchen.

From that day, I never looked back. I continued to write pieces frequently as a freelancer, interned at the paper for six weeks as part of my final year of study at Ryerson University's journalism program, and this summer, I was lucky enough to come back as an intern for almost four months.

**Michelle Bitran**
*[Josh Hochman photo]*

Now that the summer is ending (I know, I too am trying to pretend it's not), and I'm preparing to move to Israel for a graduate program at Tel Aviv University (in fact, I'll probably be on the Tel Aviv beach by the time you read this), I'm taking a moment to reflect on what *The CJN* internship experience has meant to me.

I've had the pleasure of interviewing interesting, inspiring and exciting people from indie filmmakers and professional musicians to first- and second-grade students eager to make a difference in their communities.

I've had the opportunity to speak with artists and fashion designers, and even to report on a fancy kosher wine festival. Journalism can be a great way to meet new people and to go to events that you might not have otherwise made time for or even known about.

Writing for *The CJN* opened my eyes to the depth and the breadth of Jewish community life in Canada. Covering events at the celebration of Moroccan culture made me swell with pride at the diversity of our community. Although I am not Moroccan, I am Sephardi, and a part of me was humbled at how much interest the greater, mostly Ashkenazi Jewish, community took in Sephardi culture.

I was awed by the support I saw for the Jewish homeland at the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Walk With Israel, and again with the love for Israel's injured war veterans that I witnessed at Beit Halochem's annual concert.

Even more than giving me the wonderful opportunities to explore and learn about Toronto's Jewish community, *The CJN* team has also supported me through my learning experience. I have never had a question go unanswered, and I've always been greeted with patience and understanding even when I've forgotten how to find something on my computer for the fifth or sixth time (OK, OK, maybe the seventh or eighth time).

*The CJN* helped me expand my skill set from reporting to include copy editing, proofreading, coordinating photos for articles and even helping to put together supplements.

But more importantly, what I've learned is that *The CJN* team is really a community, a family, in itself. Not a day has passed that I haven't felt appreciated and cared for, and I go forward knowing that even in Israel, I will stay connected to the great people I've met at the paper.

While I'm sad to be leaving, I can't wait for what's to come in Tel Aviv. Thank you to the readers, the interviewees and, of course, to everyone at *The CJN* for making the last four months so memorable!


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# Research student enjoys hands-on experience

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

Toronto native Rachel Blinick was one of 10 Yeshiva University undergraduates who participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP), a biomedical research program at YU's Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

In addition to the 10 undergraduates, the program attracted 45 graduate students from a number of American colleges and universities to participate in cutting-edge scientific studies.

Blinick, who spoke with *The CJN* in Toronto just days before returning to New York to prepare for the final semester of a bachelor's degree in biology at YU, said she was humbled to be one of the few chosen to participate in the nine-week program that ended earlier this month.

"You had to have research experience, you had to have good grades, good recommendation letters and show that you're really interested in research. You get a stipend as well, so it's a prestigious position," Blinick said.

In the summer program, Blinick worked full time in a research laboratory at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York, where she joined Dr. Richard Gorlick's research group, which focuses on osteosarcoma, the most common type of bone cancer in children.

Rachel Blinick working in Yeshiva University laboratory

"I joined a project in which they were looking at cell-differentiation of growing stem cells," Blinick said.

She also attended weekly lectures by renowned scientists who spoke about their latest discoveries, and she worked closely with graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

Blinick said her role in the study was to analyze genes expressed by mesenchymal stem cells (stem cells that can differentiate into a variety of cell types) and chondroblasts (cartilage-producing cells that come from stem cells), to test for specific markers using flow cytometry, a technique used to identify, separate and count cells based on detecting and measuring the fluorescence emitted with a laser light beam.

"I really liked the research because it was very translational, meaning we were actually working with patient samples and bone marrow from patients. It was something that was going to be used to treat patients," she said.

"It wasn't all theory. I really liked the fact that it was very clinically based. It was being applied to the patients."

Blinick said that last year, she took part in another research program offered by YU through Bar-Ilan University in Israel.

But she feels SURP provided her with more hands-on, practical experience.

"I felt like I did more this summer. The project I had this year was something the whole lab was already working on. It had already been started and was ongoing when I left," she said.

"I also got to go around with the doctors in the mornings and see patients, so it kind of gave the whole lab experience more of a human aspect."

Following the completion of her BA, Blinick plans to take a year off to work before taking her MCATs and applying to medical school.

Jewish Toronto

# Dr. Elyse Lackie Named Chair of JFNY's National Young Leadership Cabinet

## *Long-Time UJA Federation Volunteer Continues to Inspire the Next Generation*

As someone who has personally welcomed more than 4,000 babies into the world, it's safe to say that Dr. Elyse Lackie knows a thing or two about the "next generation."

Lackie, who has practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology at Toronto's North York General Hospital for more than 11 years, was recently named as a chair of The Jewish Federations of North America's (JFNA) National Young Leadership and NYL Cabinet.

Lackie, along with her co-chair, Keith Greenwald of Atlanta, will serve in her new role until June, 2013.

"The impact Cabinet has made across the Jewish world is remarkable," says Dr. Lackie. "We're looking forward to this chance to engage and re-engage some of the greatest leaders of our Jewish community, and to continue to let Cabinet inspire all of us in all the things we do."

Dr. Lackie's involvement with Jewish Federations of North America was a natural progression for her, who, through UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, played – and continues to fulfill - a number of vital volunteer roles across the community.

Dr. Lackie, who currently sits on UJA Federation's Board of Directors and its Israel and Overseas Committee, cut her teeth for her newest role as UJA's Impact Toronto co-chair, its own Young Leadership Division.

"I have such a great opportunity to be involved in so many different aspects of UJA's work, that I feel very prepared to take the lead with National Young Leadership with JFNA," said Dr. Lackie. "I've sat on large committees, and small, been part of successful ventures, and not so successful. I've been a leader and also a participant. Probably the most important element of my Toronto experience has been the people I've met and worked with, on the lay and professional side. I have some wonderful mentors and friends thanks to UJA Federation, people I know I can call to get some perspective and wisdom."

"We are delighted that Elyse has been selected to play such a significant role for Jewish Federations across the continent," said UJA Federation of Greater Toronto President & CEO, Ted Sokolsky. "UJA Federation of Toronto can be very proud of her leadership and the continuing role Elyse and her fellow generation of emerging leaders from Toronto continue to play for the entire Federation system."

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# The search for early Israel

The early history of Israel is an elusive thing for historians and archeologists. Many consign it to the realm of myth.

But it should be remembered that myth is not falsehood or untruth. The eminent Harvard University classical scholar, Gregory Nagy, once defined myth for me as "society's way of defining universal truth."

For some, Israel's earliest history is confined to the realm of myth, yet others seek historical evidence of that history. As sentient beings, we have a desire to know about our past. As the so-called "people of the Book," we Jews have an even stronger desire to probe into our origins.

The great American biblical scholar and archeologist, William Foxwell Albright, and his disciples thought that they had found evidence of our early past going as far back as Abraham. In the four decades since Albright's death, that evidence has been eroded.

There was a brief flurry of activity in support of the Albrightian view when a major archive was found at the city of Ebla on the upper Euphrates dating from the latter third to the first half of the second millennium BCE. The first epigrapher of the excavation, Giovanni Pettinato, even claimed that some of the names found in the archive corresponded to those in the book of Genesis.

Leading the charge in support of this interpretation was my friend, the late Prof. David Noel Freedman, who at the time held the A.F. Thurneau Chair in Biblical Studies at the University of Michigan. Unfortunately, closer examination of this material by a number of other epigraphers challenged Pettinato's interpretation of the material and once again consigned Abraham and his ancestors to the mists of prehistory.

***Past Forward***

***Alex Gropper***

Although we have not had any major discoveries in the area outside of Israel, some surprising new developments have occurred the Holy Land itself.

The initial discovery of an inscription in northern Israel at Tel Dan in the early 1990s began to turn things around. The inscription, ascribed to the Aramaean, King Hazael of Damascus, mentioned the "House of David" for the first time outside of the Bible.

More recently, in 2008, an inscribed pottery shard was found at Tel Qeiyafa, west of Jerusalem, which has been dated by some scholars to either the late 11th or early 10th century BCE. Scholars such as Emile Puech of the Ecole Biblique et Archeologique Francaise in Jerusalem see it as a dispatch marking the accession of Saul as Israel's first king. The document is also seen as having moral overtones, with such concepts as looking out for the orphan and protecting the poor contained within it. Unfortunately, the inscription is physically not in very good shape and open to differing interpretations, with a number of scholars doubting whether it is even written in Hebrew.

However, what is crucial about this document is that it indicates something much more important than the existence of a historical personage. It already shows our commitment to the ideals of morality and universal justice – arguably our greatest gift to the world.

**Notice to Visitors to Pardes Shalom/ Pardes Chaim Cemeteries**

Arrangements have been made to provide complimentary transportation to the cemeteries before the High Holidays, for those who require it.

Bus service will be provided on **Thurs. Sept. 6** and **Wed. Sept. 12**.

A bus will depart from the **parking lot** of the Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St., at 10 a.m.

The bus will make a stop at the parking lot of the Betel Centre, located on Steeles Ave. W., at 10:15 a.m., to pick up passengers before proceeding to the cemeteries.

***Entry to the cemeteries will not be permitted 15 minutes prior to the closing times noted below.***

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# I'm sorry. So sorry.

We are well into the Jewish month of Elul and with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur around the corner, this is the traditional time for repentance and forgiveness. Repentance to God often takes the form of reciting a set liturgy while striking your chest with your fist (and then acting on your resolve). But what about repentance – and forgiveness – if you have wronged a friend or loved one?

According to Judaism, saying sorry just isn't enough. Rabbi Joseph Telushkin explains, "Jewish tradition holds that tshuvah consists of several stages: the sinner must recognize his sin, feel sincere remorse, undo any damage he has done and pacify the victim of his offence and resolve never to commit the sin again." **[http://bit.ly/sorry11]**

Jane Ulman brings that down to earth in her article, *For Jews, Forgiveness Was Never Meant To Be Easy*. To get the point across to her young children, she told them about one of her "memorable childhood transgressions" when as a preteen she "stole several lipsticks and some makeup from the local five-and-dime. When I came home, my mother discovered the stolen goods, eliciting tears and an immediate confession. She drove me back downtown where I asked to see the store manager. Embarrassed, apprehensive and contrite, I returned the items to him, apologized and offered to pay. I have not shoplifted since."

Ulman continues, "How much easier it would be to avoid discussions of wrongs, to not ask forgiveness of people we have injured, to not make our children return to the store where they have stolen something. How much easier it would be to abdicate personal responsibility and to espouse universal forgiveness." **[http://bit.ly/sorry12]**

But what if we aren't given the opportunity to enter into dialogue with a person we hurt? In

***Jewish & Digital***

***Mark Mietkiewicz***

that case, Dalia Marx suggests that "we can nonetheless incorporate our feeling of remorse into a new commitment to becoming a person of greater truth and honesty, actively striving to bring blessings to our world. As the Kotzker Rebbe purportedly said: 'There is nothing more complete than a broken heart.' Sometimes our very brokenness can lead us to tikkun (repairing and mending)." **[http://bit.ly/sorry13]**

Rabbi Neil Tow writes that even if the person we wronged has died, Jewish tradition says our act of asking forgiveness should be a public one. Rabbi Yosi ben Chanina tells us in the Talmud that "we gather a minyan, 10 people, at the grave and recite the formula: I have sinned against Adonai, the God of Israel, and against this person whom I wronged." (Yoma 87a) **[http://bit.ly/sorry14]**

Now that you are motivated, MyJewishLearning.com offers the following advice (for lovers of acronyms).

- **C** - Confess without excuse.
- **O** - Offer an apology that you don't want to do it again.
- **N** - Note the other person's pain.
- **F** - Forever value. Explain that you value your relationship and want to restore it.
- **E** - Equalize. Ask how you can make it up to the person.
- **S** - Say "never again." Promise that you won't do it again (and mean it).
- **S** - Seek forgiveness. Ask the other person directly, "Can you forgive me?" **[http://bit.ly/sorry16]**

Next week: The apology has been delivered. Does Judaism require you to accept it?

*Highway@rogers.com*

# Classic Judaism bred modern Jewry

**Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum**

"You shall not see your brother's ass or ox fallen down by the way... you shall surely help him." Classic Judaism plays on the Hebrew word in this verse, *imo*, which literally means "with him." If your neighbour sits idly by, you are under no obligation to do his work for him. But when he joins in when you offer help, you are obliged to assist.

Classic Jewish thought is rooted in classic Jewish texts and codified in classic Jewish law, or Halachah. These classic halachic approaches are being claimed by some contemporary Jews.

Classic Judaism is not monolithic. In the Middle Ages, Judaism knew homiletic interpretation (Rashi, 1040-1150), rationalist interpretation (Abraham Ibn Ezra, 1089-1164, and Maimonides, 1135-1204), and mystical interpretation (Nachmanides, 1194-1270, and Yosef Caro, 1488-1575). Judaism knew differences among Ashkenazi, Sephardi and other communities. What in each case bound them together was their devotion to Halachah.

Halachic questions cover all aspects of life, not just ritual issues, not just civil issues, not just criminal issues, but moral and ethical issues as well – subjects explicitly not covered by modern secular law. The halachic process "uncovers what the law is found to be."

Scholars have identified classic Judaism as having the following components:

• God. God is the one and singular who created the world, revealed the law, and will redeem the world.

• Chosen people. A view of history centred upon the chosen people of Israel.

• Rapprochement. Passages recalling the sacrifices with the power to sweep one up to the ancient Temple, through which one brings

***Rabbinic Reflections***

oneself to God and receives expiation.

• Learning. The belief in divine revelation and its study as a means to the formation of a noble character, a study that would normally include secular learning as well.

• Living in the world. "Holiness" as not denying the world, but as living in the world successfully and meaningfully contributing to society.

• Ethics. Striving, in God's presence, to conduct one's business affairs between Jew and Jew, and between Jew and non-Jew, faithfully.

• Rhythms. Time imbued with cosmic meaning and sanctity through the daily cycle, weekly cycle, monthly cycle, yearly cycle and life cycle.

• Klal Yisrael. God forges a covenant with the People of Israel, shaping the people as a group, proclaiming its laws, calling the people to holiness, and transforming *difference* into common *destiny*.

• Eretz Yisrael. The sanctity of the land, the yearning for Zion, the hope for the restoration of Jerusalem and the Temple cult – all of these are the symbols by which the redemption of the past from Egypt is projected onto the future.

• Redemption. The messianic hope, made concrete in the figure of the Messiah, son of David and king of Israel.

• Purpose. Standing between revelation and redemption, the Jew has purpose: fulfilling God's law, the Halachah, and thus helping to bring about the expected redemption.

Classic Judaism is not a contemporary phenomenon lying somewhere on the scale *between* Orthodox and Conservative. Classic Judaism is a historical phenomenon that *precedes* the Orthodox and Conservative denominations. It is the soil out of which the denominations grew. The law is practiced, not just obeyed.

"You shall not see your brother's ass or ox fallen down by the way... you shall surely help him."

*Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum is president of the Canadian Yeshiva and Rabbinical School.*

# *Redefining ourselves*

As the High Holidays grow nearer, it's the perfect time for us to reflect both on ourselves and our relationship with God. Interestingly, in Judaism, it can become difficult to separate these relationships.

On the one hand, we view God as the Divine Creator separate and apart from us. God stands outside time and history and is the Divine Being that we build a relationship with and pray to. God stands outside of us, and it's incumbent on us to find God. All of this language implies a separate Being apart from us in the universe and beyond.

On the other hand, we're taught that God lies within each of us, deep inside. Hardly a Being outside in the world, God in this view is a Being with whom we connect internally. To discover God now becomes a journey of self-discovery.

So which relationship is the correct one? As with most things in Judaism, there's never one answer or one correct path. Ultimately the goal is to have one approach lead to the other. A journey outward would bring about moments of self-discovery and personal limitation, while a journey inward

***Midrashic Moments***

***Rachael Turkienicz***

would bring about a new appreciation for the context of the world.

Each of these approaches situates God as an integral part of our identities and how we place ourselves within the world. Sometimes it's our love of God that allows us to be respectful and polite to our neighbour, to remember that even they have God within them, and to disrespect them is, in fact, to disrespect God. Sometimes it's our commitment to God that allows us to prepare for a Jewish holiday even when we're exhausted from the last one. Sometimes it's our trust in God that allows us to bear the trials of life when we feel that we just can't take any more.

The outcome of all of this is that we become nicer people who have stretched the limitations of our abilities and our endurance. Our relationship with God, in other words, redefines us. Who we are and who we will become is directly connected to where we situate God in our lives.

The Sages in the Talmud understood that how we define God will ultimately result in how we are defined. They stated that God had said, "You have declared Me a unique entity, and I shall declare you a unique entity."

*Rachael Turkienicz is director of Rachaelscentre.org.*

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# CIJA calls for boycott of United Church

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is calling on the Canadian Jewish community to make a wholesale break from the United Church of Canada.

On the heels of the church's Aug. 18 General Council decision to adopt a boycott of products made in Israeli settlements, the centre sent a letter to community leaders and institutions asking them to cut ties in every regard.

The letter, dated Aug. 23 and sent by CIJA co-chair David Koschitzky, asks the community to consider imposing an "immediate moratorium on all dialogue and partnership activities between the institutions of the Canadian Jewish community and the United Church of Canada, its regional conferences, local presbyteries and individual congregations.

"This moratorium specifically includes bilateral discussions involving the United Church and Jewish communal institutions, broad interfaith groups in which the church is one of several partners, and educational activities. We ask the rabbinic and lay leadership of the Canadian Jewish community to respect the highest degree of solidarity with this moratorium."

As of the paper's deadline, it was unclear how many people and institutions in the Jewish community had received the letter. However, CIJA said it initially sent the message to more than 500 people on its email distribution list and expected that it would be further disseminated to numerous "local agencies, synagogues and partners" across the country.

David Koschitzky

CIJA said it will consult with lay leaders and rabbis nationwide over the next month to figure out the best way forward with the church and to see how and whether to keep lines of communication open with individual church members and ministers who tried to block the boycott resolution adopted at the 41st General Council earlier this month.

"We recognize and thank the many friends within the [church] who worked to defeat the General Council resolutions on Israel-Palestine and who spoke out against a boycott of Israeli goods."

The centre will have its annual board of directors meeting on Sept. 20, and it will discuss the results of its meetings with the Jewish community on this subject, Koschitzky said.

CIJA said it would also soon embark on a national campaign to counter the church's boycott stance by encouraging Canadians – and church members sympathetic to the centre's cause – to buy goods made in Israel and the West Bank.

## *Israeli students go back to school*

**Tamar, right, speaks with her friend as they prepared to start her first grade.** *[Flash 90 photo]*

# *Thornhill teacher writes children's book*

**Michelle Bitran**
Intern

For teacher and librarian Marilyn Wagman, achieving your goals begins with a dream. This past June, the 54-year-old teacher and librarian at Thornhill Woods Public School self-published a picture book that she has been diligently working on for the last three years.

"At Thornhill Woods, the motto of our school is dream it, believe it, achieve it," Wagman said, adding that writing her own children's book has been a dream of hers for years. "We tell [our students] to persevere with things that are difficult, and I did."

Wagman's book, *Petunia Peachim's Predicament*, tells the story of a school librarian, who bears a striking resemblance to Wagman herself, with a fear of lending out her cherished books.

Realizing that they cannot take out their favourite books, Petunia's students slowly stop coming to the library. One day, a young boy named Percival helps Petunia deal with her fears of lost or ruined books and convinces her to begin lending them out.

In the "About the Author" section, Wagman writes, "Marilyn wants to make it abundantly clear that she does indeed let students take out treasured books from her library. However, she does readily admit that it is not always easy for her to part with them."

For anyone who has met Wagman or seen her library at school, this admission will bring a smile to their face. Wagman's love of literature, and children's literature in particular, shines through in her enthusiasm as she talks about books. Her library is brightly decorated with whimsical butterflies, colourful rugs and comfy nooks for students to curl up with a good book.

For her, writing her own children's book was a natural extension of her 30-year teaching career and her work as a librarian and a literacy coach.

"Through my experience of working with kids, I know what they like," Wagman said. She brought rough drafts of *Petunia Peachim's Predicament* to school, reading it to students from grades 1 through 8, and getting feedback on how to improve the story.

"I said to them, 'I really want your input,'" she said. "I was very committed to make this story a professional story and a publishable story."

**Continued on page 54**

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## מזל טוב

Jenna & Elliot are engaged! Proud parents, Reesa & Mendy Adler; Lynne & Arnie Gordon, Woodmere, N.Y. Siblings and grandparents share in their excitement.

Mazel tov to Tammy & Neil Glazer on your 25th anniversary, Aug. 16. Love from your children and family.

Jonathan Valo's bar mitzvah was Aug. 4 in Helsinki. Tami & Micha Valo, Pnina Hoz (grandma) and Kati & Taisto Kronqvist (grandparents) were very proud.

Ron & Sarah Gersh along with new big sister Keshet are thrilled to announce the arrival of new baby girl Lielle, born Aug. 7.

Mazel tov to Neysa & David Sigler on your 60th wedding anniversary! With lots of love, hugs and kisses, your 20 children and grandchildren.

Mollie Rothman with great-grandaughters Bracha Esther and her sister Batsheva (Gamliel) from Bnei Brak, Israel who helped celebrate Bubie Mollie's "39th" birthday.

Email your digital photos to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click the "Family Moments

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# What's New

By LILA SARICK

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**Deadline reminder: Aug. 31 is the deadline for the issue of Sept. 13. Sept. 6 is the deadline for the issue of Sept. 20. Sept. 7 is the deadline for Sept. 27. Please note holiday deadlines. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; fax 416-391-0829 or email whatsnewcjn@gmail.com.**

## Thursday, Aug. 30

**ARKADY GENDLER**

**Christian Dawid** discusses his latest project, collecting, documenting, arranging and recording the work of Yiddish musician **Arkady Gendler.** Free Times Cafe, noon, 320 College St. 416-967-1078.

## Sunday, Sept. 2

**PRE-ROSH HASHANAH FUN**

Chabad Jewish Discovery Centre is hosting a shofar factory at the River Oaks Community Centre, 2400 Sixth Line, Oakville, 1:30 p.m.

Chabad is hosting a honey-bee workshop at Milton Sports Centre, 605 Santa Maria Blvd., Milton, 3:30 p.m. RSVP **Sara Slavin**, 905-268-4432; or send an email to info@JewishOakville.com; sara@Jewish-Mississauga.org.

## Tuesday, Sept. 4

**SHORESH BEIT MIDRASH**

Shoresh launches a 6-part study session on Jewish Humans and Other Animals: Living Together in Peace, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 12, Shoresh is holding a workshop on preserving the harvest. For location, email sabrina@shoresh.ca or 416-805-8382.

## Wednesday, Sept. 5

**HIGH HOLIDAYS PREP**

**Rabbi Miriam Margles** discusses key themes, prayers and melodies of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, 7:30 p.m., Eastminster United Church, Hurndale Room, 310 Danforth Ave. RSVP info@djctoronto.com.

## Thursday, Sept. 6

***STREETCAR SONGS***

*Tramway Lider – Streetcar Songs*, Yiddish poems by **Shimon Nepom**, set to music by **Charles Heller**, will be performed, noon at the Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $18 (includes lunch). To RSVP, email yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca.

**NURSERY OPEN HOUSE**

Temple Sinai Nursery School is holding an open house, 5:30-7 p.m., with bouncy castle, pizza dinner and games. RSVP 416-487-3291 or online at www.templesinai.net/study/nursery.

## Other News

**BAYT YOUTH FAIR**

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation is holding a youth fair to highlight its youth programming and businesses catering to youth, **Sept. 9.** There will be activities for kids and a vendor marketplace. For booth applications, contact **Rich Winkler,** 905-886-3810, ext. 135 or www.bayt.ca.

**FRIENDS OF YIDDISH**

Friends of Yiddish hold their annual membership breakfast **Sept. 9,** 10:30 a.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Cookbook author **Norene Gilletz** will discuss "Sharing Food Memories." RSVP by Sept. 3 to **Sandy**, 416-736-8073 or email yiddish18@yahoo.ca.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Circle of Care needs volunteer drivers for kosher meals-on-wheels delivery and for friendly visitors, especially people who speak Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian or Hungarian. Call **Lysa Springer**, 416-635-2900, ext. 496.

**Continued on page 31**

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**Continued from page 30**

Reena, a social-service agency supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, needs administrative volunteers for its Thornhill offices. Call **Millie Chadwick**, 905-889-2690, ext. 2112, or mchadwick@reena.org.

**KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS**

Mitzvah knitters and crocheters are invited to Shaar Shalom Synagogue's opening session. If you can't knit but would like to learn, you are welcome. **Sept. 10**, 7:15 p.m. Call 905-889-4975.

**ADATH ISRAEL BOOK CLUB**

**Heather Kassel** is the facilitator at Adath Israel's book and film review series. First session is **Sept. 12**, with a review of *Half-blood Blues* by **Esi Edugyan**. $50/$85 for the series. Call **Beverly**, 416-499-6920, or **Eveline**, 416-493-3626.

**NEW SINGERS WELCOME**

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir welcomes new singers. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Call **Luba**, 905-669-5906, or email folkchoir@hotmail.com.

**SLICHOT PROGRAMS**

**Sept. 8:** Beth Tzedec synagogue shows the film *Follow Me*, the story of **Yoni Netanyahu**, 9 p.m. At 10:45 **Cantor Simon Spiro** and the Beth Tzedec Singers conduct the Slichot service. Dessert reception follows.

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation shows the film *Reb Elimelech and the Chasidic Legacy of Brotherhood*, 11 p.m. Before Slichot services.

**MAGICAL TOT SHABBAT**

Young families are invited to Temple Sinai for Shabbat services and dinner with the magic of **Larry Hitch**, Sept. 7. RSVP by Sept. 5 at 416-487-3281 or education@templesinai.net.

**MELTON MINI SCHOOL**

Melton Adult Mini School is offering Midrash of the Seder, a continuing education class for new and returning students, Beth Emeth Synagogue Wednesday evenings beginning Oct. 3 and taught by **Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum**. Call 416-789-7400 or www.melton-toronto.org.

**BOWLING & SOCIAL GROUPS**

Maven Bowling, for men and women, is looking for bowlers. First night is Sept. 6, with a pre-season party Sept. 1. Call **Ron Caine** 416-518-8333.

Afternoon bowling league for adults 60+ starts **Sept. 4**. Call **Gerry**, 416-633-7594.

The Sunday Nighters, a social group for seniors, begins with bowling at Playtime Alleys Sept. 9. Couples and singles welcome. Call **Al Federman**, 416-635-0563, or **Hanita Chencinski**, 416-922-1400.

**HIGH HOLIDAY TICKETS**

High Holiday tickets for services at Shaar Shalom Synagogue are now available to the public. Call 905-889-4975.

Chabad of Markham is offering tickets for non-members. Call 905-886-0420, ext. 221.

A secular, humanistic observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will be held at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. For tickets, call 416-789-5502 or email info@winchevskycentre.org.

**YIDDISH CLASSES**

Yiddish classes, all levels, Sunday mornings, will be offered at Beth David Synagogue, starting **Sept. 23**. A Yiddish conversation class will also be offered Thursday afternoons starting Oct. 17. Call **Ester Klimitz**, 416-635-2883, ext. 5189, or email committeeforyiddish@ujafed.org.

**EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING**

JVS offers counselling and employment workshops for people with learning disabilities or ADHD. Call 416-649-1619 or email gold@jvstoronto.org.

**VISION-IMPAIRED CLUB**

The Jewish Club for the Vision Impaired meets at the Prosserman JCC **Sept. 10**. Volunteer drivers are available. Call **Bess** 905-508-2892.

**HARBORD REUNION**

Harbord Collegiate class of 1952 is holding a reunion **Oct. 14**. Call **Marilyn (Arons) Nefsky**, 416-444-9447 or email ronnn@rogers.com.

**BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY**

**Elana Carr Horowitz** is joining the Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University as its new Toronto regional director. She was at Toronto UJA Federation for the last 15 years.

## JF&CS GROUPS

**BEREAVED PARENTS**

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups. Call **Beth Feffer** at JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**Association of Jewish Seniors** presents **Stephen Adler**, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, discussing "The Current Political Climate," **Aug. 30**, 9:30 a.m., Shaarei Shomayim synagogue. RSVP, **Tammy**, 416-635-2900, ext. 458.

**Charming Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park**. (60+). **Valerie**, 416-395-7881. The clubhouse is temporarily closed for renovations. All activities are in the Earl Bales Community Centre. Hairdresser/barber Sept. 6, 9-11 a.m. Casino Rama, Sept. 19. Tuesdays, gentle exercise, 10 a.m. first class free.; Wednesdays, social bridge, 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays, line dancing, 10 a.m.; social bridge, 12:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

**Earl Bales Seniors Woodworkers** has state-of-the-art equipment and is open to seniors interested in woodworking and crafts. Call **Morty**, 416-783-6078, 416-630-6487.

**The Bridge Club** at Forest Hill Library is seeking new members. Call **Lea** (evenings), 416-487-7630.

**Seniors Cultural Club** meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell. 416-630-9444.

**New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club that offers kosher food, card games, casino trips. 416-256-1892.

**Adath Israel Congregation**. Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub. Refreshments $2. Call **Pearl**, 416-635-6317, or **Marcia**, 416-932-1229.

**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue** welcomes new players for mah-jong and Rummikub Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 416-633-3838.

**Active Seniors & Boomers, Miles Nadal JCC**, 416-924-6211, ext.155. Sept. 5, "The Art of Aging," 1:15 p.m.; Sept. 6, Iain Scott discusses the Metropolitan Opera, 1:30 p.m. Opera series begins Oct. 16.

**Active 55 Plus Fitness** 416-924-6211, ext. 526, **Colin Blayney**. Join **Josh Matlow** Sept. 5 at 8 a.m. for the launch of a month of free events: walking tours, fitness classes and speakers. The movie *Young at Heart* will be shown Sept. 5, 2:30 p.m.

**Circle of Care/Baycrest** has expanded and has some spaces at its day centre for seniors with dementia. Meals and transportation provided. Call 416-635-2860.

## PROSSERMAN JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com.

Preschool spots available, call **Kailah**, ext. 4351.

Drop-in duplicate bridge, Thursdays 12:30-3:30 p.m. Current events discussion, Thursdays, 12:45 p.m.

Treasures in Jewish literature, books are available for loan for the next series. **Nick Maes** reviews *City of Thieves* Sept. 11.

The best of Hebrew University's thinkers – keynote speaker **Elie Podeh** discusses "The Arab Revolutions: Between Spring and Winter," Sept. 6. Register at www.registerhebrewu.com.

Open house will be held Sept. 10-12.

## MILES NADAL JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org.

The adult daytime choir starts Sept. 11. No experience needed. gillians@mnjcc.org.

*Kids Who Can*, photos by 13 photographers from Easter Seals summer camps, is at the gallery until Sept. 9.

Miles Nadal JCC holds an open house Sept. 5, 12-8 p.m. Free fitness demos, activities for kids and tours.

Lunch and Learn about the High Holidays with **Sharoni Sibonyi**, Sept. 11, noon. Email sharonis@mnjcc.org; ext. 154.

Ongoing group and private swim lessons, ext. 530, or email: aquatics@mnjcc.org.

Personal training for youths and adults, ext. 506; jasone@mnjcc.org.

The Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m. Call **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

## SCHWARTZ REISMAN CENTRE

9600 Bathurst St., Vaughan. 905-303-1821. www.srcentre.ca.

The daycare is still accepting registrations.

An illusionist performs Sept. 12, 7 p.m.

Save the date: Sept. 9, the best of Hebrew University's thinkers – **Elie Podeh, Shalom Sabar, Haya Lorberboum-Galski, Dr. Margit Cohn, Dr. Yehuda Goodman** – speak at the centre. To register, visit www.registerhebrewu.com.

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***SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN***

# Family sues Winnipeg Jewish nursing home

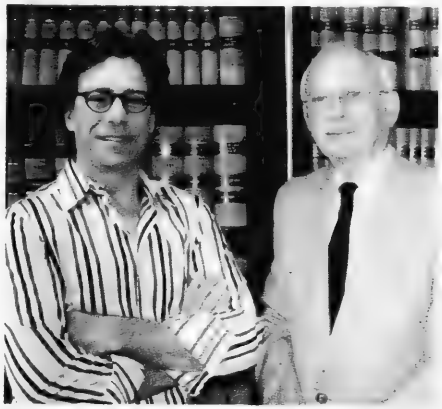
Myron Love
Prairies Correspondent

**WINNIPEG** — The question of patient care at the Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre (also known as the Sharon Home), Winnipeg's largely Jewish nursing home, is back in the spotlight.

Lilian Peck is a former resident of the home who died from an infection caused by untreated bedsores. On Aug. 13, her family filed a lawsuit against the seniors residence and seven nurses employed there – or formerly employed there – for negligence in Peck's death.

Marsha Palansky of Winnipeg, her sister, Jacquelyn Roger of Toronto, and their children, Michelle, Jason and Shira Palansky and Russell and Sarah Roger, filed the lawsuit for negligence in the death of Peck, their mother and grandmother.

The family is seeking $70,000 for "loss of guidance, care and companionship," as well as $7,865.91 to cover the cost of burial.



**Martin Pollock, left, with his father and senior partner, Harvey pollock** *[Myron Love photo]*

Peck's family has also approached police through lawyer Harvey Berkal to bring criminal charges in the case. (Berkal's father, the late Rabbi Louis Berkal, was also a resident of the Simkin Centre in his last months and received what some members of the family consider subpar care.)

The Peck case goes back to the fall of 2010 when Peck, 93, was transferred from the home to a hospital and it was discovered that she was suffering from severe, untreated bedsores.

In the statement of claim, the family asserts that the nursing staff at the home was aware as early as Oct. 2, 2010, that peck was "at high risk for pressure ulcers." A nurse first noticed one such ulcer on Oct. 9. The on-call physician examined the patient and recommended treatment. The wound was cleaned and an ointment applied, and there was no further followup.

Five days later, when Peck complained about pain in the area of her groin, she was told, "Lay down and go to sleep." The nurses on duty didn't examine her until much later in the evening, when a health-care aide reported his concerns to the night-shift nurse. Two days later, she was found to be unresponsive and was transferred to hospital, where numerous infected sores were detected. She died shortly after.

In the aftermath of Peck's passing, under pressure from her family and several other families, the provincial government's Protection of Persons in Care Office (PPCO) and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) conducted reviews of the Simkin Centre. A number of recommendations were brought forth aimed at improving care. As well, the centre's CEO at the time, Sandra Delorme, took sick leave and was replaced last spring by Kathleen Klaasen.

To fight the case, Peck's family has hired as co-counsels, Elliott Leven and Martin Pollock. "This case isn't about money," said Pollock, a specialist in malpractice cases. "There is no loss of income or future earnings involved.

**Continued on page 36**


# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

**BENJAMIN'S** PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Estelle Grosberg | Aug 9/12 | 205 Cummer Avenue |
| Sharon Sutton | Aug 10/12 | 6 Denlow Blvd. |
| Norman Zaltz | Aug 11/12 | 278 Bloor Street East |
| Arnold Bader | Aug 11/12 | 2075 Bayview Ave.,Veteran's Wg |
| Pearl Bossin | Aug 12/12 | 3560 Bathurst Street |
| Al Goldberg | Aug 13/12 | 71 Lynnhaven Road |
| Frank Kippel | Aug 13/12 | 76 Carrington Drive |
| Bella Daniels | Aug 14/12 | 592 Manning Avenue |
| Robyn Shiner | Aug 16/12 | 29 Hearthstone Cres. |
| Stanley Finkelstein | Aug 14/12 | 15 Latonia Drive |
| Hyman Orfus | Aug 14/12 | 112 Crimson Millway |
| Vera Moos | Aug 15/12 | 10 Old York Mills Road |
| Edit Frankfort | Aug 16/12 | 7 Townsgate Drive |
| Stefanie Winter | Aug 17/12 | 9800 Yonge Street |
| Andrew Elek | Aug 15/12 | 484 Avenue Road |
| Michael Gould | Aug 17/12 | 400 Walmer Road |
| Steve Field | Aug 16/12 | 6 Doral Gate |
| Frederick Adler | Aug 17/12 | 81 Janesville Road |

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Raymonde Lutterman | Aug 11/12 | 38 Overbank Crescent |
| Bruce Miller | Aug 10/12 | 137 Arthur Street, North |

Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ben-Arya, Mordehi | August 10, 2012 | 67 Owl Ridge Dr. |
| Munro, Susan | August 10, 2012 | 3418 County Rd. 36 |
| Goldberg, Rose | August 13, 2012 | 7 Millcreek Cres. |
| Korman, Morris | August 14, 2012 | 2075 Bayview Ave. |
| Shefer, Brigitte | August 14, 2012 | 205 Hilda Ave. |
| Sobel, Sadie Evelyn | August 15, 2012 | 2 Neptune Dr. |
| Vaserfirer, Gregory | August 15, 2012 | 7471 Yonge St. |
| Waknine, Michelle | August 15, 2012 | Private |
| Belenky, Iana | August 15, 2012 | Private |
| Cohen, Anne Linda | August 18, 2012 | 114 Summerdale Dr. |
| Mittelman, Avner Kelman | August 18, 2012 | 4001 Bayview Avde. |
| Muchmaker, Jack (Jacob) | August 18, 2012 | 1303 Wilson Ave. |
| Frohman, Marie Yunice | August 19, 2012 | Private |
| Berk, Leonard Henry | August 19, 2012 | 8 Rostrevor Rd. |

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**JUDITH BARBARA TAUB** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, September 9th at 10:30 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Beth David Section
*Family and friends are invited to attend*

The family of
**Amanda Jaclyn Berger** ז"ל
gratefully acknowledges the condolences and generous donations that have been made. The donations made to the UJA Foundation will be used to fund the Amanda Jaclyn Berger Memorial Scholarship.

We thank all of our family and friends for their support. May the memory of Amanda - our daughter, sister, granddaughter, aunt, cousin and friend live on forever.

*The Shapiro/Berger Family*

The family of
**Jean Diamond** ז"ל
offers its gratitude and appreciation for the overwhelming expression of support and concern from our friends and community following the passing of our beloved mother.

May her memory be a blessing for us all.

Dr. Arnold & Nancy Rubenstein & family
Rabbi Elliott & Rochelle Diamond & family

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**NORMAN BINNS** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, Sept. 9th at 1:00 p.m.**
**Pardes Chaim Cemetery**
Section HF 2
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**MALKA GOLDGRUB** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, Sept. 9th at 10:00 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Bathurst, S. of Steeles
Stashover Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

**Watch this space each week for monument dealers & shiva caterers**

# Miracle child celebrates bar mitzvah

Janice Arnold
Staff Reporter

**MONTREAL** — David Bregman's survival after being born prematurely at 25 weeks weighing just 740 grams (1.63 pounds) was received as a miracle by his parents.

He spent more than three months in neonatal intensive care at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH), and left for home weighing 2.35 kilos (a little over five pounds).

David became the poster child for the JGH's $50-million capital campaign, pictured asleep contentedly in the arms of a nurse.

That was 15 years ago. There have been many challenges for David and his parents, Orit Jacobovitz and Howard Bregman, in that time.

He has had health and other physical concerns to deal with, and was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome.

He attended United Talmud Torahs' Shorashim program for children with mild developmental delays, and is now at Summit School for youngsters with special needs.

This month, at 15, David celebrated his bar mitzvah, a rite of passage his parents thought he would never achieve. They were given little encouragement that it was possible.

The rabbis his parents approached gave them "the runaround" when they asked about his having a bar mitzvah at their synagogue, or just never called back.

"David did not fit into a perfect box," Orit said. "They saw him as a square peg trying to fit in a round hole."

Discouraged, David himself did not want to pursue it. Judaism did not hold much interest for him.

That was until the family was put in touch with Rabbi Moshe Krasnanski, director of Chabad of the Town, by the parents of another child with special needs.

**Bar mitzvah David Bregman reads from the Torah as his father, Howard Bregman, left, and Rabbi Zalmy Rader look on.** *[PBL Photography photo]*

"Rabbi Krasnanski immediately welcomed us with open arms, and said he would do all that he could to make this happen," Orit said.

One week after the ceremony, David was "still on cloud nine. He says, 'I'm a super star,'" she added.

David clicked right away with the centre's Rabbi Zalmy Rader, who tutored him over several months. With Rabbi Rader's patience and kindness, David blossomed and looked forward to his Sunday morning lessons. He actually found them fun and interesting.

"If you show a child love, he will respond," Rabbi Rader said. "He needed someone to believe in him."

His mother noticed how her son matured over those months.

David's father said his son now "realizes he can overcome everything, if he puts his mind to it."

When David went up to the bimah on a Monday morning at the Jean Talon Street centre, he read confidently from the Torah, while his father and Rabbi Rader stood beside him. One of David's physical challenges has affected his speech, but the Hebrew words flowed from him that day.

In his speech afterward, David remembered his twin, Gregory, "who should be standing beside me today." Gregory died when he was 16 days old.

In evident good spirits, David continued, "I know that I am a bit overdue, but as my mom always says, 'Better late than never…' Mom, you can stop nagging me now. I finally do understand the importance of being bar mitzvahed and the keeping of our Jewish traditions."

Now that he is a man, he continued humorously, David said he expects to be making his own rules and decisions from now on.

He thanked Rabbi Krasnanski for giving him this opportunity, and said he looked forward to continuing to make his parents proud.

David turned to his sole sibling, 11-year-old brother Shayne, thanking him for "coming to my rescue in times of need."

Rabbi Krasnanski noted that David's parshah was particularly appropriate. In the passage, God reminds the Jewish People that life is a gift and that each day is an opportunity not to be squandered.

David, he said has grasped that truth, and turned his life into a blessing.

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# Shlichim say goodbye to Saskatoon

**Brian Moskowitz**
Special to The CJN

**SASKATOON, Sask.** — As a young idealistic couple, Ayelet Shiryon and Ido Weissler left their home in Israel and volunteered to work in one of Canada's smallest Jewish communities.

They had few expectations and even fewer fantasies about how warm a community located in one of the coldest areas of the country could be.

Two years later, as they ended their stay earlier this month and prepared to leave, the shlichim (emissaries) of the Jewish Agency for Israel's Areivim program in Saskatoon, the couple, along with their new infant daughter, Ora, had gained dozens of new family members at Congregation Agudas Israel, and a lifetime of heartwarming memories.

"We're really going to miss the people, but especially the intensity of community life," said Weissler, 30, a trained actor from Jerusalem who met Shiryon while both were camp counsellors for the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) summer camp program in Israel.

"I think we've had this protective bubble around us that surrounded us with love, and I don't think we can compare it to anything," said Shiryon, 29.

She added that the community provided her husband with a very expansive stage, both when he delivered divrei torah at Shabbat services and during the many events they developed for community members of all ages.

The Areivim program of Saskatoon is the only one of its kind in North America where the community, and not the Jewish Agency or the local Jewish federation, financially supports its shlichim, Shiryon said of the program, which started in Saskatoon in September 2000.

"I think it's a brave decision for the community to do that, and to choose to bring us into their lives," she said. "We only have to say goodbye once, but this community has to say goodbye, to each and every couple and it's not something anyone here takes for granted."

Saskatoon has an estimated 140 Jewish families, of whom about 100 are members of the shul. The city of about 180,000 also has a Chabad Centre and a small egalitarian Conservative congregation that meets in a local community centre.

Shiryon and Weissler were the ninth couple to participate in the Areivim program at the 104-year-old Congregation Agudas Israel, which is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. The program, which matches young couples with Jewish communities across North America, is named after the talmudic maxim that "all Jews are responsible for one another – *Kol Yisrael areivim zeh bazeh*."

Ayelet Shiryon and Ido Weissler with daughter, Ora

The couple was originally scheduled to volunteer for one year, but they returned for a second to nurture growing connections between young professionals who met regularly at the young adults program developed by the couple.

"The group is the future of the community, and we wanted the group to feel comfortable with each other as a way of opening up other possibilities for co-operation in the community," Shiryon said.

"Ido and Ayelet worked in every aspect of our community, and it would take an essay to do justice to all they did," said Marsha Scharfstein, principal of the Agudas Israel Congregation Hebrew School since 2005 and a member of the synagogue since 1981.

Whether as mentors arranging speakers for Israel on Campus and for the Hillel at the University of Saskatchewan, teaching at the Hebrew school or leading the "Holy Pan" kosher cooking class, Shiryon and Weissler's enthusiasm and sense of fun and adventure made their presence appreciated by everyone they came into contact with, Scharfstein said.

"Ido is an actor, so some of the holidays, like Chanukah and Purim, were taught by having the children act out a play which made the learning process both very fun and educational," she said. "Children remember more when they do something active, rather than by just listening passively."

Shiryon said the average workday lasted 24 hours, and that the process of reinforcing and building connections between community members and between the Jewish community and the people of Saskatoon fostered a deeper connection with her husband and the type of family life they are building.

"Through this process of community involvement, Ido became my best friend, my best girlfriend, my best colleague, so the idea of *areivut*, of mutual responsibility, extends not only to the Saskatoon Jewish community, but to each other as well," she said.


עשה לך רב, וקנה לך חבר.

*Provide for yourself a teacher, and acquire for yourself a friend.*

~Pirkei Avot

We extend our heartfelt condolences to
Mark, Laura, Daniel and family,
to Netivot HaTorah,
and to the entire Toronto Jewish community
on the untimely passing of

***Robyn Shiner z"l***

An inspirational educator, mentor and friend.
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The Board and Administration of The Bnei Akiva Schools of Toronto - Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot Girls' School extend their heartfelt condolences to Mark, Laura (Micah), Daniel and the entire Shiner and Morrison families on the untimely passing of

**Mrs. Robyn Shiner** ז"ל

She was a dear colleague, friend of our Schools and an individual who played an integral role in the education of so many students and graduates of our Schools and of the broader Toronto Jewish Community.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Rabbi Yair Spitz
Interim Rosh HaYeshiva
and Menahel

Mr. Frank Samuels
Principal

Mr. Steve Mayer
President

# The Iranian threat is a real one

It's not bluster. Nor is it *just* "psychological warfare." All the warnings in Israel that the Jewish state can't afford to sit still while Iran races to acquire nuclear weapons must be taken seriously.

The number of recent articles speculating about what Israel may do to counter this looming threat is staggering.

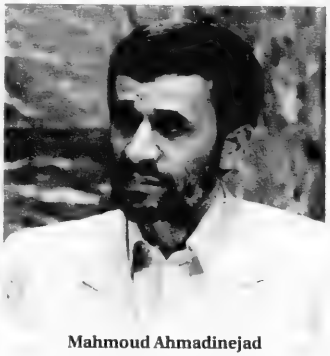
In the meantime, the Iranian leadership's familiar anti-Israel and antisemitic rants have accelerated in a particularly noxious manner.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told a crowd of worshippers on Aug. 17 that "the existence of the Zionist regime is an insult to all humanity." Two days later, marking the end of Ramadan, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei called Israel a "cancerous tumour at the heart of the Islamic world" that must be destroyed. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, a commander in Iran's Revolution Guards Corps, declared that Israel would be "wiped out of the map and thrown into the trash bin of history forever."

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Israel's UN mission called on the Security Council "and all responsible members of the international community to condemn Iranian hate speech without any further delay." The United States did, while UN secretary Ban Ki-moon issued a statement calling the Iran's tirades merely "offensive and inflammatory." He asked Iran to tone it down, reminding its leaders that according to the UN Charter, it's forbidden for one member state to call for the destruction of another. But no moves are afoot to expel Iran from the UN for repeatedly violating this pledge (or to hold it to account for its incitement to genocide – something Liberal MP Irwin Cotler drew attention to in the Aug. 14 *National Post*). At the same time, Ban indicated, in the face of Israeli objections, that he planned to attend an upcoming meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Tehran. So much for isolating Iran internationally.



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

Discussions about whether Iranian leaders, transfixed by Holocaust denial and other antisemitic delusions, are "rational" or "irrational" are beside the point. As George Jonas put it in the *National Post*: "A fellow who says he's out to destroy you is out to destroy you. Believe him." If Jews have learned anything from their great but tragic history, it is this.

In this toxic climate, a public debate has grown in Israel about how best (or how in the least bad way) to respond to the Iranian threat. There are no good options. It's clear that sanctions and diplomacy aren't working. Not only are these measures not stopping Iran from pursuing its illicit nuclear program, they're not even slowing it down. Israel never thought they would. Nonetheless, others in the international community are urging Israel to give them more time, while Israel argues that this allows Iran more time to develop and hide its nuclear assets, shielding them from attack.

Here's where the debate in Israel stands: It's intolerable to live under the threat of a nuclear strike by Iran. On the other hand, if Israel launches a preventive attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, the experts agree that Israel alone won't be able to destroy them. It will only be able to set back the Iranian nuclear program by a year or two, but will also likely incur Iranian, and Hezbollah, counterstrikes. Can Israel afford to act alone? Can it count on the United States, whose president has promised, more than once, that he won't allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons?

Absent an agreement with the Americans, a plurality of Israelis, including military and strategic experts, don't want Israel to act alone at this time.

In the Aug. 22 *Globe and Mail*, Paul Koring noted that "despite the sabre-rattling, few analysts expect an imminent Israeli strike." Writing in *Foreign Policy* magazine, former U.S. Mideast peace negotiator Aaron David Miller concurred, saying that an Israeli strike is unlikely before the American presidential election in November. Still, he concluded, "If you're betting on a war with Iran, think year's end or early next... Ultimately, Israel will act."

*Paul Michaels is director of senior media relations for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.*

# 'Our vulnerable seniors deserve to be treated with dignity and respect'

**Continued from page 32**

"The point is that our vulnerable seniors deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. They deserve to receive proper health care. That is in keeping with our Jewish traditions.

"Unfortunately, in this case, the treatment that Mrs. Peck received allegedly fell beneath the threshold of what would be an acceptable level of care," Pollock continued.

"The family wants to make sure that the kind of negligence that happened to their mother and grandmother doesn't happen to anyone else anywhere else, no matter whether a Jewish or non-Jewish nursing home."

Despite the reviews and recommendations for improvement, Berkal said that he is still being made aware of deficiencies in care at the Simkin Centre. He believes that having a nurse practitioner (a nurse who is licensed to carry out many of the functions of a physician short of prescribing medication) on staff would make a difference.

The WRHA has promised that the Simkin Centre is the next institution in line for a nurse practitioner," he said, "and the new CEO [Klaasen] is very much in favour of nurse practitioners."

Regarding the family's statement of claim, Klaasen wrote, "We have just recently received it and have not yet had time to review it. As a result, we cannot comment further at this point.

"Regarding your comments about a specific resident situation, I'm sure you understand that the Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre must respect the confidentiality of residents and so are prohibited by legislation (Manitoba Personal Health Information Act) from releasing information regarding specific cases without the consent of the resident or next of kin (when appropriate). This can be particularly delicate if a case involves people whose ability to provide consent may be impaired by illness.

"It is important to note that the Protection for Persons in Care Office receives numerous calls and concerns about personal-care homes, which they review to determine whether or not they warrant an investigation. This past year, there has been only one investigation by the PPCO involving the Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre, which was ruled to be unfounded."

She added that "the introduction of nurse practitioners in personal-care homes is a good model with demonstrated positive resident outcomes. However, at this time, our priority and focus is to implement the quality-improvement initiatives outlined in our Action Plan, which was developed in conjunction with all our stakeholders."

**SILVERBERG, PEREL & SHELDON LLP**
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**IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

Pleased be assured that Mr. Lawrence (Larry) Silverberg, C.A., Founding Partner of the accounting firm **Silverberg, Perel & Sheldon LLP** of Toronto, Ontario, is untreated to the Larry Silverberg formerly operating as Larry Silverberg Chartered Accountant sole practitioner in Markham, Ontario.

Lawrence (Larry) Silverberg of **Silverberg, Perel & Sheldon LLP**, Toronto, is a respected member in good standing of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario.

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cblackman@thecjn.ca

# Annual campaign funds programs

**Continued from page 12**

"People do give money for capital projects. It's part of their philanthropy, their strategy," he explained. "The same people who have their names on these buildings are mega-givers to the annual campaign.

"In terms of a lifetime of giving, it's much higher than what their capital gifts are. If I knew that every year, I could get $110 million from the same donors, I would say, 'Sure, lets have free [day school] tuition for all.'"

He offers this analogy: "Tuition for 11,000 students is $120 million. That's the cost of [the Schwartz/Reisman Centre]. [If it were allocated to tuition,] it would be gone in one year.

"You need buildings," he said. "We have to stack up against the general community and give people a sense of pride in the community."

Springer said the buildings are designed for revenue generation, and Sokolsky said they will "carry themselves" financially.

Shulman noted that it's the annual campaign that funds programs in the new buildings.

Springer said doing the budget is a three-month process.

"It's about active, divergent communities with a lot of needs and looking at our budget line by line by line."

For more detailed information about the federation's budget, visit www.jewishtoronto.com/budgetreport.

# דער ייִדיש ווינקל

## דזשערי קעין

***וואָס טוט מען ווען אַ טאַטע־מאַמע ווילן אויפֿהאָדעווען אַ גאון – אַ ישעני?***

*קוינטערלעך אין שאַך שפּיל*

פֿון האַיים ניסנר

ווּאָס זיינען די אינטערעסן פון אַ היינטצייַטיק קינד? צום כערסטן ווען דער ענטפער זיינ אינדיוויטיק----- דער קאָמפּיוטער. אַיידע טאַטע-מאַמע ווילן אָבער אריפהאָדעווירן אַ גאון, אַ ישעני. ווי טוט מען דאָס? א ישעני דאַרף יָכולען טראָכטן, אין אויסלערנען אַ קינד טראָכטן קאָן מען בלויז מיט דער הילף פון אַ קאָמפּ-שפּיל.

דער שאַך העלפט אויסגעצייכנט צו גענינן דעם קינדס כוח און אינפאָרמאַציע. ניט סתם פלעג אַכאָל די שאַך-שפּיל זיינ די פֿריווילעגיע פון גייַסטלעכע פערזענען און הערשנדיקע קריַיז. שפּילנדיק שאַך, לערנט זיך דאָס קינד טראָכטן לאָגיש, סאַרגליכן, אויסרעכענען זיינע האַנדלונגען, פאָראויסזען די רעאַקציע פונעם קעגנזעצלעכן צַד. מערערע קינדער, וואָס קענען פון קינדווייַז אריף שפּילן שאך, ווערן שפּעטער גאָנץ חשובֿע און דערפאָלגרייכע מענטשן.

ס׳איז בעסער צו באַקענען אַ קינד מיט שאַך ווען ער איז אַ צווייַ-דרייַ יאָר אַלט. דער הויפּט-תנאי – די שפּיל-פורעם פון די לימודים. ראשית-כל, ס׳איז וויכטיק צו דערווונקן אַן אינטערעס אין צו גיבן צו פֿאַרשטיין די יסודות. דער ערשטער לימוד מוז זיין אויסטרליס, צום נעדענקן, זיך אינגקריגן אין זיכערן. צוערשט באַהאַרך כּעס אויספֿורמען די קינדערשע פילאָזאָפּיע. טאָ לערנט זשע דאָס קינד זיך באַפרייַנדן כּיוט די שאַך-פיגורן, גיט זיי נעמען אין דערצילט פון זייערע בולשע אינגשאפטן. למשל, דער קינ׳ג קען לינענען שכל, די טיף לאָזט קיינמאָל נישט איבער נאָך זיך קיין כּיוט, אין דער העלפֿאַנד, וואָס איז מחויב אַלעמען צו צעטרעטן, איז אריפדראמתן בנעימותריק, העפלעך. טטופס זיך קיינמאָל ניט, און די פיצינקע פיאָנען לאָזט ער תמיד אדורך פאָראויס-צו.

ס׳קומט צונרן אויסצולערנען אַ קינד די שאַך-שפּיל אין איינטוערדן עלטער. אז מע זייבט אַנט דאָס אויסלערנען בייַ זעקס יאָר, וועט זיך צו 12 יאָר אויספורעמען ביים קינד אַ מעכטיקע פערייפערישע אויפמערקזאַמקייט. שטעלט אייַך פאָר און מאָלט אייַך אויס, אַז איר וייט נעקומען אין א קראָם און ניט באַמערקט נאָר אַ שיינע בלוקע, אָבער שאָמער איר וואָלט זיך פאַרנעמען מיט שאָך, וואָלט איר ביכולת געווען אפצושאַצן ס׳נאָענע בילד, און אַ פּיצינאַנשטיקער פרט ווי אָט דאָס העמדעלע וואָלט זיך פון איינער בליק נישט אריסגענליטשט.

אָפטמאָל ווערט דאָס קאָנען שפּילן שאָך די סיבה פון דער נעזונדליקיים און פאָפולאַריטעט פונעם קינד צווישן די חברים. שאָך איז נישט קיין פשוטע שפּיל, דערביבער איז דער נצחון פאַרן קינד טאָפּלט זיס. ס׳איז אָבער ניט כדאי אים אַלעמאָל נאָכצוגעבן, איר זאָלט זיך ליבערשט מיט אים אין איינעם אנטוילקלן און אַנאַליזירן צוואַמען זיינע דורכפאַלן, פעלערן.

ס׳איז געזונט צו שפּילן שאָך פאַר די קינדער, וואָס ליידן אריך היפער-אַקטיוויקייט. די-אַ קינדער ווערן בשעתן שפּילן באַרויקט, לערנען זיך הערן מיט קאָפּ און זיך קאָנצענטרירן. שפּילט און פאַרבעסערט מיט איינער קינד, אפֿשר ט׳ער ווערן אַן אמתער וועלטס-טשעמפּיאָן!

*אויב איר האָט נעדאַנקען העגן אונדזער ווייקל לאָזט היינ, זיידך פּאָכט אייער בליק- פּאָסט: info@cjnews.com*

# Book explores mild cognitive impairment

**Carolyn Blackman**
Staff Reporter

Living with
Mild Cognitive
Impairment
A Guide to Maximizing Brain Health
and Reducing Risk of Dementia
Nicole D. Anderson, PhD · Kelly J. Murphy, PhD
Angela K. Troyer, PhD

Three Baycrest psychologists have written one of the first books on mild cognitive impairment (MCI) aimed at patients and families.

Nicole Anderson, Kelly Murphy and Angela Troyer spent about 1-1/2 years working on *Living with Mild Cognitive Impairment: A Guide to Maximizing Brain Health and Reducing Risk of Dementia*, published by Oxford University Press.

MCI is considered a transition stage or border between mild cognitive changes associated with normal aging and more serious cognitive problems caused by an underlying disease process such as Alzheimer's.

The authors say that 10 to 15 per cent of people with MCI will progress to dementia within the first year of being diagnosed with the condition, and about 80 per cent will develop dementia within six years.

"The silver lining [though] is that research is starting to identify lifestyle modifications that can improve functioning and slow progression to dementia, and not all people with MCI will get worse," they wrote.

Troyer, who has been at Baycrest for 16 years, said the book came about because over the years patients have asked for recommendations and there were no books on the market. "There were books on Alzheimer's and there was [research aimed at health professionals], but there was a real gap."

Written primarily with patients in mind, the book is also aimed at family members and people who take care of them. It is divided into three sections: what is MCI; how it is identified, and what can be done to improve prognosis.

It begins with a case study about a man living with MCI who does not fully understand his diagnosis and is frustrated by his symptoms. By the end, he is equipped with tools to live with MCI.

Each case study presented in the book is made up of an amalgamation of patients, said Troyer.

MCI can be scary, she said, because there are so many unknowns. "There is nothing to predict what will happen. It can progress to Alzheimer's, but it can also remain stable or go away. Some things do increase a person's risk, but no one knows."

People often worry about what is normal memory loss and what is MCI, she said.

"That is the million-dollar question. It is hard to know what is normal unless the patient is assessed, but there are red flags.

"It is totally normal to forget a name or where you put something, but if you forget the name of a loved one, or people tell you that you are forgetting or repeating things, you should see your family doctor. By definition, patients have progressed to dementia when they are no longer able to manage daily acts."

She said that certain lifestyle changes, which are good for all brains, don't cure anyone, but the positive changes could keep a brain functioning at its maximum for as long as possible.

"Maintain a healthy diet, exercise your brain, keep active and stay social. There are also practical memory strategies that can help someone with MCI," said Troyer.

# *Almost 100 and still going strong*

***Fitness Corner***
***Felyce Zomparelli***

From the very first moment you meet Kitty Cohen, you can't believe this vibrant little woman is about to turn 100. But that's exactly what she will do later this year – she will celebrate her 100th birthday in December.

When you ask Kitty what her secret is, she replies with a twinkle in her eye and a great big smile, "It's all in our state of mind, our mind says it and we do it."

Kitty believes we are meant to move every muscle in our body from our eyes to our toes daily if we want to remain agile. Every morning, she gets up, takes the stairs three flights down and goes for a 40-minute walk outside before she has her tea. Then she makes her way over to Temple Sinai for morning services before she starts her day.

When you ask Kitty why she walks every day, another smile lights up her face as she recites a little poem she made up that goes something like this: "Why do I walk, ain't no mystery, I want a good physical history. Doctor told me walking is great, it helps them blood cells circulate. Great for the lungs, great for the ticker, can't nothing get ya in better shape quicker."

Then she giggles, a contagious little giggle, and you can't help but giggle too.

Don't let her size fool you. She still has a busy schedule of weekly exercise classes that include yoga, as well as tap, folk, square and line dancing, which she still gets to by bus.

Kitty has been walking in the Weekend to End Women's Cancers since 2008 and is doing so again next month. She is their oldest participant, and this year, the Weekend to End Woman's Cancers decided to celebrate Kitty's upcoming 100th birthday along with their 10th anniversary. She hopes to raise at least $3,000 and is aiming to walk about 10 to 15 kilometres each day of the two-day event.

So go on, get up and move something. If Kitty Cohen can do it, so can you.

Want to learn more, visit me at felycesfitness@rogers.com.

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# Bedouin issue remains a priority in Israel

**Joel Shupac**

One of the existential issues that the State of Israel now faces is the resolution of Bedouin land claims and economic development in the approximately 60 per cent of the state comprised by the country's Negev region.

The Bedouin issue has been pushed to the back burner by the controversies over national service by haredim and Israeli Arabs and the proposed legalization of West Bank settlements, but the resolution of the land title and development issues in the Negev will have an immense bearing on the economic and demographic development of the state.

The Arab Bedouin who have inhabited the large desert area in the south of Israel as nomads for centuries are at the centre of the conflict, which pits the desire of the Bedouin to preserve their culture against the state's determination to use the land and its resources for productive purposes and to foster Jewish settlement in the region.

Historically, allocation of land among Bedouin tribes was by oral and customary arrangement, which the Bedouin regarded as binding, a position not accepted by the Israeli courts but, problematically for the state, finding increasing acceptance as "indigenous rights" by international bodies such as the United Nations and Economic Union. Indeed, UN agencies such as UNESCO and the Council on Human Rights, farcical as the latter arguably is with its membership composed in part of brutal dictatorships, are already seized of the issue and producing reports depicting Israel as a despoiler of indigenous rights.

The British Mandatory authorities encouraged the registration of land claims in 1921, but the Bedouin declined to do so, following their practice under the Ottoman regime, although some voluntary payments were made to the mandatory authorities, arguably to provide a quasi-legal basis to their land claims. These were not accepted by the Israeli courts as the basis of legal title.

Acting pursuant to the regime of military law that governed the predominantly Arab-inhabited areas of the state prior to 1966, Israel's policy was to concentrate the Bedouin population, consisting of about 11,000 in 1948, in the northeast quadrant, the so-called "*siyag*" or "enclosure." The area was defined by the locations of the future cities of Be'er Sheva, Rahat, Arad and Dimona, in order to facilitate the provision of services to the Bedouin, wean them from their nomadic existence, and in the view of the Bedouin, to make land available for Jewish settlement.

The new, relatively impermeable borders of Israel made nomadic existence impractical. The Bedouin spontaneously created "unrecognized" villages, a term coined by Israeli officials. There are now about 38 such settlements, where about 71,000 Bedouin live, nearly 40 per cent of the 191,000 Bedouin in the Negev. The settlements, which constitute 2.7 per cent of the land area of the Negev, lack infrastructure and municipal services. They are not connected to the national water and sewage systems or the electrical grid. Rates of unemployment and crime are high.

As the Bedouin population expanded, their existence was marked by a set of unique problems arising from features of Bedouin society such as nomadism, clan divisions and polygamy. Despite progress in areas such as education and health care, their condition continues to deteriorate because of rapid population growth, coupled with a host of social and economic problems that make them the poorest population group in the state.

The settlement patterns feature clans living together, physically separated from other clans, and in cohabitation of extended families. As one might expect from a population that was nomadic within living memory, flocks of sheep must be readily available for sustenance. Such patterns are hard to reconcile with the modern town planning principles of a western state, where residential units are not expected to grow exponentially to accommodate extended family growth.

As well, the lack of organized transportation services in the unrecognized villages has contributed to their economic isolation, inability of residents to work in the cities and low female participation in the work force.

Attempts by the state to address the problems of the Bedouin in the Negev have run afoul of a dilemma that appears existential: the Bedouin define themselves in relation to the land, yet it appears that their integration into Israeli society can only be achieved by becoming productive citizens in a modern economy.

The government has struggled to resolve the clash of rights and goals by appointing a judicial inquiry chaired by retired Supreme Court Justice Eliezer Goldberg, and subsequently by appointing a committee headed by Ehud Prawer, head of the policy planning committee in the Prime Minister's Office, to advise on implementation of the Goldberg Commission report.

**A Bedouin encampment in the Negev** *[Flash90 photo]*

Goldberg recommended that the government extend legal recognition to most unrecognized villages, that others be moved to alternate sites, that some Bedouin complainants be compensated monetarily and others with land. Its report, submitted in 2008, was written in conciliatory and positive language, and proposed giving the Bedouin the "right to ownership" of land, in consideration of their "historic connection" to it.

By way of contrast, the controversial highlight of Prawer's recommendations, which were approved by the cabinet in 2011, is to move nearly 30,000 Bedouin residents of unrecognized villages to expanded areas of existing Bedouin towns such as Rahat, Kseifa and Hura.

Bedouin who live or work on land over which they claim ownership are to receive replacement land of half the area they claim, and monetary compensation for the balance.

Minister Binyamin Begin has been tasked with consulting interested parties regarding the implementation of the Prawer recommendations, and to recommend amendments where necessary. A five-year implementation period is contemplated, with the amount of compensation to be reduced over the course of that period as an incentive to settle all outstanding legal claims. At the conclusion of the five-year period, land that has not been the subject of the claims process will be registered as state land.

Bedouin representatives and human-rights organizations have complained that the Prawer report diverges from Goldberg in that the latter made a greater effort to legalize Bedouin settlements where possible, and had no relocation component. They also took exception to the fact that Prawer appeared to drop Goldberg's finding that historically the Bedouin had been wronged and that the injustice needed to be ended.

Bedouin villages that fall within the master plan for the Be'er Sheva area, which have access to public infrastructure, would become recognized communities. The Prime Minister's Office has not foreclosed the possibility that new Bedouin towns would be established within lands currently inhabited by Bedouin tribes.

Prawer proposed criteria for recognizing Bedouin villages, including meeting minimal levels of population density, contiguity and economic sustainability. The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) criticizes these criteria as flouting principles of equality and justice in the distribution of resources. "If the same criteria were applied to the Jewish population, whole settlements – including community settlements… kibbutzim and moshavim – would be doomed," according to the association.

The final settlement of all land claims and title issues is regarded as the precondition to further economic development of the Negev, much as it is in Canada with respect to aboriginal land claims. It is only on the basis of legally recognized title that development of resources such as solar energy or ecologically sustainable agriculture with Bedouin participation could proceed.

The plan also provides for a 1.2-billion-shekel (Cdn $307-million) scheme for economic development of the Bedouin population, intended to significantly reduce the economic and social gaps between the Bedouin and Israeli society as a whole. This represents a substantial increase in the amount proposed by Goldberg, and points to the Likud-led Government's intention to move decisively in the direction of creating social peace and prosperity by improving the life of the Bedouin.

Images of bulldozed villages, a necessary corollary of coerced relocation – especially when taken out of context of the larger scheme – would be extremely damaging to the state when widely broadcast around the world.

The Bedouin are the poorest of Israel's population groups. They have, moreover, shown a marked loyalty to the state, going back to its beginnings. The high enlistment rate in the IDF by Bedouin youth has recently declined, perhaps as a result of the argument over the future of the Negev. Islamic groups, particularly from the north of Israel, have made efforts to disseminate an anti-Israel ideology among the Bedouin.

Substantial improvement in Bedouin living standards would benefit them and the state. It appears that economic development of Israel's Bedouin and the Negev will hinge on the final settlement of legal claims. It is only by entering into a social contract with the Bedouin of the Negev, rather than by imposing a solution, however generous, that peaceful economic development, including increased Jewish settlement in the area, can proceed without a descent into civil strife.

The broad outlines of such a grand bargain would appear to require legal certainty and the abandonment of land claims on one hand, and a large social investment in the Bedouin population on the other. Although the problems are urgent, much work in the area of negotiation remains to be done.

*Joel Shupac is vice-chair of the Israeli Arab issues committee of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.*

***Please see related story on page 39.***

# Some Bedouins feel obligation to serve Israel

**Ben Sales**
JTA

**RAHAT, Israel —** On an August weekday afternoon, 19-year-old Mohammed Kernowi stands in front of a small store in Israel's largest Bedouin city, a hot plate in front of him with small pancakes sizzling in preparation for the end of that day's Ramadan fast.

At his age, many Israeli men have been through basic training and are weathering their first of three years of compulsory military service either on the country's borders, in the West Bank, in an office or on one of the country's many bases.

**An archival photo of then-prime minister Ariel Sharon paying a visit to Rahat**
*[Israel Sun photo]*

Kernowi, however, prefers baking to bullets.

"No one goes from our family," he said. "It's a waste of three years of your life."

While some Bedouins continue to voluntarily serve in Israel's military, their community – just as with some in Israel's Jewish community – debate whether it is worthwhile. Bedouins, separated physically and to some extent culturally from other Israeli Arabs, are exempt from serving in the Israel Defence Forces.

There are about 250,000 Bedouins in the country, according to Israeli government figures. The IDF could not provide an estimate of the army's current Bedouin population, but Doron Almog, head of Israel's Bedouin Improvement Program Staff, estimates that half a percentage of eligible Bedouins head to the army.

Army service has been a defining part of Israeli public life; many Jewish Israelis make professional connections they use throughout their civilian careers. But the debate about who should serve in the IDF has become especially heated this summer.

This month, the Israeli army officially began drafting young haredi Orthodox men when no new compromise legislation was passed by lawmakers about their service. In February, the Israeli Supreme Court had struck down the law that exempted the haredim from serving and mandated that they serve in either the military or civilian volunteer organizations.

A faction of the Israeli Knesset is demanding that Arabs be required to serve as well. A month ago, the leader of Israel's nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party, Avigdor Lieberman, submitted a bill to the Knesset that would have required all Israelis, regardless of background, to be drafted. The bill was voted down, and Lieberman incurred protests from Israeli-Arab leaders.

Kernowi complains that Negev Bedouins receive "no equality, no respect" from Jewish Israelis – a claim that is echoed by other Bedouins who also lament lacklustre education and employment programs in Rahat.

Despite the complaints, some Bedouins serve readily and with distinction. Several sound no different than the most patriotic Jewish Israelis in describing the obligation they feel to serve the country, no matter how Israel treats their communities.

"We live in the state and we should give to it," said Sammy, 35, who joined the army [legally] at age 16-1/2. "I wanted to give the state three years."

But Sammy, who works in a Rahat grocery store, also says he regrets his time in the IDF.

"I don't see any value," he said. "It didn't help my life. It would be better if there were equality. There's no equality even between Jews."

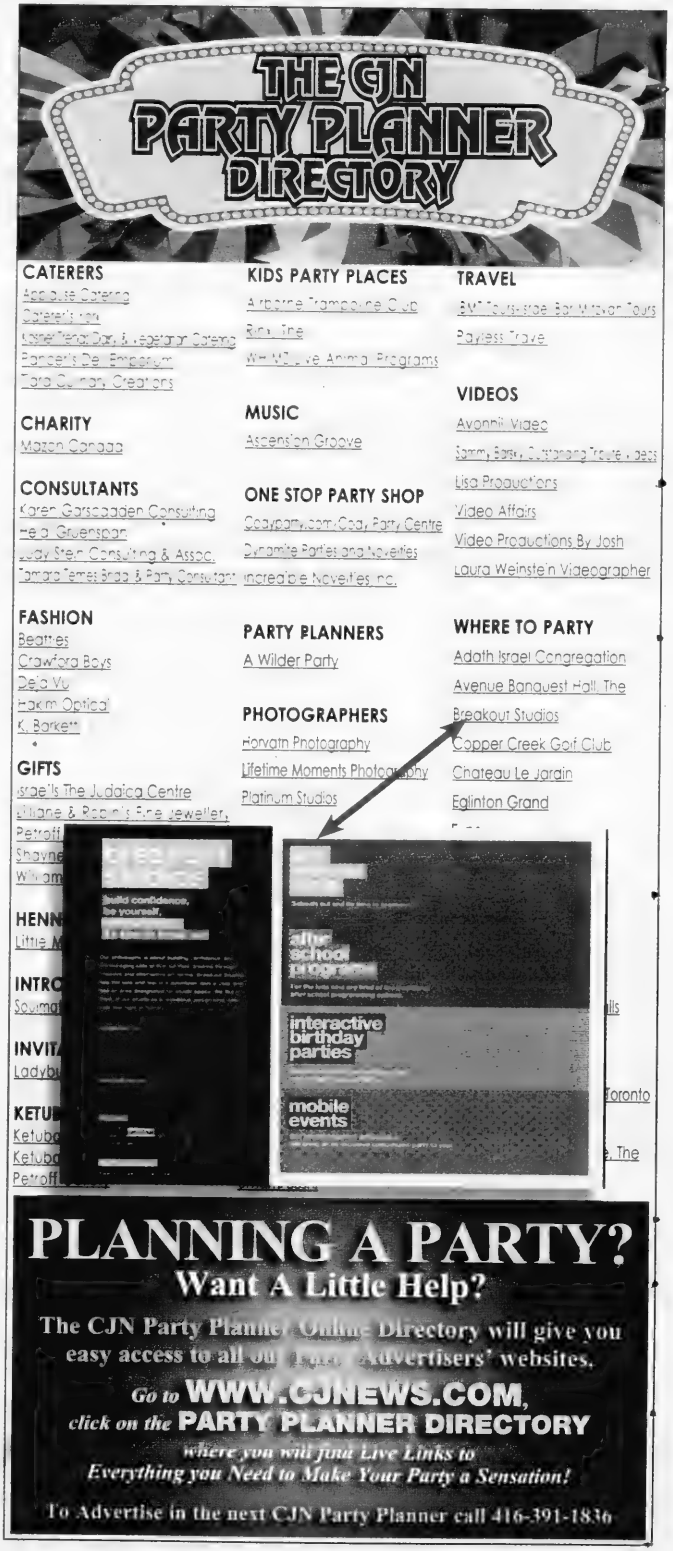
On one complaint – the lack of education – Col. Ahmed Ramiz, the head of the IDF's minority department and himself a Bedouin, says army service can help. He says the IDF provides Bedouin soldiers the opportunity to advance their careers, in part by offering trade courses to soldiers along with scholarships.

While Sammy says his IDF's opportunities passed him by, another resident of Rahat, Ibrahim Abuzayid, believes the IDF is the Bedouins' best shot at equality in Israeli society – though he also is frustrated with what he sees as government anti-Bedouin discrimination. As the head of the Bedouin branch of the Coalition for the Soldier, an Israeli aid organization, Abuzayid helps provide troops with supplies and care packages.

"In the army, there's true equality that we don't find in every day," said Abuzayid, who fought in the 1973 Yom Kippur War. "As soon as you take off your uniform, you're nothing. Give me an agricultural plot, a dozen acres. Give me water. I don't deserve it?"

Still, as is the case for many Bedouins, Abuzayid feels a duty to serve that he has passed on to his eight sons, all of whom did army service.

"We don't have another state," he said. "They don't help the Bedouins? It's still our state. We were born here. Our children were born here. There's no reason not to serve."



# Syria 2012

**Raphael Ahren**
The Times of Israel

Horrified, Judy Feld Carr closely follows the news coming out of Syria, where government troops and rebels are waging a bloody civil war. The former music teacher from Toronto has never been to Syria, yet she has a special connection to the country, and especially to the Jewish community that used to live there.

For nearly three decades, Feld Carr single-handedly arranged the smuggling of more than 3,000 Jews out of Damascus, Aleppo and Qamishli to safety in Israel and North America. At the time, the totalitarian Syrian regime didn't allow Jews to emigrate and tortured those caught trying to escape. But lower officials, she found out, could be bribed into letting Jews leave.

"Oh, my dear," she said when asked what's going through her head when she hears the reports from the war zone. "Thank God the Jewish community is out. That's my first thought. Because if you had a sizable community of 3,000 people, this would be a major problem."

Feld Carr, who lives in Toronto and has an apartment in Jerusalem, said both sides in the current war – the troops of President Bashar Assad and the anti-government forces – are committing acts of sheer brutality.

"It's beyond barbaric. There's nothing to describe it," she said. "There's no meaning to each other's life. And that really scares me. Because if they do it to each other, what would they do to foreign countries, their neighbouring countries?"

While the civil war, which started in March 2011, has reportedly already claimed more than 20,000 lives, Feld Carr is especially disgusted by reports of gratuitous savagery – such as when rebels cut off a Syrian soldier's head with a knife – because, she said, she knows pretty well the kind of cruelty Syrian troops are capable of.

"I can't even fathom such barbarism — although in the years that I was doing this rescue, what they did to Jewish prisoners was beyond everything I could have ever believed," she told *The Times of Israel* recently. "I don't think the Jews would be alive today if that community of over 3,000 was still there. I can tell you that."

In the 1970s, when Feld Carr started her covert escape operation, some 4,600 Jews still lived in Syria, she said. By bribing Syrian officials, including senior members of the country's intelligence community, she was able to arrange to smuggle out exactly 3,228 Jews, "one at a time."

The unlikely saga of a protracted, covert rescue operation led by an Ashkenazi musicologist who grew up in Sudbury in northern Ontario, began when she and her late husband first learned about the plight of Syrian Jewry. The issue wasn't very much in vogue in the early to mid-1970s, as most Jewish activists were focused on demanding freedom for their brethren in the Soviet Union.

After initial phone calls to a synagogue in Damascus, she and her late husband started sending packages with religious items to the local Jewish communities. After awhile, she started communicating via these packages, hiding coded messages in them.

In 1975, an Aleppo-born Jew living in Toronto went to visit her brother, who was still living in Aleppo. She was imprisoned there, but made it out and returned to Canada.

"She brought me, tucked into her underwear, a letter," Feld Carr recalls. "It's a letter that you only see during the times of the Holocaust. It was a letter written by three rabbis in Aleppo, saying something to the effect of: 'Our children are your children. Get us out of here!'"

Two years later, Feld Carr managed to smuggle the first person out of Syria.

"It was a straight ransom, but it took me ages to do it."

At the time, Canada didn't have an embassy in Damascus, and it was quite an ordeal to bribe the officials to get the refugee the papers he needed to exit the country and board a plane to Toronto, she recalls.

"In those days, I didn't know what I was doing. If you had told me I would be doing a rescue mission, I'd have said you're totally mad. I mean, I'm a musicologist, not a rescuer."

The Syrian Jew arrived in Canada in terrible shape. Because his children had been caught trying to flee, he spent some time in a Syrian prison, where he was badly beaten. On top of that, he was suffering from terminal cancer.

"After we brought him to Mt. Sinai Hospital, he said to me: 'Judy, I have one thing to ask you: I want to go to Israel. I want to have a cup of coffee with my mother, who's 97 years old. Then I can die in Israel.'" Feld Carr remembered.

The man was taken to Israel and had coffee with his mother – although she had Alzheimer's and didn't recognize him.

"Then I saw him in Israel the day before he died, at his daughter's house," Feld Carr recalled. "He said to me: 'I have one more thing to ask you. I want you to take out the oldest of my single daughters.'

"Remember: I don't know yet what I'm really doing. I thought to myself, what do I say to a man who's dying? So I said, 'Yes, I will take her out."

Feld Carr succeeded in smuggling the 19-year-old out of the country. Today, she is a grandmother and lives in Bat Yam, Israel.

"That was the beginning of the ransoming," Feld Carr said. "I realized there are ways to do it. That's how it started. It got big time after that, slowly, slowly."

Financed through private, secret donations from Canadian Jews, Feld Carr's rescue operation kept growing, as word spread in the Syrian Jewish community.

She did not initiate the escape attempts. The Jews had to find her. "I never asked anybody to leave. They would try every way to get out. And then they'd hear about this lady in Canada named Ms. Judy. And that's how it would work."

Over 28 years, Feld Carr spearheaded a massive exodus, sometimes smuggling out prisoners, sometimes entire families, who sought a new life in the free world.

She was not the only player in the field, she said. "There were more than 4,600 Jews in the country" when she started. The others either got out by themselves or were helped by the Israelis.

While the Arab press still accuses Feld Carr of being a Mossad spy, she is adamant that she operated totally independently. In the beginning of her mission, the Israeli secret service was actually not too fond of her doings, she said.

"Let's face it: I'm a mommy who lives in Toronto. I'm not an expert in foreign intrigue… It doesn't blend at all with what my former profession was and being a mother of six kids. But the fact was that, after a long period of time, some of the men and women who were in the [Mossad] certainly respected what I was doing."

Once the refugees managed to leave Syria, Feld Carr would not seek to get in touch with them – in fact, she said, she avoided meeting the Jews she rescued.

"They would make these huge lunches and dinners and buy me presents and flowers and jewelry – things they couldn't afford. I don't want that," she said. "The only ones I had some contact with were the ones I took out of prisons – because they needed a lot of stroking and a lot of hugging."

**Judy Feld Carr**

In 2001, Feld Carr concluded her mission, thinking that there were only about 30 Jews left in the country, who were not interested in leaving. (The U.S. State Department in 2005 estimated there to be "approximately 80 Jews" in Syria, but admitted that it was difficult to obtain accurate population figures.)

"As far as I was concerned, I was finished; there was hardly anybody left. The ones that were left were older people who I thought chose to stay because they don't have children."

Today, she estimates there to be no more than perhaps 16 Jews remaining in Syria. "If they are even still alive, they must be much older people," she said. "It was their choice to stay. I could've done it. But you can't make people leave the country."

Feld Carr has never stepped on Syrian territory – for security reasons, she said. "You wouldn't be talking to me today if I had been there. Because there were threats against my life all the way through. This was very dangerous work that I was doing. This is why I was so quiet with all of this. It was very secret what I was doing."

Only in the mid-1990s, with her work mostly completed, did it become public knowledge, and she received the recognition that earlier would have jeopardized the entire mission.

"Word cannot express my gratitude to you for 23 years of hard and dangerous work," then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin wrote to Feld Carr in 1995. "Very few people, if any, have contributed as greatly as you have. The Jews of Syria who were rescued and the State of Israel owe you so much, and will never be able to reward you as you deserve."

Since then, the grandmother of 13 has received countless honours, awards and medals. One of the accolades that means the most to her is the Order of Canada, the country's highest civilian honour, because her case was the first time it was awarded for saving Jews, she said.

Then, just weeks ago, Feld Carr was one of the six first recipients of the Presidential Award of Distinction, which Shimon Peres established earlier this year to honour "individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the State of Israel or to humanity, through their talents, services, or in any other form."

"That was so amazing and so overwhelming," she said of the ceremony during which Peres presented the award at his Jerusalem residence. "It's difficult to put into words how honoured I was."

On the very same night, June 18, she was also awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. "It was interesting, two medals on the same day," she said.

Since she was in Israel, she sent one of her daughters to pick it up.

*TimesofIsrael.com*

## *'Thank God the Jewish community is out'*

# Holiday Food Ideas

## Carrots on the menu for a healthy New Year

**Norene Gilletz**
Special to The CJN

Carrots are always on my yom tov menu when it comes to the High Holidays. The biggest decision is to decide how to prepare and serve them. The Yiddish word for carrots is "*mehren*," which means to multiply or increase, and there are multiple ways to prepare and serve them. Serve carrot coins in your homemade chicken soup or as a garnish for gefilte fish, grate raw carrots into a colourful, crunchy salad, transform pureed carrots into kugel, maybe even bake them in a scrumptious carrot cake –everyone will surely ask for more!

Gil Marks, author of five cookbooks including the *Encyclopedia of Jewish Food* (Wiley), recently made aliyah to Israel, where he continues to research and write about Jewish food. Marks' knowledge of food and its history is immense. He offers up a lengthy description of the carrot in the *Encyclopedia of Jewish Food*. The Hebrew name for carrot (*gezer*) is the same as the Hebrew word for tear, indicating that any unfavourable heavenly decrees should be torn up.

Marks shares information about the evolution of the carrot. The original wild carrot was quite different from its sweet, elegant, orange descendent. The roots were primarily used as medicine, while the parsley-like leaves were picked as an herb and the seeds were treated as a spice.

Around the early 15th century, carrots became a significant European food, emerging as one of the foremost vegetables in the cookery of central European Jews, a position it would shortly achieve among the Jews of eastern Europe as well. Eastern Europeans viewed raw carrots as unhealthy and only ate them cooked.

It was in northwestern Africa that carrots, both cooked and raw, became the featured component of salads. Moroccans brought raw carrot salads to Israel in the 1940s, where they are often flavored with oil, lemon juice, garlic, cumin and chilis. (The addition of honey and apple makes my Carrot Cranberry Salad a perfect choice for the holiday table.)

Marks also describes the evolution of tzimmes, a sweetened root vegetable stew that sometimes includes meat. An Ashkenazi Rosh Hashanah dish containing carrots, it is enhanced with honey to symbolically usher in a sweet year. The round shape of sliced carrots resembles gold coins, expressing hopes for a prosperous year and the addition of various fruits represents good wishes for a sweet, fruitful year.

Marks explains, "A tzimmes containing meat, fruit, and any other possibilities is a 'gantze tzimmes,' which is also any deluxe version or big production."

Gil Marks' tzimmes is definitely a deluxe addition to your yom tov table.

**Continued on page 42**

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A Jewish Response to Hunger – Une réponse juive à la faim

# Veggies for every course

Continued from page 41

**NORENE'S CARROT CRANBERRY SALAD**

This scrumptious salad contains carrots, apples and honey, making it a "grate" choice for the High Holidays. A food processor speeds up preparation.

8 medium carrots (4 cups grated)
2 granny smith or royal gala apples, peeled and cored
3 tbsp. minced fresh parsley
1 cup dried cranberries
2 tbsp. lemon juice
2 tbsp. orange juice
1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
salt and pepper to taste

Grate carrots and transfer to a large bowl. Grate apples and add to carrots. Add parsley and dried cranberries. Add juices, honey, oil, salt and pepper and toss to combine. Cover and refrigerate before serving. Serve chilled. Yield: 8 servings. Multiplies easily. Keeps 2 to 3 days in the refrigerator.


rosh hashanah complete dinner

Includes: Gefilte fish, matza ball soup, old fashioned dill pickles, traditional coleslaw, challah and fresh fruit salad. 20.95 per person • 10 person minimum

Choose 2: Brisket au jus, BBQ chicken, baked salmon with orange miso glaze or grilled salmon teriyaki.

Choose 1: Green beans with caramelized onions and toasted almonds or candied roasted root vegetables topped with toasted pecans.

Choose 1: Garlic mashed potatoes with caramelized onions, herb roasted mini potatoes or Parisienne potatoes.

à la carte
Minimum order 10 people per selection.

Gefilte Fish 4.99 per piece
Chopped Liver 6.98 per pound
Matzo Ball Soup (serves 12) 29.85 per gallon
Mini Latkes
Served with a sweet applesauce. 12.99 per dozen • 2 dozen minimum
NEW! Mini Latke Sliders
Inspired by our classic Reuben. Filled with pastrami, coleslaw, Swiss cheese and Russian dressing. 24.99 per dozen • 2 dozen minimum
Chicken Fingers
Served with a delicious plum sauce. 17.99 per dozen • 2 dozen minimum
BBQ Satays
Grilled chicken, roasted sesame salmon and marinated beef teriyaki skewers served with teriyaki and Thai peanut sauces. (4 dozen) 75.99
Each additional dozen added to the platter 18.99
Add Black Tiger Shrimp with a Hoisin Ginger Sauce 24.99 per dozen
Brisket au Jus 12.96 per pound
Chicken Supreme (prepared 3 ways) 8.99 per piece
• Stuffed with goat cheese, spinach and sundried tomatoes.
• Topped with avocado salsa (diced avocado and plum tomato).
• With a sweet Thai chili orange sauce.
Fresh Atlantic Salmon (prepared 3 ways) 8.99 per piece
• Maple glazed and topped with toasted mixed nuts.
• Honey citrus miso glazed.
• Teriyaki glazed and topped with toasted sesame seeds.
Crunchy Broccoli Salad
With red peppers, onions, toasted almonds and herb dressing. (serves 10-15) 17.99
Candied Roasted Root Vegetables
With toasted pecans. (serves 10) 24.99
Green Beans
With caramelized onions and toasted almonds. (serves 10) 19.99
Potato Kugel (9" round) 9.99
Parisienne Potatoes 3.99 per pound

TIP Fresh fruit platters, cupcakes and dessert trays are also available. Ask your consultant for details.

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**Baking from my home to yours** *[Dorie Greenspan]*

**CARROT KUGEL**

This carrot kugel can be made gluten-free by using potato starch instead of flour. You can serve it hot or at room temperature so there's no worry about serving straggling arrivals at the holiday table. It's a winner!

2 lb. carrots, cut in chunks
1/2 cup almonds
1/4 cup brown sugar, lightly packed
6 eggs
1/4 cup potato starch or all-purpose flour
1/3 cup honey
1/2 cup oil
2 tsp. vanilla extract or wine
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Cook carrots in boiling salted water until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain well and let cool.

Preheat oven to 350. Spray a 9x13-in. glass baking dish with nonstick spray.

In a food processor fitted with the steel blade, process almonds and brown sugar until crumbly, 8 to 10 seconds. Remove from bowl and set aside.

Purée carrots until smooth, 20 to 25 seconds. Add eggs and mix well. Add potato starch, honey, oil, vanilla, baking powder and cinnamon. Process until smooth, about 30 seconds longer. Scrape down sides of bowl once or twice.

Pour mixture into prepared baking dish and sprinkle with reserved almond mixture. Bake about 1 hour, until nicely browned. Makes 12 servings.

Keeps 2 to 3 days in the refrigerator. Reheats and/or freezes well.

**MOIST 'N LUSCIOUS CARROT CAKE**

This low-fat carrot cake is fabulous for the High Holidays. I usually bake it in a rectangular pan and omit the frosting, but for a more festive presentation, you can bake it in two layer cake pans and fill and frost it with Pareve Cream Cheese Frosting.

Continued on page 44

# Happy Rosh Hashanah

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300 g

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selected varieties
567-682 g

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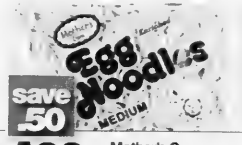
5.99 Baldwin St. Kosher soup
selected varieties
925 g

save $2
3.99 Nature's Own 100% grape juice
1.89 L

save $2
3.49 Osem cakes
selected varieties
454 g

save .80
5.49 Billy Bee honey liquid
500 g

save $1.50
2.29 Croyden House or Manischewitz matzo ball mix
or matzo ball soup mix
125-140 g

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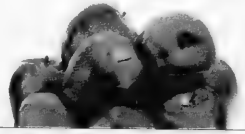
2.99 Osem instant chicken soup mix
400 g



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in brine
540 g

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# Tzimmes perfect for every taste

**Continued from page 42**

6 medium carrots (3 cups grated)
2 eggs
3 tbsp. canola oil
1 3/4 cups sugar
2 tsp. vanilla
3/4 cup unsweetened applesauce
2-1/2 cups flour (you can use half whole wheat flour)
1-1/2 tsp. baking powder
1-1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 tbsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt
2 tbsp. wheat germ
1/2 cup grated bittersweet chocolate
pareve Cream Cheese Frosting, optional (recipe follows)
additional grated chocolate for garnish (optional)

Preheat oven to 350. Spray a 9x13-in. baking pan or two 9-in. round layer pans with nonstick spray.

Grate carrots, measure 3 cups and set aside.

In a food processor or electric mixer, beat eggs, oil, sugar, vanilla and applesauce until light, about 2 to 3 minutes. Add grated carrots and mix well.

In a large bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and wheat germ. Add to batter and mix briefly, just until flour disappears. Fold in grated chocolate.

Pour batter into prepared pan(s). Bake 9x13-in. cake for 45 to 50 minutes, layers for 25 to 30 minutes. To test for doneness, insert a toothpick into the centre of the cake. It should come out clean, with no batter clinging to it.

For layer cakes, let cool 15 minutes, then invert and remove from pans. Cool completely. Fill and frost with Pareve Cream Cheese Frosting and garnish with grated chocolate. Yield: 15 servings. Freezes well.

**Pareve Cream Cheese Frosting**

2 cups icing sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 cup Tofutti cream cheese
1/4 cup pareve margarine
2 tsp. lemon juice

In a food processor fitted with the steel blade, combine all ingredients and process until smooth, 10 to 15 seconds. Yields enough to fill and frost two 9-inch layers or a 9x13-in. cake. Freezes well.

### GIL MARKS' ASHKENAZI STEWED ROOT VEGETABLES WITH BEEF (FLEISHIG TZIMMES)

Source: *Encyclopedia of Jewish Food by Gil Marks* (Wiley)

3 lb. beef brisket, flanken or chuck; or 4 lb. short ribs (whole or cut into 6 to 8 pieces)
2 tbsp. vegetable oil or schmaltz
2 medium onions, halved and sliced
1 to 1-1/2 lb. carrots, sliced into rounds
2 lb. (6 medium) sweet potatoes, peeled and quartered; or 1 lb. sweet potatoes and 1 lb. (3 medium) white potatoes, peeled and sliced; or 12 oz. parsnips, peeled and sliced
2 to 3 cups pitted prunes; or 1-1/2 cups prunes and 1-1/2 cups dried apricots or peaches (optional)
1/2 to 3/4 cup honey, granulated sugar, or brown sugar
2 bay leaves
about 1 tsp. table salt or 2 tsp. kosher salt
ground black pepper to taste
3/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
2 whole cloves, pinch of ground cloves or dash of ground nutmeg
1/2 tsp. ground ginger (optional)
about 4 cups water; or 2 cups water and 2 cups orange juice

Pat the meat dry with paper towels. In a large pot, roasting pan or heatproof dish, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add the meat, without crowding the pan, and brown on all sides, about 10 minutes. Remove the meat.

Add the onions and sauté until soft and translucent, scraping up any browned bits on the bottom, about 10 minutes.

Return the meat to the pot. Add the carrots, sweet potatoes, optional prunes, honey, bay leaves, salt, pepper, cinnamon, cloves and, if using, ginger. Add enough water to cover.

Cover and bake in a 325-degree oven or simmer over a low heat until the meat is tender, 2-1/2 to 3 hours. Yield: 6 to 8 servings as a main course.


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MENU #1
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$299.00 for 10 people

MENU #2
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish, Chicken Matzo Ball Soup, Roast Chicken, Roast Brisket of Beef, Lockshen Pudding, Pan Roast Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Carrot Tzimmes, Cole Slaw, Honey Cake, Challah, Mohn Cookies, Apple Pie, Honey & Apples
$339.00 for 10 people

MENU #3 -low fat menu
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish, Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls, Roast Turkey Breast, Gravy & Cranberry Sauce, Candied Yams, Broccoli & Mushrooms, Cole Slaw, Fresh Fruit Salad, Challah, Mohn Cookies, Honey & Apples
Only 20g Fat per person
$199.00 for 5 people

MENU #4
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish, Roast Veal, Chicken Fingers, Lockshen Pudding, Pan Roast Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Cole Slaw, Challah, Mohn Cookies, Apple Pie, Honey & Apples
$189.00 for 5 people

MENU #5
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish, Chicken Matzo Ball Soup, Roast Chicken, Chicken Fingers, Lockshen Pudding, Green Beans Almondine, Challah, Mohn Cookies, Honey & Apples
$145,00 for 5 people

MENU #6
Chicken Matzo Ball Soup, Sweet & Sour Meatballs, Poached Salmon, Pan Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Challah, Mohn Cookies, Apple Pie, Honey & Apples
$169.00 for 5 people

ADDITIONAL MENU SELECTIONS

MEAT DISHES
Beef Kreplach, Chopped Liver, Cabbage Rolls, Veal Roast, Roast Duck, Flanken in Borscht, Meat Loaf, Turkey Loaf, Lemon Chicken, BBQ Wings, Honey Garlic Wings, Chicken Fingers, Knishes-Beef or Potato, Kishke, Pre Carved Roast Turkeys, Pre Carved Turkey Breast

VEGETABLE DISHES
Vegetable Noodle Soup, Vegetarian Loaf, Stir Fry Vegetables, Grilled Vegetables, Apple Farfel Pudding, Rice & Mushrooms, Potato Latkes, Lockshen Pudding, Green Beans Almondine, Broccoli & Mushrooms, Candied Yams, Handmade Egg Noodles

SALADS
Bean Salad, Coleslaw, Cous Cous, Cucumber Salad, Fresh Fruit Salad, Humus, Pasta Salad, Pickled Beets, Tossed Salad

FISH
Poached Salmon

DESSERTS
Round Challa Plain or Raisin, Apple Flan, Assorted Fruit Pies, Carrot Cake Squares, Chocolate Bubka, Chocolate Brownies, Chunky Chocolate Cookies, Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Horns, Honey Cake, Mandlebrot, Mohn Cookies, Rogelach

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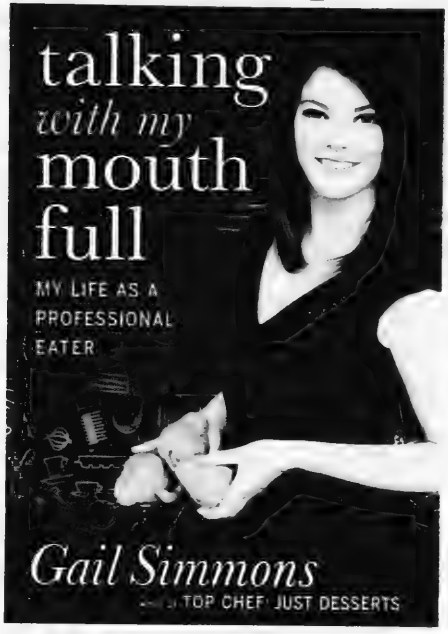
# *Top Chef* judge publishes memoir – with recipes




**Judy Bart Kancigor**
Special to The CJN

I've never seen a single episode of *The Sopranos* and wouldn't know a Mentalist from a Person of Interest, but I'm a huge fan of Bravo TV's Emmy Award-winning show *Top Chef*, so when I found out Gail Simmons was coming to town, I was thrilled to snag an interview.

A regular judge on *Top Chef* and host of *Top Chef: Just Desserts*, Simmons was here in California for the L.A. Times Festival of Books at USC to promote her new memoir (with recipes), *Talking With My Mouth Full: My Life as a Professional Eater*, Hyperion.

Surprise, surprise. This sophisticated foodie, who on the show, regularly debates the merits of a gastrique or gelée with the likes of Eric Ripert and Anthony Bourdain, is a nice Jewish girl from Cedarvale in Toronto, whose parents, she said, were going to relish this story.

"I could win an Emmy and get on the cover of a magazine," she told me, "but being in *The Canadian Jewish News* really gets my parents excited!"

Simmons grew up in a traditional Jewish home, "celebrating the major holidays and observing rites of passage… with way too much food and a little prayer," she writes. There were three synagogues within walking distance, and she and her brothers had bat and bar mitzvahs. "The emphasis wasn't so much on religion as on deeply rooted tradition and family food and relaying the oral history of our people."

Shabbat dinner was special. "Friday night was a sacred night for our family," she told me. "We could be busy all week with soccer and dance, but on Friday night, my father came home early. All week we had dinner together in the kitchen, but on Friday night we ate in the dining room. My mother and I lit the candles, and my father did the blessings. There were always guests."

**Continued on page 46**

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# TV host favours Jewish classics

**Continued from page 45**

Simmons' father, Ivor, was born in South Africa, and her mother, Renée, has roots in Poland and Russia.

"It's the typical North American immigrant story," she said. "My grandfather left at age 14, and by 21, opened his own business. He was a dressmaker, in the schmatte business. My grandmother came at three or four. She got a job at 17 in my grandfather's company and married him at 18."

Renée was an accomplished cook who ran a small cooking school, so Simmons was raised to have a pretty sophisticated palate, developing a taste early on for leek quiche and pâté. A magnet on the family's refrigerator read: "A gourmet is just a glutton with brains."

Yet, the Jewish classics were always abundant. Simmons called her mother "an ambitious cook, ahead of her time, seeking great ingredients. But stuffed cabbage and matzah ball soup are very much in her repertoire. She made a mean chopped liver and gets mad at me for putting wine in the brisket." At 18, Simmons spent a summer in Israel working on a kibbutz. Then, after graduating from McGill University in Montreal, she had no idea what she wanted to do. A family friend advised her to make a list of the things she really enjoyed and go for it. Simmons wrote: Eat. Write. Travel. Cook. That list catapulted her onto an astonishing career trajectory.

"My instinct was to write a cookbook," she said. "But so many people kept asking me the same 20 or 30 questions, I decided to tell the story of my life, how I came to have the job that I have that didn't even exist 10 years ago. That's my book."

And what a story it is. With her eye on a career as a food writer, she attended culinary school in New York, landing positions at New York's legendary Le Cirque 2000 and Vong restaurants. She worked as assistant to *Vogue* magazine's food critic, Jeffrey Steingarten, and as events manager for renowned French chef Daniel Boulud, leading to a job at *Food and Wine* magazine where her duties included managing the magazine's iconic food festival, the Aspen Classic. It was during this period that she "fell into" her position as permanent judge on *Top Chef*.

*Top Chef* fans will love the book's insider views on the judging of the show – sometimes seven hours of deliberations are distilled into the 15 minutes we see on TV.

An attendee at the Festival of Books asked Simmons if anybody ever threw a fit after being eliminated. "If they threw a fit, we would show it!" she said. "We try to eliminate them with respect and are amazed they don't throw a fit. All-star Jennifer threw a bit of a fit and yelled at Tom [famed chef and head judge Tom Colicchio]. That was the best day in Tom's life. He loved it!"

**KASHA AND BOWTIES WITH MUSHROOM GRAVY**

5 tbsp. unsalted margarine, divided
2 large yellow onions, thinly sliced
coarse salt
1 large egg
1 cup medium kasha, washed
freshly ground black pepper
2 cups chicken stock
1 lb. farfalle pasta
1 garlic clove, minced
1 lb. mushrooms, mix of cremini, white, and shiitake, sliced
2 tbsp. flour
1/4 cup red wine
2 cups water
1 tbsp. thyme

Melt 2 tbsp. margarine in large sauté pan over medium heat. Reduce heat to low and sauté onions until fully caramelized, about 1 hour. Sprinkle 1 tsp. coarse salt over onions and begin scraping brown bits off bottom of pan. Remove onions to a bowl and set aside.

In medium mixing bowl, whisk egg until just beginning to foam. Add kasha and stir to ensure egg evenly coats all grains. Melt 1 tbsp. margarine in same pan, then add kasha. Sauté 5 minutes, then season with salt and pepper. Pour chicken stock over kasha, cover, and cook over low heat until all stock has been absorbed and kasha is tender, 15 to 25 minutes.

Meanwhile, bring large pot of salted water to boil. Cook farfalle to al dente according to package instructions. Reserve a cup of water before draining pasta.

When kasha is tender, combine it with noodles and onions in a large bowl, and set aside.

In kasha pan, melt remaining 2 tbsp. margarine. When margarine is starting to bubble, add garlic and mushrooms and sauté until well cooked and soft. Add flour and stir until no lumps remain, about 2 minutes. Deglaze pan with red wine. When three-quarters of liquid has evaporated from pan, pour water into pan and cook until gravy thickens, about 15 minutes; then add thyme to finish.

Portion kasha and bowties into bowls, ladle mushroom gravy over the top. Yield: 6 servings.

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# Merkel vows to prevent circumcision ban

**Raphael Merkel**
The Times of Israel

**BERLIN** — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Sunday that her government was hard at work trying to find a quick solution to the circumcision controversy raging in her country.

Last week, a criminal complaint was filed against a German rabbi for performing several hundred circumcisions. The charge came in the wake of a recent court decision which held that the rite, if performed for non-medical reasons, could be considered illegal.

"The chancellor considers the safeguarding of the Jewish religion and culture as a special obligation," an official in Merkel's office wrote in a letter to Rabbi Menachem Margolin, the CEO of the European Jewish Association, which has been active in trying to overturn the court ruling.

"The chancellor is very grateful that Jewish life has again found a place in Germany. Therefore the federal government takes this problem very seriously and is working intently on finding a swift solution for religiously motivated circumcisions. There shall be no doubt that the freedom of religion is a solid part of our democratic society."

The European Jewish Association was one of many Jewish advocacy groups that protested the complaint filed against Rabbi David Goldberg, the rabbi of the Bavarian town of Hof, and demanded the federal government in Berlin pass a law creating legal clarity for ritual circumcisors.

Interior Minister Eli Yishai and President Shimon Peres wrote to Merkel and German President Joachim Gauck, respectively, calling on German authorities to ensure that Jews can practice their rites in the country without fear of prosecution.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel

The court decision that prompted the complaint against Goldberg caused a major uproar in Germany's Jewish and Muslim communities, leading the Bundestag to pass a resolution underlining the right to ritual circumcision. "A medically professional circumcision of boys, which does not cause unnecessary pain," should be "generally permissible," the resolution read. All parties but the far-left Die Linke voted in favour of the resolution.

Already on Aug. 23, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle made a statement similar to Merkel's, saying that Berlin must "ensure the possibility to keep Jewish and Muslim traditions without legal non-certainty" and that a clear agreement on the matter should be reached quickly.

*Timesoflsrael.com*

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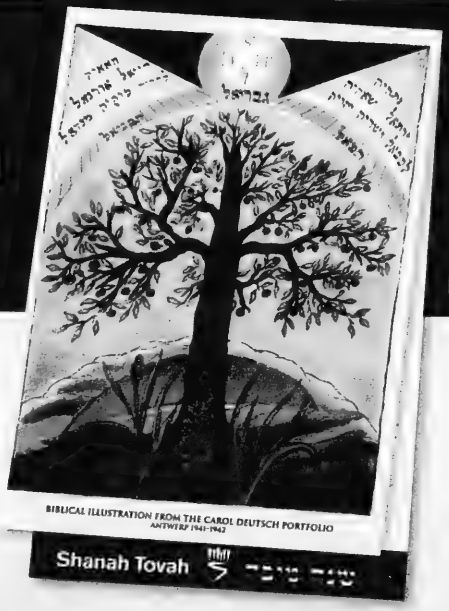


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# Israel struck Syrian reactor after Americans refused

Yoel Goldman
The Times of Israel

**JERUSALEM** — Former prime minister Ehud Olmert ordered a strike on a Syrian nuclear reactor in 2007, immediately after then-U.S. president George W. Bush informed him that the Americans would not attack the facility, according to a Channel 10 report aired this past Sunday evening.

Bush's deputy national security adviser Elliot Abrams was present when the president called Olmert on Sept. 6, 2007, and made clear that the United States would not take action, and that secretary of state Condoleezza Rice would fly to Israel to hold a joint press conference with Olmert to alert the international community about the secret reactor. The United States had decided to handle the Syrian threat via diplomacy.

Olmert responded that the secretary's visit would not be necessary and that Israel would deal with the nuclear facility on its own.

"If you're not going to act against the reactor, then we are," Abrams quoted Olmert as saying during the teleconference. "You don't want to know where or when," the former prime minister reportedly added.

The Israelis were convinced that time was fairly short and they had to strike the reactor – built by the Syrians with extensive input from the North Koreans – before it went live, the Sunday TV report said.

Then-prime minister Ehud Olmert, left, visited then-U.S. president George W. Bush. *[Israel Sun photo]*

Israel has never claimed responsibility for the strike, named Operation Orchard, which occurred shortly after midnight on the same day. And Syria has never acknowledged that its nuclear reactor was destroyed.

According to Abrams, three hours after the strike, Olmert called Bush and spoke briefly regarding the mission.

"I did what was necessary," Abrams quoted Olmert as saying.

To which Bush simply replied, "I thank you."

The Channel 10 report said Defence Minister Ehud Barak was initially against the strike, possibly because of personal political considerations. However, the only minister who actually voted against taking out the reactor was Avi Dichter.

Dozens of Syrians were killed in the strike, as well as 10 North Koreans who were presumed to have been helping with technical aspects of the secret facility, the TV report said.

The show was broadcast amid reports in recent days that Israel is considering a strike against Iran's nuclear facilities. In contrast to the public silence before the Syrian strike and before Israel's 1981 raid that destroyed Saddam Hussein's reactor at Osirak, however, the question of whether Israel should resort to military intervention against Iran's nuclear facilities has been the subject of feverish public debate for months.

With Iran as with Syria, however, the Americans are urging that more time be given to diplomacy, and the Israelis are stressing the urgent imperative for action.

*TimesofIsrael.com*

# More than 150,000 Holocaust restitution claims submitted

JTA

**NEW YORK** — More than 150,000 applications have been submitted for restitution of Jewish owned property lost during the Holocaust.

The number was reported by Project HEART – the Holocaust Era Asset Restitution Taskforce, which seeks to help individuals with restitution for property that was confiscated, looted, or forcibly sold during the Holocaust. It is a nonprofit initiative of the Government of Israel in co-operation with the Jewish Agency for Israel and numerous other groups.

"Many Jewish Holocaust survivors had property confiscated, looted or forcibly sold by the Nazis or their collaborators during the Holocaust era and most have received no compensation for their lost assets," Bobby Brown, executive director of Project HEART, said in a statement.

Project HEART formed in February 2011. By December that year, due to the overwhelming response of Holocaust survivors and their heirs, Israel's government decided to extend the deadline for submitting questionnaires regarding their eligibility to gain restitution or compensation for the property they or their relatives lost during the World War II era.

"The issue of identifying Jewish property is still a central challenge even 70 years after World War II," Leah Nass, Israel's deputy minister of senior citizens, said in a statement. "In order to promote this issue we need to put international pressure and to do all that we can to do justice for the survivors, the Holocaust victims and their families."

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his children and grandchildren.

*May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem*

# Israel an 'anchor of cooperation with NASA'

**Continued from page 1**

That agreement paved the way for the training of the first Israeli astronaut, Ilan Ramon, at the Johnson Space Center for five years, starting in 1998 in preparation for his mission on the Space Shuttle Columbia. That shuttle tragically exploded upon re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere on Feb. 1, 2003, killing all on board.

In 2004, NASA established a memorial for Ramon at Thomas Lee Inlet, on the north shore of Devon Island off Cape Canaveral in Florida.

Ramon's ill-fated flight was Israel's most famous foray into outer space, but its technology and equipment have made the journey numerous times.

Among Israeli innovations is one used to keep astronauts healthy: the Vivid-q Cardiovascular Ultrasound system, developed by GE Healthcare's R&D lab in Israel. The system monitors astronauts on the International Space Station to determine the long-term impact of "captivity" in space on the human body. NASA is using the system in several studies, including one called the Integrated Cardiovascular study, which is exploring the effect of space travel on the heart.

One of the consequences of long-term residence in space, scientists say, is a condition called cardiac atrophy, in which the heart gets weaker and can even get smaller. The study, which has been ongoing for several years, is trying to determine just how badly long-duration space flight impacts the heart.

Israel's representative agency in its agreement with NASA is the Israel Space Agency, the official government body that deals with space travel. But there are a number of private and academic institutions in Israel that are also highly involved in space matters, among them the Fisher Institute for Strategic Air and Space Studies.

**Neil Armstrong, left, visited students in Haifa in 2007.**

The Fisher Institute signed an agreement recently with NanoRacks, a private U.S. contractor to NASA, to develop equipment and experiments for NASA missions. As part of the agreement, several Israeli biomedical experiments were conducted on the final mission of NASA's Endeavour space shuttle earlier this year.

Israel's space technology provides benefits beyond increasing humanity's knowledge of what lies beyond. Based on its research for space flight, the Fisher Institute recently introduced the MedUAV, a "doctor in a drone" device that can be used to treat people whom medical personnel may not be able to reach for hours.

The MedUAV flies under remote control, transporting in all the gear necessary for treatment of the injured. It is equipped with the technology to administer tests or even drugs. The device is monitored and controlled remotely by a doctor, who can check the patient's readings when he or she is hooked up to it. In addition, if there is someone present to help the injured person, the doctor can use voice and even video to instruct the field worker on how to use the equipment properly.

When he signed NASA's latest agreement with the Israel Space Agency in 2010, NASA director Charles Bolden said the agency "welcomes the growing strategic cooperation with Israel.

"Israel is one of the anchors of co-operation with NASA, along with several other countries. We will consider expansion of co-operation on other applications in space exploration and development of integrated technologies" with Israel, Bolden added.

*TimesofIsrael.com*

### Israel Briefs

***Israeli NGO advises on disabled***

The UN Economic and Social Council has named an Israeli NGO as a special consultant on assisting disabled children. The inclusion will allow Beit Issie Shapiro to "provide Israeli expertise in the field of disability rights and represent the innovations coming out of Israel," according to the organization's website. The council has 54 member states, including Egypt, Iraq, Libya and Qatar. Israel is not a member. Beit Issie Shaipro was founded in 1980 and is now helping 30,000 children in Israel, according to its website. The organization helps train thousands of therapists in Israel with its new therapies, and conducts research and shares best practices internationally. Beit Issie Shapiro has a centre in Kalansawa, an Arab city in Israel. Children from the West Bank are regularly brought to Beit Issie Shapiro for treatment, Jean Judes, the NGO's executive director, said.

***Egypt assures Israel***

Egypt's defence minister reportedly told his Israeli counterpart that Egypt is committed to its peace accord with Israel. The call between Egypt's Abdel Fattah el-Sissi and Israel's Ehud Barak was initiated by el-Sissi, according to *Al-Hayat*, a London-based newspaper. The conversation between the two defence ministers is the highest-level direct contact between the neighbouring countries since a popular revolution in Egypt saw the overthrow of longtime leader Hosni Mubarak and the subsequent election of an Islamist-dominated government. Officials on both sides have said there have been constant low-level contacts between the two countries. Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, a Muslim Brotherhood leader, appointed el-Sissi earlier this month. El-Sissi reportedly phoned Barak recently to calm fears in Jerusalem over Egypt's military buildup in the Sinai, which Cairo says is needed to root out terrorist elements from the largely lawless peninsula. *Al-Hayat* quoted an unnamed, senior Egyptian military source as saying that Barak and el-Sessi had reached an agreement on the matter, the details of which are not clear.

***Campaign to reform Rabbinate***

The Tzohar Rabbinical Organization has launched a public information campaign designed to encourage a new approach to religious leadership within the Israeli Chief Rabbinate. The campaign includes newspaper and bus advertisements, as well as a mission statement outlining the organization's vision for a revised Chief Rabbinate, which was distributed to more than 200,000 people last weekend. The items that Tzohar is calling for include the election of new rabbinical court judges who would be more open to the needs of the general public, not just the observant sectors, as well as new guidelines for managing the marriage, divorce and conversion processes in Israel. These three areas have been particularly notorious in alienating the secular community.

*- With files from JTA*

# Abbas denies Jerusalem's Jewish heritage

JTA

**JERUSALEM** — Jerusalem's identity is Arab, and the city's Islamic and Christian holy sites must be protected from Israeli threats, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said.

Abbas also said that Israeli authorities want to build a Jewish temple on the site of the Al-Aksa mosque and Dome of the Rock, in a statement issued on Aug. 21 on the anniversary of an attempted arson of the Al-Aksa Mosque in 1969 by an Australian Christian, who was later found to be insane.

"Their ultimate goal is to rob Muslims and Christians of their holy shrines, destroy the Al-Aksa mosque and build the alleged Jewish temple," he said.

He also said that Israeli excavation work in Jerusalem, and in the Western Wall tunnels beneath the mosque, "will not undermine the fact that the city will forever be Arabic, Islamic and Christian."

Abbas concluded that there will be "no peace or stability before our beloved city and eternal capital is liberated from occupation and settlement." The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) reacted harshly to Abbas' denial of Jewish heritage in Jerusalem.

Shimon Fogel, CIJA's CEO, called the PA leader's comments "offensive" and "disgusting" in an e-mail statement to *The CJN*.

"It speaks to the very core of the conflict: the refusal of the Palestinians – and indeed broader Arab world – to acknowledge the legitimacy of Jewish sovereignty over and repatriation to our ancestral homeland. Until that rejectionism ends, there can be no real hope of peace," he said.

"On a personal note, I would have hoped that our direct encounters would have had a greater impact. Leaders cannot just pander to the most base instincts of their constituencies – they have to lead them beyond a parochial worldview towards understanding and appreciation of objective truth," he said.

CIJA representatives met with Abbas earlier this summer when its leadership, including Fogel, visited Israel in an attempt to negotiate with the PA on behalf of the Canadian Jewish community and as a quasi-political representative on behalf of the Canadian government.

*– With files from Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf*

# U.S., Israel, Jewish groups worry about Iran's summit

**Ron Kampeas**
JTA

**WASHINGTON** — The decision last week by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to attend the 16th triennial event Non-Aligned Movement triennial summit in Tehran from Aug. 29-31 has set off alarm bells in Washington and Jerusalem.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland, reiterated, after Ban's announcement, "concerns that Iran is going to manipulate this opportunity and the attendees to try to deflect attention from its own failings." U.S. Jewish groups that deal with the United Nations echoed that apprehension.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Aug. 12 urged Ban not to attend – and, in a rare diplomatic breach, made the plea public.

"Even if it is not your intention, your visit will grant legitimacy to a regime that is the greatest threat to world peace and security," Netanyahu told Ban in the phone call, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office.

Israel and the West are locked in a diplomatic struggle with Iran to force the Islamic Republic to make more transparent a nuclear program it insists is peaceful but that western intelligence agencies say is intended to produce a bomb.

**Ban Ki-moon**

The non-aligned summit sharpens tensions between Israel and western nations over whether diplomacy and sanctions have been played out. Netanyahu believes they have and is pressing the Obama administration to make more specific the military consequences should Iran not comply. Obama administration officials are in turn pressing Israel to stand down from rhetoric that suggests an Israeli strike is imminent.

The Non-Aligned Movement is a 1960s relic that once brought together nations seeking to resist being co-opted by the United States or the Soviet Union. With the summit, Iran assumes presidency of the movement. Thirty leaders of about 120 member nations plan to attend the 16th triennial summit.

"It's a lot of posturing and photo-ops," said Alireza Nader, an analyst at the Rand Corporation, a think-tank that often consults with the U.S. government. "But the fact that Iran is hosting the summit and the fact that the UN secretary general is going and especially that Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi is showing up are good public relations moves.

"Iran has in recent months tried to boost relationships with Egypt, but Egyptians have been relatively standoffish. They haven't embraced Iran," Nader added.

Alireza Miryousefi, the Iranian envoy to the UN, wrote in an Aug. 21 letter to the *Washington Post* that in "light of its focus on multilateral co-operation... sustainable world peace... and horizontal relations defying hegemonic structures, the [movement] is a major cross-regional group in the United Nations, and UN leaders have always participated in its summits..."

It is precisely the exploitation of such symbolism that concerns Jewish groups, said Michael Salberg, the director of international affairs for the Anti-Defamation League.

"Symbols matter, and when the symbol is represented by the secretary general of the United Nations, it's a neon light – and that makes it all the more troubling at a difficult time," Salberg said.

The concern, said David Harris, the director of the American Jewish Committee, is that the "gathering grants legitimacy to the Iranian leadership's unvarnished and incessant antisemitism."

State Department spokesperson Nuland said, "We hope that those who have chosen to attend, including UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, will make very strong points to those Iranians that they meet about their international obligations. For them to begin to come clean on their nuclear program and to solve this particular issue diplomatically."

Ban suggested in his announcement that he got the message. "With respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the secretary general will use the opportunity to convey the clear concerns and expectations of the international community..." it said. "These include Iran's nuclear program, terrorism, human rights and the crisis in Syria."

Salberg said such caveats paled next to the symbolism of Ban's participation. "It says, you can act with impunity, you can say what you want, and I'm still going to come, the embodiment of the international community," he said.

# Journalist explains technology in plain English

**Sheri Shefa**
Staff Reporter

In 1997, at the start of the technology boom, an aspiring consumer technology expert established his credibility when he correctly predicted the revolutionary effect MP3 files would have on the music industry.

Having spent the last 15 years building a successful career as a technology journalist, author, radio host and TV personality, it's tough not to take Marc Saltzman's latest predictions seriously – even if he's talking about flying cars or robotic sous chefs.

"Flying cars are coming out next year," Saltzman told *The CJN* as he boarded an airplane on his way to a business trip.

As he described in an article published in the *Toronto Star* last year, the Transtion, a "roadable aircraft" with retractable wings, will have to use local airports to take off and land like any other small aircraft, but it can be driven on our roads and parked in our garages.

According to his award-winning technology blog Sync.ca, Saltzman predicts that by the end of the decade, modern homes will have cutting-edge innovations that will make microwaves and dishwashers seem primitive.

He said kitchen appliances will be wired to download recipes and display them on flat-panel screens.

"Your entire kitchen table might be a video screen, in case you want to catch up on your favourite television shows while eating alone, while also reading email, surfing the web and using your finger to flip through digital recipes," he wrote.

***Passionate about bringing technology to laypeople***

Saltzman predicts that the technology is going to evolve from touch to talk.

"The gadgets are going to get smarter," he said.

Smart phones will become "the most critical gadget we carry. It will be our lifeline to the world. It's going to interact with our homes, our cars and our offices. I already call them our digital Swiss army knives," he said.

**Marc Saltzman**

Saltzman said he's passionate about bringing technology to laypeople, and turning "geek speak into street speak.

"That's been my whole mandate... to make sense of technology. Not just to serve as a technology evangelist or enthusiast, but also a translator."

He said evolving from a video-game enthusiast into a technology expert who news outlets such as CNN rely on took a lot of persistence and "good old-fashioned Jewish chutzpah."

His journey into forging a career as a tech expert began when he realized he had a knack for explaining the appeal of video games to an adult audience.

"But to be honest, the motivation was that I didn't want to pay $70 for games, and I thought if I reviewed them, companies would send them to me for free," he said with a laugh.

Saltzman became even more motivated when publications began paying him for his articles.

"I would then use one publication as a springboard to get into another publication."

But freelancing for newspapers and web-based magazines was just the beginning for Saltzman.

"I had no radio experience, but in 1997, I walked into 102.1 The Edge – it was CFNY back then – and I said, 'You should put me on the air every week for a segment to talk about what's hot on the web. It was called *Marc's Web Watch* and I did it live every Monday."

His big break came in 2001 – while he was working as Global TV's tech expert – when Peter Kent, who was then a broadcast journalist on Global, wrote a letter to a contact at Turner Broadcasting Systems in Atlanta, the media group that created CNN.

"I was not only brought in for an interview, but the guy I interviewed with brought me into the office of the president of CNN and said, 'This guy can explain technology in plain English. He can make it fun and understandable.'"

To this day, he does his segments for CNN from his Richmond Hill home via Skype.

In spite of having his byline appear in more than 50 North American publications, hosting three *Tech Talk* radio shows on NewsTalk 1010, and appearing regularly on television newscasts, it wasn't until he landed a gig with Cineplex Entertainment that people started recognizing him.

"Cineplex asked me four years ago to create a one-minute tech segment called *Gear Guide* that airs before the movie starts," he said, adding that the segment is seen in 95 per cent of Canadian theatres by about six million people each month.

"Who would have ever thought that along with movies and music, that they would want a technology update before a movie started? That was unheard of just a few years ago, when tech was something reserved for the hard-core users, a very small minority of people," Saltzman said.

"I think a majority of the population enjoys technology and they like hearing about and buying new gadgets and games and whatnot, but they just need a little help in understanding it. The industry changes so quickly. There are new products all the time. There is a whole new language we need to learn... It can make your head spin."

The author of 14 technology-themed books, Saltzman hopes his 15th book, titled *Siri For Dummies*, will help people stay current.

Saltzman himself knows how important it is for him to stay ahead of the trends. In October, he'll be travelling to Israel on a tour organized by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).

"I'll be going to Israel to visit more than 20 technology companies. It's a trip I'm organizing with CIJA, and I'm joining a delegation of high-tech journalists from Canada," he saud.

"There is a ton of innovation happening in Israel. A lot of the technologies we use today were designed and developed in Israel. A lot of people aren't aware of the amount of innovation that comes out of Israel."

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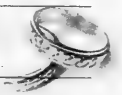

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# *Rhapsody 1939-45 was composed in a DP camp*

**Kathryn Kates**
Special to The CJN

Toronto-based composer Leo Spellman's *Rhapsody 1939-45* will have its Canadian prèmiere at the Ashkenaz Festival.

Born Leo Szpilman in Poland 99 years ago, Spellman has teamed up with Paul Hoffert, the award-winning musician and co-founder of the famed Canadian classic band Lighthouse, and recipient of the Order of Canada, who will be conducting an orchestra of 30. If his health permits, Spellman will attend the performance and say a few words.

*Rhapsody 1939-1945* depicts three distinct themes – the horror of war, the sadness of loss and the hope for a better tomorrow. The first section paints a sonic picture of bombs falling, machine-gun fire and troops marching. The second is a mournful lamentation evoking profound despair. The third part is full of joyful klezmer music themes that remind us that even in adversity, there is strength, passion, resilience and hope at the heart of the soul of the Jewish People. The work builds to a hopeful and ecstatic finale, referencing *Hatikvah* and the establishment of the Jewish State of Israel, shortly after the piece was composed.

**Leo Spellman**

"The work has captivating and memorable melodies," says Hoffert.

Spellman's *Rhapsody 1939-1945* was composed in 1947 in a German displaced persons' (DP) camp. Spellman moved to Canada after the war and kept the score packed in a suitcase for 50 years. In Canada, Spellman established himself as a composer, concert pianist and cantorial accompanist. He was also the music director of the Toronto Jewish Theatre.

Spellman comes from a revered musical dynasty in Poland that spans over a century, and includes his cousin, Wladyslaw Szpilman, portrayed in the Oscar-winning Roman Polanski film, *The Pianist*.

It was at Wladyslaw's suggestion that the piece was performed for the first time in North America at the Holocaust survivor's conference in Washington, D.C., in 2000. In the fall of 2011, with Hoffert's help, Spellman expanded and recorded it with a 15-piece orchestra conducted by Hoffert.

Spellman contacted Hoffert after the composer's children encouraged him to record the piece so there would be a permanent record of this composition. "Leo called me directly and he auditioned me for the job… and somehow I passed the audition," says Hoffert with a chuckle.

"I've conducted recordings and live performances from everything from Stravinsky to Beethoven. This work [is] one of the important works of the 20th century that was lost for 60 years. It is a blessing for everybody that it was found and now recorded, and it will be a concert in Canada so the wonderful talent of Leo Spellman can be shared in his lifetime and thereafter."

Hoffert said he is pleased that Ashkenaz is presenting the concert. "It is very important for the Jewish community to hear this because there are very few artistic works about the Holocaust written by survivors that exist."

Hoffert says Spellman, whom *The CJN* was unable to interview due to his poor health, is thrilled with the news that this work will finally be performed in Canada and that his family, friends and colleagues will be able hear it in concert for the first time.

Paul Hoffert is not the only Hoffert smitten by the Spellman's talent and charm. Paul and Brenda Hoffert's son, David, an award-winning film and television documentary director, also joined "Team Spellman."

"David met Leo while Leo and I were working on the orchestration and fell in love with him as we did, and immediately decided that his life story should be documented while he was alive to provide the first-hand details," Hoffert said.

The *Rhapsody 1939-1945* CD will be sold at the concert and is also available from Hoffert Communications at: brend@hoffert.ca.

*The concert will be performed on Sept. 3, at 6 p.m. at the Enwave Theatre at Harbourfront Centre. For tickets, call 416-973-4000 or visit online at www.harbourfrontcentre.com. Tickets are $25 in advance/$30 at the door.*

# Amazing lineup of Jewish-interest films at TIFF

**Sheldon Kirshner**
Staff Reporter

This year's edition of the Toronto International Film Festival, which starts on Sept. 6, has an amazing lineup of Jewish-interest, Israeli and Mideast films.

A sampler:

*Zaytoun*, directed by Eran Riklis and starring Stephen Dorf, is set in Lebanon during Israel's invasion in 1982. It is the unlikely story of an Israeli pilot who meets a 12-year-old Palestinian after his plane is shot down over Beirut. The boy is initially mistrustful of the downed Israeli, but as they get to know each other, they form something of a friendship.

In *The Attack*, by Ziad Doueiri of France, an Arab surgeon living in Tel Aviv discovers a dark secret about his wife in the aftermath of a Palestinian suicide bombing. Best known for his award-winning film *West Beirut*, Doueiri was a camera assistant to Quentin Tarantino in *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction*.

Michael Mayer's *Out in the Dark* is about life and love in the shadows. Nimer, a Palestinian graduate student from the West Bank, meets, Roy, an Israeli lawyer. As their relationship blossoms, Nimer confronts the harsh reality of an Arab society that rejects his sexual identity and a Jewish society that rejects his nationality.

Dror Moreh's *The Gatekeepers* is a documentary focusing on six former directors of the Shin Bet, Israel's domestic intelligence agency. These hardened men reflect on their contributions to Israel's war against terrorism. *Safe Room*, by Canadian filmmaker Elizabeth Lazebnik, is a semi-autobiographical account of an ex-Israeli who lived through the 1991 Gulf War, when Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles into Israel and terrorized the country.

Evgeny Ruman's *Igor & the Cranes' Journey* turns on the challenges that an 11-year-old Jewish boy and his father face as they immigrate from Russia to Israel.

In *Eagles*, by Dror Sabo, two elderly Israeli reservists alienated from Israeli society embark on a vigilante campaign to bring justice and respect to the streets of Tel Aviv.

Rama Burshtein's *Fill the Void* unfolds in Tel Aviv as a young woman grapples with a highly charged quandary. Shira, the youngest daughter in a chassidic family, is engaged to be married. But joy crumbles into despair when her marriage is postponed due to an untimely event. As a result, Shira must choose between her heart's desire and her family duty.

Dan Setton, in *State 194*, documents the unsuccessful quest by the Palestinian Authority to gain recognition of Palestinian statehood at the United Nations in 2012. Setton, an Israeli, gained unprecedented access to Palestinian Authority leaders, including Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, who has attempted to plant the seeds of statehood in incremental steps.

The Palestinians are featured in several other films.

In Anais Barbeau-Lavalette's *Inch'Allah*, a young Canadian physician working in a Palestinian refugee camp in the West Bank discovers the Arab-Israeli dispute on a personal and visceral level.

Annemarie Jacir's *When I Saw You* takes place in a Palestinian refugee camp shortly after Israel's victory in the Six Day War, and is the tale of an 11-year-old boy, a free spirit, who dreams of better days somewhere else.

*A World Not Ours*, by Mahdi Fleifel, is filmed in a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon. The director, a Palestinian raised in that camp and now living in Denmark, reconnects with old friends, who speak of their lives and vent their grievances.

The internal rebellions that rocked the Arab world are the subject of two films: Hala Alabdalla's *As If We Were Catching a Cobra* and Yousry Nasrallah's *After the Battle*. Alabdalla's documentary focuses on Egypt and Syria, while Nasrallah's feature film is exclusively about the revolution in Egypt.

Ruba Nadda's *Inescapable* is a thriller is about a Syrian expatriate who returns to Damascus to look for his missing daughter amid chaos in Syria.

*Argo*, directed by and starring Ben Affleck, returns to the 1979 hostage crisis in Iran. Iranian militants storm the U.S. embassy in Tehran, causing the flight of six Americans. A CIA agent devises a daring plan to get them out of the country before they are found and captured.

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, directed by Canadian Mira Nair, is a political thriller based on a bestseller of the same name. A Pakistani Muslim who has achieved success on Wall Street finds himself himself embroiled in a conflict between the allure of the American dream and the call of his homeland.

Cate Shortland's *Lore* is set in postwar Germany as a young woman, the scion of imprisoned Nazis, leads her siblings across a war-torn country. During the trip, she meets a Jewish refugee, an encounter that forces her to reassess her hateful views.

*Hannah Arendt*, a biopic from the German director Margarethe von Trotta, is about a renowned German-Jewish philosopher who sparked controversy in the wake of the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem. In this film, Arendt, a refugee from Nazi Germany, struggles with the pain of the past and the turmoil of the present.

Barry Avrich's documentary, *Show Stopper: The Theatrical Life of Garth Drabinsky*, is about the rise and fall of a dazzling but reckless Canadian show-business entrepreneur.

In *The Last White Knight*, Canadian filmmaker and former civil rights worker Paul Saltzman goes back to Mississippi to meet a racist who physically attacked him in the 1960s. Saltzman's documentary is about the new South, the old South and the possibilities of reconciliation.

For more information, visit http://tiff.net/thefestival.

# EYE ON ARTS

By BILL GLADSTONE

## ITALIAN COMMUNITY JOINS JEWISH COMMUNITY IN "SALUTI A JERUSALEM" TO RAISE FUNDS FOR FRIENDSHIP GARDEN IN JERUSALEM

Celebrity chef **David Rocco** will cook some spectacular Roman Jewish cuisine at Saluti a Jerusalem, a food, art, music and wine event presented by the Jerusalem Foundation of Canada and Villa Charities.

Some of Toronto's favourite eateries, including Mistura, Grano, Fieramosca Trattoria and Pantry Foods & Catering (COR) will showcase their culinary delights at the event, with recipes from the ghettos of Jewish Rome to the Tuscany region. Also featured is the exhibit *Where Two Worlds Meet*, a photographic journey to Israel and Italy by **Neil Dankoff** and **Beverley Abramson** (on view until Oct. 1). Opera singer **Lauren Segal** also makes a special appearance.

"Villa Charities is proud to be partnering with the Jerusalem Foundation of Canada on this event," said its president, **Pal Di Iulio**. "The Italian and Jewish communities in Toronto have worked side by side for years, strengthening their bonds and helping to build the city into the thriving metropolis it is today. It is important to honour and celebrate this kinship."

Funds raised will help to build Giardino Canadese, a friendship garden at Canada House in Jerusalem. Columbus Centre, Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery, 901 Lawrence Ave. W. Thursday, Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. $250 per person. Partial tax receipt available. Call 416-635-5491. Email address: ileventhal@jerusalemfoundation.ca

Also in the same gallery, **Roy Doliner**, co-author of *The Sistine Secrets*, speaks on secret Jewish symbols, messages and mystical knowledge in Sistine Chapel paintings. Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m. Free.

* * *

Avi Nesher's *The Matchmaker*

**Feature Film:** *The Matchmaker*, a film by Israel director **Avi Nesher** that was screened at the 2010 Toronto International Film Festival, opens Aug. 31 at Toronto's Sheppard Grande Cinema and Montreal's Cavendish Mall.

Inspired by **Amir Gutfreund**'s novel *When Heroes Fly*, *The Matchmaker* is set in Haifa, Israel, in 1968. It is a coming-of-age story about young **Arik Burstein**'s first romantic involvement and his unusual job working for a Romanian Holocaust survivor who is a relentless matchmaker. Arik is hired to research matchmaking candidates in the "lower city," an infamous low-rent district frequented by sailors, gamblers, prostitutes and people looking for bootleg merchandise. Hebrew with English subtitles.

* * *

**Choirs Seek New Members: The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir**, Canada's oldest continuing Jewish choir, is seeking new singers for its upcoming season. The semi-professional choir seeks mainly Jewish music and songs on Jewish themes, in Hebrew, Ladino, Russian, English, French and Yiddish. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave., beginning Sept. 12. Luba, 905-669-5906, or send an email to: folkchoir@hotmail.com

The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre adult daytime choir is also seeking new voices. Conducted by **Gillian Stecyk**, this fun, light-hearted group performs all types of music. No audition or experience required. $5 drop-in. Tuesdays 1 to 2:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 11. Email: gillians@mnjcc.org

* * *

**Opera Appreciation:** Active Seniors and Boomers presents several fall opera appreciation programs with **Iain Scott**, one of Canada's foremost opera educators. History and Development of New York's Metropolitan Opera includes video excerpts of great productions and singers. Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1:30 p.m., program 2 p.m. $5 includes refreshments.

A four-part series (Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.) highlights upcoming performances of the Met's Live in HD operas to be broadcast in theatres in the fall: **Verdi**'s *Otello* (Oct. 16), **Mozart**'s *La Clemenza di Tito* (Oct. 23), **Verdi**'s *The Masked Ball* (Nov. 16) and **Verdi**'s *Aida* (Nov. 23). $50 for series or $16 drop-in fee (if space permits). Registration, 416-924-6211, ext. 0, or Phyllis at ext. 155 for information.

* * *

**Indian & Israeli Fusion:** Indo-Canadian and Jewish-Canadian young professionals join together for BINDAAS: Indian and Israeli Fusion, an evening of Israeli-Jewish and Indian culture at a hot night spot. Featuring internationally renowned **Shy Ben Tzur** and the **Rajasthani Gypsies** in association with Ashkenaz. Tryst, 82 Peter St. Thursday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m. Website: Sizedoesntmatter.com/bindaas

* * *

**Ashkenaz in Brief:** Ashkenaz runs Aug. 28 to Sept. 3. Here is a sampling of offerings. For the full schedule, visit. www.ashkenazfestival.com

• Singer **Mitch Smolkin** presents a retrospective on Yiddish radio matinée idol **Seymour Rexite** with pianist **Nina Shapilsky**. Rexite on the Radio: The Golden Age of Yiddish American Music, at Harbourfront, Studio Theatre, Sept. 1, 6 p.m. Free.

• The Jewish National Fund co-presents the Israeli world-music supergroup **Yemen Blues**. Harbourfront WestJet Stage, 235 Queens Quay W. Sunday, Sept. 2, 9:30 p.m. Free.

• Mexico City's **Klezmerson** explore Jewish musical traditions while reflecting the diverse sounds of their hometown. Presented by Koffler Gallery. Harbourfront WestJet Stage, Monday, Sept. 3, 3 p.m. Free.

• African-American by birth and Jewish by choice, basso-profundo **Anthony Russell** performs Yiddish songs that evoke **Sidor Belarsky** and **Paul Robeson**. Ashkenaz at Harbourfrount Lakeside Terrace, Sept. 3, 6 p.m. Free.

* * *

**At the Galleries:** *Ira Moscowitz: Spiritual Routes* consists of multimedia prints and drawings on paper and oil paintings on the themes of Native American and Parisian culture, plus **Isaac Bashevis Singer**'s book illustrations. Presented by the Al Green Gallery and Ashkenaz. Miles Nadal JCC Gallery, 416-924-6211, ext. 250.

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# *Dybbuk* author's early mentors were radical thinkers

The subtitle of Gabriella Safran's excellent new biography of S. An-sky – *Wandering Soul: The Dybbuk's Creator* (Yale) – leaves a great deal to the imagination. True, after An-sky's death, *The Dybbuk* went on to become one of the most commonly presented Yiddish language plays of the modern era, but its author's role in the cultural and daily politics of pre- and post-World War I Europe is such that something more protean seems due to him.

Born in Vitebsk in 1863 as Shloyme-Zanvl Rappoport, he worked and wrote under the Russified pseudonym Semyon Akimovich An-sky. In his youth he was surrounded by the chassidic shtiblach of a bustling market town,

***Reviewed by***

***Norman Ravvin***

as well as the idealism of its secularizing and politicized culture. Following years abroad, writing and joining activist groups in Paris and Bern, Switzerland, he found work as a teacher among Russian peasants and miners. At the same time, An-sky wrote novels and collected ethnographic portraits of rural and town life, which led him to consider the future of Jewish life in the Russian empire. His early models and mentors were Russian radical thinkers and the Socialist Revolutionary agitators who were responsible for the assassination of czarist ministers.

An-sky's itinerant nature, his broad political and creative commitments, and the absence of a rooted family life all contributed to his presence and influence at major events of the early 20th century. While among the Russian miners and peasants, he involved himself in the early stages of revolutionary work that would prove so attractive to the disaffected among Russian Jewish youth. In Bern, amongst the fervent Russian émigré community, he allied himself with influential Socialist Revolutionary party members and Bundists, who would, in the years to come, compete with and collapse before the more ruthless Bolsheviks under Lenin. During his years in Paris, he wrote newspaper articles about the Dreyfus scandal. After Russia's 1905 uprising, he witnessed and reported on the 1906 Bialystok pogrom.

In the pre-World War I era, An-sky's ethnographic interests shifted, and he began a number of projects meant to collect and preserve Russian Jewish shtetl heritage. Among these was an ethnographic museum in St. Petersburg, and two important ethnographic missions, which he made with a photographer and sound recorder, to numerous villages in the Pale of Settlement.

An-sky's idealism regarding populism and Russian culture was put most cruelly to the test as he travelled with aid organizations during the Russian army's occupation and retreat from Galicia during World War I. The disastrous policy of evacuating entire Jewish communities from the front and associated pogroms led An-sky to undertake his major work, *The Destruction of Galicia*, on which he was still working when he died in 1920.

What An-sky witnessed represented the worst example, prior to the Nazi onslaught, of modern destruction of Jewish communities. Safran describes An-sky's arrival at the Galician town of Tuchów as he "headed for the synagogue. In the dim evening light, he saw that the benches and the pulpit had been destroyed, the walls were bare, the floor covered with scraps of prayer books, broken glass, hay, and what he realized was human excrement. The next morning, An-sky saw the town in daylight and found the destruction 'indescribable.' Most of the Jewish houses had been burnt and the streets were filled with trash. The hundred Galician Jewish families who inhabited the town had taken flight and only 20 Jews remained."

His plans to provide an account of such events in *The Destruction of Galicia* read like a prototype for the Memory Books that appeared after World War II. It would provide "descriptions of 200 cities and shtetls in Poland, Galicia and Bukovina, saying what happened there and mentioning hundreds of local Jews."

As the Bolsheviks wrested power from Russia's Provisional Government, An-sky was often on hand to argue against revolutionary excess in encounters with Leon Trotsky and other key Bolsheviks. In one particularly dramatic incident, he argued with the head of the Polish army, Josef Pilsudski, for the release of Yiddish writers captured by the Poles as the Russians were routed on the western front.

An-sky worked on a play based on a dybbuk in the later years of his life. He drew on stories and lifeways he'd recorded during his extensive ethnographic travels. The play, not unlike Sholom Aleichem's Tevye stories, presented shtetl culture at a moment of great change and potential danger. Audiences responded intuitively, both during An-sky's lifetime, when he read his manuscript to colleagues and friends, and after his death, when the play was presented in Yiddish, Hebrew and English, followed "by films, operas, ballets and stage versions in many languages."

Much of An-sky's unpublished work appeared after his death, thanks to the efforts of friends and supporters. But *The Dybbuk* is undoubtedly his singular influence on contemporary Jewish culture. Like the Golem of Prague, An-sky's Dybbuk has come to symbolize Jewish art and life of the pre-World War II era. Gabriella Safran's *Wandering Soul* conveys how much more of the Jewish 20th century *The Dybbuk*'s creator explored and described in his work.

*Norman Ravvin's recent books include a novel,* The Joyful Child *(Gaspereau Press), and the co-edited volume* Failure's Opposite: Listening to A.M. Klein *(McGill-Queen's).*

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# *Writer enjoys using alliteration*

**Continued from page 29**

The impetus to begin writing was Wagman's 50th birthday. "I found that 50 gave me the freedom to actually have the time to write this book," said Wagman, who has two sons in their 20s.

Finding a story came easily to her once she found the time to write. "I teach [students to] 'write about what you know' – these are going to be the most successful stories." Wagman did just that. "I know Petunia because she's my voice," she said. "I hope, too, that children find her endearing."

Wagman incorporated alliteration into the story, using P-words throughout. She also made the book a learning experience with challenging vocabulary and an important lesson for children.

"I think it's an opportunity to see that people can change and overcome their fears, including adults," she said. "Children [like Percival] can be problem solvers, and they have a voice."

Wagman wrote about 20 drafts until she was finally satisfied with every word in the story. Then, she brought illustrator Robyn Gram on board to bring Petunia and her world to life.

"I wanted to find an illustrator who actually had my vision of what I wanted Petunia to be," she said. The book is bright and colourful, and Petunia's library brings to mind the Thornhill Woods school library that Wagman decorated. "It's exactly like I visualized it in my head," she said of how the drawings turned out.

Because of the tough market for publishing picture books, Wagman decided to self-publish under the name Teapot Publications, a decision she is happy she made.

**Thornhill Woods Public School teacher and librarian wrote and published her first children's book called *Petunia Peachim's Predicament.* *[Michelle Bitran photo]***

"I loved the idea that I had complete control over the text, over the illustration," she said. "The book I wrote is the book I wanted."

With the help of her friends, family, colleagues and school parents, Wagman was able to put together not only her book, but also a marketing plan that has allowed her to begin selling it. "My support system has been fabulous," she said.

*Petunia Peachim's Predicament*, which has already been bought by children's book wholesaler Tinlids and Toronto bookshop Another Story, will be debuted to Wagman's students this fall, since it was completed only after the kids went on summer vacation. Following that, she will have a book signing at Indigo in Richmond Hill.

For more information about *Petunia Peachim's Predicament*, please email teapotpublications@rogers.com or call 905-886-1932.

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# Israel to take part in World Baseball Classic qualifiers

**Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf**
Staff Reporter

Israel isn't the first country that comes to mind when you think about baseball.

But next month, Jewish and Israeli ball players will compete in the qualifying round of the World Baseball Classic.

The international tournament, which takes place every four years, was started by Major League Baseball in 2005 largely to fill a void left by baseball's removal as a sport at the summer Olympic Games. The qualifying round kicks off Sept. 19 in Jupiter, Fla,. when the Israeli squad takes on the team from South Africa.

The Israeli team is being put together by the Israel Association of Baseball (IAB), and players need only be of Jewish descent or native Israeli to make the roster.

**Brad Ausmus puts on tfillin at the Kotel earlier this summer.** *(Howard Osterer photo)*

Well, they should have some skill, too. And this team does.

It's managed by former Major League all-star catcher Brad Ausmus, who recently reconnected with his Jewish roots – his mother is Jewish – and visited Israel in May, where he laid tfillin for the first time while touring the Kotel.

Ausmus' coaching staff will include other former MLBers Gabe Kapler and Shawn Green.

The IAB said it has also contacted other active Jewish MLB stars. Milwaukee Brewers outfielder Ryan Braun, Chicago White Sox third baseman Kevin Youkilis, Texas Rangers second baseman Ian Kinsler, New York Mets first baseman Ike Davis and San Diego Padres right-handed pitcher Jason Marquis have all been approached to play for Israel should it make it to the actual tournament, which will be be held in March 2013.

Glenn Copeland, a consulting physician with the Toronto Blue Jays, will be Israel's team doctor.

Haim Katz, president of the IAB, said the final deadline for the qualifying round roster is Sept. 12, so it was impossible to provide a complete list of players before then.

"We will not know the final roster until then, as some players will be called up by their major league teams, and *chas v'chalilah*, injuries will affect the final roster," he said.

"We only have former MLB players playing for us, since the qualifying tournament takes place during the MLB season and the teams won't release their stars for the [World Baseball Classic] qualifiers. Should we win, however, the tournament itself will be held in March 2013 before the next MLB season starts. Then we can expect to have some current MLBers join our team."

Last week, Youkilis told Israeli Sports Radio that if he's healthy, he'll play for Israel. He also said other Jewish MLBers are interested in playing.

Howard Osterer, an expatriate Canadian and tour guide living in Jerusalem, guided Ausmus and his wife around Israel earlier this summer.

**Howard Osterer umpires a game in Israel in this undated photo.**

When not shepherding tourists around the country, Osterer, 57, is one of Israel's most experienced baseball umpires.

The former Ottawa resident also played minor league ball with the Ottawa Sooners. He made aliyah in 2008.

Though he doesn't officiate in the Israel Baseball League, the country's premier league, he umps in most of the others, preferring to provide his skills to the junior circuits.

Osterer, who recently returned from travelling with Israel's under-12 baseball team to the European championships in the Czech Republic – Israel finished a respectable fourth – told *The CJN* that baseball is beginning to flourish in the Holy Land.

"Baseball in Israel is very popular. More than 1,000 players at all age levels from eight to 55" are playing the game, he said.

"I am a grassroots guy who believes in developing baseball from the bottom up."

Osterer said there are teams all over Israel now, including in Be'er Sheva, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Hod Hasharon, Modi'in, Efrat, Ma'alei Adumin, Ra'anana, Kfar Saba, Tel Mond, Ginot Shomron, Even Yehuda, Bet Shemesh, Yuvalim, Gezer and Rehovot.

The IAB is also on a fundraising drive to raise $4 million to build the country's first dedicated baseball stadium in Ra'anana.

Asked what he thought about the Israeli team's chances at the World Baseball Classic, Osterer said: "It's baseball. Anything can happen."

# Stoudemire to help coach Canadian Maccabiah team

**Amare Stoudemire**

Compiled by CJN staff

NBA all-star Amare Stoudemire will take on assistant coaching duties for the Canadian men's basketball team at the 19th Maccabiah Games next summer.

The New York Knicks power forward was in Toronto recently to observe the national team's tryouts and advise coach John Dore on which players he thought should make the team.

Dore had asked Stoudemire to help him coach the team.

Stoudemire last visited Israel in July 2010. At the time, he announced via Twitter that he was there exploring his Jewish roots after learning that his mother has Jewish lineage.

The Maccabiah Games are scheduled begin in Jerusalem on July 18, 2013.

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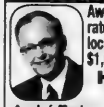

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# Jewish music veterans debut new album

Michelle Bitran
Intern

For the members of Jump Babylon, Jewish music doesn't have to sound traditional. In fact, the seven musicians, four of whom are also members of Shtreiml, a veteran Jewish music group in Montreal, are mixing their Jewish and klezmer influences with rock and roll and reggae elements.

"I would say it's essentially a rock album with lyrics inspired by the Jewish experience, and [it] blends Neil Young angst with chassidic wedding sensibilities," said the band's composer and producer Jason Rosenblatt, 39, of Jump Babylon's debut album *Soldier Woman*.

In addition to writing most of the music, Rosenblatt plays keys and harmonica, and also sings for the band. He is joined by his wife, trombone player Rachel Lemisch, guitarist and lead singer Adam Stotland, drummer Thierry Arsenault, bassist Joel Kerr, trumpet player James Rhodes and saxophone player Andrew Skowronski.

Rosenblatt, Lemisch, Arsenault and Stotland got their start, along with fellow musician Michael Winograd, as Shtreiml in 2002, playing klezmer music at bars, festivals and weddings. The band quickly gained a following, performing in North America, Europe and Israel.

For Rosenblatt, learning to play klezmer was simply another part of his extensive musical education. "Everyone in my family plays an instrument," he said, adding that, because there isn't an abundance of Jewish musicians in Montreal, he and his family were approached to take part in the city's Jewish music scene.

Rosenblatt began by playing the blues on piano and harmonica, later studying jazz piano in Israel, where he lived for about five years. He also joined KlezKanada, a Quebec-based organization dedicated to fostering Jewish art and culture.

"That's what got me really into klezmer," Rosenbaltt said of KlezKanada, where he is now a staff member.

Although he has been a professional musician for years, Rosenblatt continues to study and improve his playing skills. A grant given to him by the Canada Council for the Arts in recognition of his musical achievements gave him the opportunity to study harmonica with Grammy Award-winning musician and harmonica master Howard Levy.

Levy helped Rosenblatt learn to play a diatonic harmonica chromatically, meaning that he can use a special technique to produce many more notes than the harmonica was created to play. This technique is only practised by a handful of people in the world.

"It's a difficult instrument in the sense that nothing's visual in the instrument – everything happens in your mouth," Rosenblatt said of learning to master the harmonica.

The technique he has learned for harmonica playing has allowed Rosenblatt to use the instrument in nearly every style of music, including klezmer, jazz and even Turkish music.

Despite the reputation for klezmer Rosenblatt earned with Shtreiml, he and the band often played rock and roll covers during their gigs. The covers were popular with their audiences and, about a year ago, the band members decided to pursue their love of rock under a separate band name to keep their different music styles distinct.

**Jump Babylon debuted its first album, *Soldier Woman*, at the Montreal Jewish Music Festival. In the back row, from left, are Joel Kerr, Jason Rosenblatt, Adam Stotland and Thierry Arsenault. Front row, from left, are Rachel Lemisch, James Rhodes and Andrew Skowronski.** ***[Vinna Laudico photo]***

It was then that Jump Babylon was born. "We wanted something that sounded fun, like 'jump,' and something that sounded biblical, like 'Babylon,'" Rosenblatt said with a laugh, explaining that the band name was chosen from a long list of possibilities created during a band brainstorming session.

Keeping a "biblical" aspect was important to Rosenblatt, as Jump Babylon's music may have a rock and roll edge, but it is still distinctly Jewish. The lyrics paraphrase Jewish texts or tell stories of the Jewish immigrant experience in Canada. Even the album's name, *Soldier Woman*, is a reference to *Eshet Chayil*, Woman of Valour, from the Book of Proverbs.

"The hard part was the lyrics, sitting down and saying, 'How Jewish do I want to get, how personal do I want to get, will it be literal translations?'" Rosenblatt said.

The fourth track on the album, *Canada*, which Rosenblatt wrote, tells a story common to many Jews. The lyrics speak about Holocaust survivors who moved to Canada with nothing, started a family and a successful business, but still never forgot the terrors they experienced in Europe.

This story is similar to that of Rosenblatt's grandparents and the grandparents of his friends. "A lot of people feel a Jewish connection through their grandparents," he said, adding that, when he discusses Judaism with new friends, the conversation often turns to one's family roots. "The first thing you say is, 'Where are your grandparents from?'"

The result of Jump Babylon's effort to fuse Judaism and rock is unique and catchy. "I wanted to do something original," Rosenblatt said, and he and the band certainly accomplished that goal.

Jump Babylon debuted *Soldier Woman* on Aug. 28, as a part of the annual Montreal Jewish Music Festival.

The band will be playing several local shows in October and November and going on a tour through Canada and the United States in 2013.

Rosenblatt and his wife will be bringing their three young children on tour with them. "We pack them all in the car... and we schlep," he said with a laugh.

For Rosenblatt and his musical family, touring is just part of a job he loves. "I consider myself extremely, extremely fortunate to make a career [of music.]"

For more information on Jump Babylon and *Soldier Woman*, please visit jumpbabylon.com.

*More news for young Jews on heebonics.ca*

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# Friends and family might say…

"Oh, you're early again. You're always the first ones to come," the hostess said as I was standing at our friend's door last Rosh Hashanah. I really felt welcome right away.

Throughout the evening, there were more pearls of wisdom such as: "Your face looks amazing. No wrinkles. I always say it's better to gain some weight and have a young looking face!" Or, "Your kids have such a healthy appetite, bless them!" Or, "Well if she were taller, thin and blond, she'd look fine."

Rosh Hashanah is coming, and we all could use some warnings about what we might expect to hear from our friends and loved ones, so be brave. Here are some examples.

"Enough already! If you fight on Rosh Hashanah, you'll fight all year long!"

"This is the last time I'm inviting people over. Next year, each at his own home!"

"We'll see you all, right here, *bli neder* – without our vowing to do so – next year!"

"Every time it's her turn to invite us, she suddenly doesn't feel very well."

"Your girl doesn't want to eat? Never mind, she doesn't look starved, if you know what I mean."

"Did you come before or after your hairdresser appointment?"

"What can I tell you? Some people have it easy in life."

"Does anybody care if I'm dead or alive at all?"

"I can't remember the last time I laughed, believe me."

"What does he do for a living?"

"Is he Jewish? Why didn't he want to join you tonight?"

"He married her for the money, why else? Scarlet Johansson, she's not."

"Is Scarlet Johansson really Jewish? Unbelievable. She's so beautiful."

"Someone else would have kicked him out a long time ago!"

"You're in for a treat. I prepared slides from our last trip!"

"You're in for a treat, I prepared slides of our renovated bathroom at the cottage!"

***New to Canada***

***Nina Shenhav***

"Who made the gefilte fish? Is it fresh? Are you sure?"

"What can I say? Your daughter sure loves her men short, eh?"

"Me? When I was born, I was totally blond!"

"Nice hair colour. They have it on sale now."

"So many guys wanted me, why I chose him, I don't know."

"Aren't you cold, wearing that mini-skirt?"

"You love him? What sign is he? Nah, not good. Bad, actually!"

And the list goes on and on. Remember – these are the people we're supposed to love.

My dear readers and friends, for now, this is a goodbye. Over the last five years that I've been writing this column, I enjoyed your warm messages to me. I met with some of you, and even made some new friends. I'd like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for entering my life. (You can still read my Hebrew column.)

So, darlings, love you all. God bless, and all the best, Nina.

*Nina.Shenhav@gmail.com*

## SWEET-AND-SOUR FISH

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 tbls olive oil | 1 c vegetable stock |
| 2 lb tilapia fillets | 1/4 c white wine |
| 1 tbl chopped fresh dill | 1/4 c lemon juice |
| ½ tsp salt | 2 tbls cider vinegar |
| 1/2 tsp pepper | 2 tbls honey |
| 1 small onion, thinly sliced | 1 tsp cornstarch |
| 2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced | ½ c dill sprigs |

In large nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Sprinkle fish with dill, salt and pepper. Fry fish, in batches, turning once, until crisp, golden and fish flakes easily, 8 min. Transfer to platter; cover and keep warm. Reduce heat to medium. Add onion and garlic to pan; fry bout 4 min. Add 3/4 c stock, wine, lemon juice, vinegar and honey; boil 2 min., scraping up any brown bits from pan. Whisk remaining stock with cornstarch; whisk into pan; cook about 2 min. until thickened Spoon over fish. Garnish with dill sprigs.

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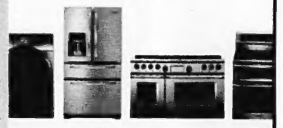
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Laurent Amram, president of Académie Yéchiva Yavné, Rabbi Shmuel Mellul, the school's director and head of Jewish studies, and Rabbi David Banon, the school's founder and rosh yeshiva, who talk about the school's focus and its goals.

Rabbi Yizhak Vaknin, Shas party MK and vice-chair of the Knesset, who talks about the political situation in Israel.

Quebec graphic novelist Guy Delisle who talks about his his latest comic strip book, Chroniques de Jerusalem, for which he won this year's award for best comic book at the Angouleme Comic Festival.

***Exclusive to cjnews.com***

Hebrew web columnist Yossi Tastassa asks whether Israel stand alone or will its allies stand at its side?

Given Iran's illicit drive for nuclear weapons and penchant for anti-Semitism and hatred, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon — who is going to Tehran for the conference of the "non-aligned movement"— should have stayed away from the Islamic Republic, says Gerald M. Steinberg who heads NGO Monitor and is professor of political science at Bar Ilan University.

# Humorist of Jewishness dies at 47

JTA

**WASHINGTON** — David Rakoff, a humorist who often wrote about American Jewish culture, has died.

Rakoff, 47, died in Manhattan of cancer on Aug. 9, a disease he has battled since he was 22, according to media reports.

A frequent contributor to National Public Radio's *This American Life*, Rakoff, a Montreal native, embraced his misfortunes with a cheerful negativity.

A book of his essays was named *Half Empty*.

"Optimism is not for everybody," he told *Tablet* magazine in a 2010 podcast. "There are a lot of people who are simply going to feel anxious no matter what – it predates consciousness almost, it's pre-verbal, it's the way you are and ultimately it's as value neutral as having brown eyes."

At a public memorial service held at Congregation Habonim in Toronto recently, storyteller Eli Rubinstein, the congregation's religious leader, who is also the national director of the March of the Living, spoke about the late artist, saying that not only was he a great artist but also a true "mensch and a virtuous person."

"It is not uncommon for us to hear of individuals who were great artists, but when it came to friendships or personal acts of kindness, we're more than a little deficient. We often, then, try to make excuses for them, as if their genius in one field, gave them a free pass in all other areas of life.

"But that was not the case with Davey I was told – with all the brilliance he had – whether in writing, speaking or painting – he was still a mensch, a virtuous person, a wonderful and caring son, brother, uncle, friend," Rubinstein said.

"As the family told me, 'For the people he loved he would do absolutely anything…'

"And this kindness extended to many others as well: a restaurant waiter, a taxi driver, or to be more specific, the doorman at his new building, who he was the first to give a meal to on Thanksgiving, or the little boy who was supposed to join him on the set of [*The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*]. When, at the last minute, the boy was not allowed to attend, David made sure to purposely tug on his ear during the show, which was a pre-arranged signal, a shout-out to one little boy during a show watched by millions, or those in his circle who were suffering from terminal illnesses."

His older sister, Ruth, also spoke lovingly about her brother's love of people.

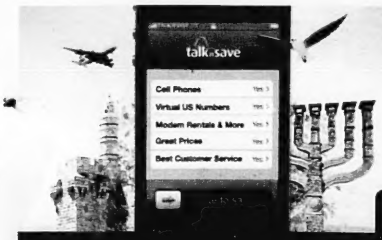
"My Davey's true talent, the most remarkable of his gifts, was his commitment to being a devoted friend. I believe he worked harder and more consistently at his copious friendships and social encounters than he did at anything else in his life. No passing kindness to Davey went unrewarded," she said.

"If you were lucky enough to be among the scores of people who he considered friends and you needed anything from him… he would drop everything and be available and reliable and competent. And if you were lucky enough to be a child in his life, and there are many beyond his beloved nephews and niece, you would be the recipient of handmade gifts and birthdays always remembered and an interest in what you were doing."

Eulogies were also given by his older brother, Simon; Dr. Mark Greenberg, a senior staff oncologist at the Hospital for Sick Children and a close family friend; and David's father, prominent Toronto psychiatrist Vivian Rakoff, who addressed the gathering without prepared notes, concluding his eulogy by saying that it was as if Davey was a stage director and his instructions to the cast were "Exit Dancing."

***Urban Writer***

***Avrum Rosensweig will return***

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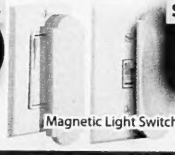

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